

Dear Hines Families,

Ready to read? Our third annual Spartan 40 Book Challenge begins on September 6!

We want to **inspire** our students to read books they might not normally choose, to increase their love of independent reading, and to discuss their independent reading with other members of our Hines school community. Ultimately, we want all of our students to enjoy reading and to make big academic gains. Not only that, but research supports the idea that the best way to become a better reader is to read, and that better readers perform better in school and life.

As usual, all students and staff members are participating in our Spartan 40 Book Challenge. To meet this challenge, each Spartan needs to plan to read 40 books, across genres, by the end of the school year. Students will read silently and independently every day during English class, and all students will be expected to read up to or beyond, 30 minutes at home every evening. This will average to the reading of one book each week advancing toward our challenge of reading a minimum of 40 books this school year. We are confident that every Spartan can meet and/or exceed the high bar we have set!

In addition, throughout the challenge, students will maintain a reading response notebook where they will keep a list of books they have read/want to read, write book reviews, create a graph of the books they have read, participate in authentic conversations about the books they are reading, and be able to recommend books to other Spartans.

Families, you can help support our 40 Book Challenge by making sure your child is reading each evening and by asking your child to talk with you about what they are reading. You will be amazed at the result!

Spartan 40 Book Challenge Guidelines

- ✓ Books read for this challenge are to represent a variety of genres and can be read in any order. (see genre graph in your child's reading response notebook)
- ✓ Books students read in class or books read aloud by a teacher count in their 40 book total.
- ✓ Students may not read books that they have already read in the past.
- ✓ Students must write a brief review of each book they read. (see child's reading response notebook)
- ✓ Students are expected to provide verbal and written responses about their reading in their reading notebook.
- ✓ Books selected for this challenge that exceed 350 pages count as two books.

Families, thank you for encouraging your child to explore the world of independent reading with us. As a community of readers, we know we will be **inspired** as we talk with each other about all of the great books Spartans are reading independently!

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Corbin-Staton & the Dedicated Staff of HMS

~Over Please for an Important Message~

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)