



Manchester Public Schools

Kennedy Education Center
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-5041

www.mpspride.org

Dear Elementary Parents/Guardians,

Manchester Public Schools is committed to developing children into readers.

Research supports that the amount of time spent reading is the best predictor of reading achievement, including a child's growth as a reader from the second to the fifth grade. The review concludes that **independent reading**, defined as the reading students choose to do, supports learning and school achievement. Providing students with protected **independent reading** time both in school and at home is critical for supporting necessary in order to support their student growth in reading.

The Reading Workshop structure provides students time to read independently on a daily basis.. The [Independent Reading Chart](#) highlights by grade level, how teachers build independent reading time throughout the year in order to develop reading stamina for all students.

Each night your child should **read independently** at home. To assist, students will bring home a book(s) of their choice. In Kindergarten this book may be in the form of a poem, sight word cards or a book that they select from the independent classroom library.

As students advance with their independent reading levels, a letter will be sent home celebrating the child's success.

District expectation is that every child read independently each night. Teachers will communicate with parents and guardians when independent reading books go home and are to be returned. It is very important that these materials be returned as they are part of the classroom independent reading library which allow other students to have an opportunity to choose books to take home and read.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Sheehan-Burns". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Diane Sheehan-Burns

Director of Teaching & Learning - Humanities