

Dear Families,

In an effort to support our students with literacy opportunities the Westport Education Foundation has organized a 1,000 books before first grade program and is making it available to students and their families at Macomber Primary School. The program advocates for children to be able to share 1,000 books with their families before they enter third grade. To make it easy for families to achieve this goal we have collected over 3000 books and have sorted them into 300+ bags of 10 books each. Book bags may be exchanged via backpack.

What is 1,000 books before first grade? After several months of planning, in 2015 WEF launched a multi-year, pre-literacy effort aimed at encouraging families to read at least 1000 books to their preschooler/kindergartener/1st grader/2nd grader. This program is modeled on a pilot program in Indiana, and recommended by the Mensa organization.

Interested families should complete and return the registration form attached and you and your child will receive instructions for participating, a tracking sheet to keep track of your progress, and your first bag of books to get started. I hope you will join us on this exciting and worthwhile journey.

If you were signed up last year, there is no need to sign-up again! Your student will automatically receive a book bag in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

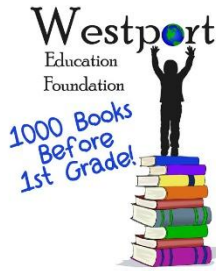
The Westport Education Foundation
1000booksWEF@gmail.com

“Becoming a strong reader begins at birth. The cornerstones of reading success—language, knowledge, and curiosity—should be cultivated from infancy, and in every setting. To promote the language and reading development of our state’s young children, strong partnerships with families are not optional. Families are experts on their children; they are the people most invested in the child’s growth and development...If we reach out to children’s caregivers and give them the information they want and need to promote their children’s reading development, ultimately both the child and society will benefit. If we rely on schools only, our approach is too narrow. If we wait for kindergarten, it is too late.”

As quoted in the report “Turning the Page: Refocusing Massachusetts for Reading Success” by Nonie K. Lesaux, Ph.D, Harvard Graduate School of Education.



039c6603ff fotosearch.com



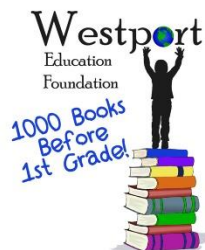
1,000 Books Before 1st Grade

How the program works:

- Each family who signs up will receive a packet with their first Book Bag. This packet will include a game board with 100 blank spots (to write down the bag number), and an incentive sheet.
- There are more than 3000 books sorted into more than 300 bags, numbered 1-200+; there are 10 different books in each bag. Bags do not have to be borrowed in order.
- In order to meet the needs of all of our participants, we ask that families borrow Book Bags for a maximum of two weeks.
- Book Bags may be exchanged via backpack mail.
- Only 1 Book Bag may be signed out to each student at a time.
- Each bag has a Book Inventory Tag listing the 10 books in that bag; it is important that you verify that all the books are in the bag when you receive it and before you return it.
- When you have read the 10 books to your child(ren) return the Book Bag to Macomber, and it will be recorded that you have completed that bag.
- When your student reaches the first milestone of 10 bags (100 books) please complete the incentive sheet. (If you do not have one, please send a note to us through backpack mail or they can be found on the Macomber School website.) Upon receiving the incentive sheet we will review and present your student with his/her personalized certificate. Along with the certificate your student will receive a blank incentive sheet for you to have for when they reach the next milestone.
- Our current recognitions will be at 10, 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100 bags.
- When a child has read 1,000 books a Medal of Achievement will be presented to the child by a School Administrator in a public forum.
- If you have questions, please contact us at 1000booksWEF@gmail.com.

Also students will be able to continue the program throughout 2nd Grade. Students will be recognized for completing 1000 books up until they complete Second Grade.

******Thank-you for your interest in this exciting program!!!***



1000 Books Before 1st Grade needs volunteers! Please consider donating 1-2 hours of your time!

Responsibilities:

- Collect bags from classrooms.
- Check bags in/out: count to ensure there are 10 books/bag, sign bags in on the student's book bag log, and assign each child a new bag.
- Return bags to the classrooms.

We appreciate any time that you can give! Our program only works if we have people to help swap book bags!

If you are able to volunteer during the school day, please fill out and return this form, or send an email with your contact information 1000booksWEF@gmail.com.

All of our volunteers sign up for shifts at their convenience using Signup.com. It's simple, easy, and user friendly.

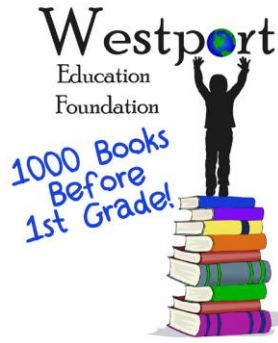
**** All volunteers must have a CORI on file with the school! ****

YES! I can volunteer for 1000 Books Before 1st Grade!

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you!



1,000 Books Before 1st Grade

Teacher: _____

Today's Date: _____

Grade Level: Pre-School Pre-K Kindergarten 1st Grade 2nd Grade

Child's Name: _____

Parent(s)' Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please INITIAL each box:

I/We promise to pay for any lost or damaged books or bags (\$25).

I/We will report any missing books or books in need of repair.

I/We will return each bag and the 10 books within a two (2) week period.

I/We hereby grant The Westport Education Foundation permission to take my and/or my child's photograph and use my and/or my child's likeness in a photograph in publications without payment or any other consideration.

If in violation of any of the above I/we can be canceled from the 1000 Books Program at any time per the schools discretion.

I would like to volunteer!

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Questions?? 1000books WEF@gmail.com