



Pamela Jasso &lt;pjasso@scsdk8.org&gt;

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## Reading Workshop

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**Pam Jasso** <pjasso@scsdk8.org>  
Reply-To: Pam Jasso <pjasso@scsdk8.org>  
To: pjasso@scsdk8.org

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# Principal's Bulletin

September 2018

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## Reading Workshop

Dear Parents,

At Heather, we're implementing Reading and Writing Workshop to personalize literacy learning for each child. Teachers attended trainings with [The Reading and Writing Project](#) and are participating in continued coaching sessions throughout this school year to see and practice lessons in action in our classrooms.

A workshop approach to reading allows instruction to be personalized to each child through the use of reading material that is "just right" and focus on specific writing skills in the context of creating pieces around a type of writing.

When we visit classrooms to see readers in action, we notice a whole class mini lesson to teach targeted strategies, students practicing strategies with a reading partner, and readers sitting with piles of "just right" books during their independent reading time. Teachers confer with individual or small groups of students to teach them the next step to move them forward in their reading.

A workshop method blends direct teaching and carefully selected read alouds with time for students to read and think about self-selected books. Children confer with the teacher to monitor progress, growing their skills one step at a time. Benchmark goals are set for each trimester, and each child's reading journey is nurtured along the way.

### Living the Life of an Avid Reader

Our goal is to guide each student to live the life of an avid reader, opening doors to big thinking. These skills translate not only to enjoyment, but also to essential learning. We know that how frequently a child reads self-selected books is a key predictor of academic success.

#### Avid readers:

- Set aside a time and place each day for reading
- Have a set of self-selected books "ready to go" so one book is followed by the next
- Know how to choose a "right fit" book across genres, and push themselves to read broadly across fiction and nonfiction
- Think as they read, and talk with others to grow big ideas

- Grow their stamina as readers, learning to attend to a text for increasing periods of time
- Embrace journeys through text, following sparks and questions into new books

## Helping at Home

A child's reading life is richest when it spans home and school. Here are some ways you can help:

### At home,

- Set up a place for books that your child can access
- Develop reading routines and places where your child feels cozy reading every day
- Ensure that a "next" book is always waiting! Discover little free libraries in your neighborhood, or trade books with friends. Get your child a library card and make regular visits. Visit local bookstores and our school Book Fair. Watch for the classroom book orders.
- Model reading so that your child sees you as a reader
- Read together: Even when children become proficient readers, enjoy books as a family. As children grow, enjoy a family novel together. Talk and wonder together!
- Look for communications from your classroom teacher

## Resources

Learn more about the Common Core learning goals. View Parent Roadmaps by Grade [here](#).

Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to supporting your child's growing success as a reader and thinker!

Sincerely,  
Pam Jasso  
Principal

[pjasso@scsdk8.org](mailto:pjasso@scsdk8.org)

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## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Monday, Oct. 8, Local School Holiday- no school
- Tuesday, Oct. 9, PTA Meeting, Heather Staff Room, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 10 National "Walk & Roll" to School Day
- Thursday, Oct. 11 School Board Meeting, 6:45 pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 17, Heather Walk-a-Thon
- Monday, Oct. 22, R.O.P.E.S. Orientation Grade 4, Mustang Hall, CMS, 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 31 Halloween Parade and Classroom Parties, starts at 8:45 am
- Wednesday, Nov. 7, Picture Make-up Day
- Friday, Nov. 9, SCEF Faculty and Friends Concert
- Friday, Nov. 9 First Day of Conference Week minimum days (early release)
- Monday, Nov. 12 Veterans' Day- no school
- November 13-16 Conference Week, minimum days (early release)
- November 19-23 Thanksgiving Vacation

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