



Laurel Hills
Elementary
816-268-7230
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Laurel Hills Elementary Parent Newsletter

At Home Reading Strategies

Parents, nothing can be more exciting than watching your child learn to read! At the same time, nothing can be more frustrating than listening to your own child struggle to read. The teachers at Laurel Hills want to help you support your children as they develop their reading skills. We are offering different ways to assist you this year through monthly newsletters.

As your child practices reading at home, here are some ways to assist if he/she needs help. These tips will give your child



some strategies for reading unknown words.

Instead of simply telling him to “sound it out,” try these tricks:

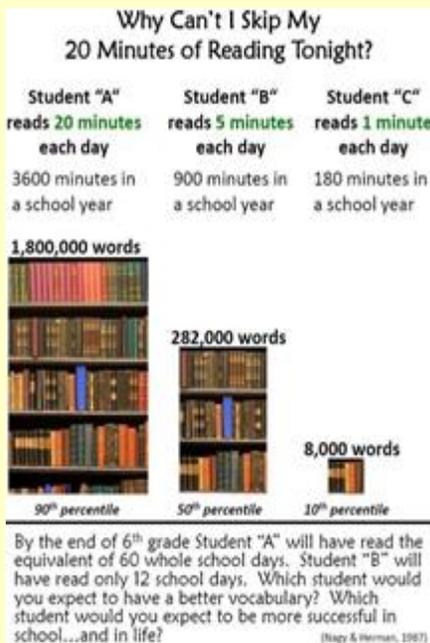
- **Say nothing.** Give him a chance to figure it out.
- **Say, “Look at the picture.”**
- **Say, “Let’s get the first sound.”**

- **Say, “What would make sense?”** Even if he gets the wrong word, you can say “Yes, it’s a kind of house, but the author chose a different word. Look at the first letter and see if you can get it now.”
- **Say, “Chunk it.”** Are there smaller words in the bigger ones (e.g., ‘going’ has the word ‘go’ in it)?
- **Say, “Let’s reread.”** Before you tell your child the word, see if he can re-read the sentence and get it with a “running start.”
- **Say, “Close your eyes. Now look again.”** Have him close his eyes, open them, and see if his brain can just “get” the word as a sight word, without trying to sound it out.
- **Skip the word** and come back when they have the context of the sentence (be sure they do).
- **Look at word families.** If your child knows ‘at’, they will more easily be able to identify ‘hat.’
- **Get the main word first,** then add on prefixes or suffixes. You can use your finger to cover up parts of the word while your child gets the main word.
- **Tell them the word.** You do not want to hinder the comprehension of a story by belaboring a single word. Instead, give your child the word and have her re-read the sentence so that the word sticks in her mind for the next time she encounters it!

The READBOX

Did you know that your children can earn free books? This year, Laurel Hills has a READBOX! Children need to read 200 minutes outside of school for a free book. Please send in the signed monthly reading calendar for your child to retrieve his/her free book(s)! There is no limit – every time your child reads 200 minutes, he/she will be rewarded with a free book!

Remember, reading looks different for everyone so any reading counts – reading about how to master a new level of a game, downloading an app, a magazine, a book, etc. We need our students to read outside of school!



Friendly Reminders

Call the office by 3:40 if you are making changes to your child's transportation.

If you need to pick your child up early, please arrive by 3:45 so you can avoid the buses.

Call the school anytime your child will be absent from school at 268-7230.

This Month's Highlights

Staying connected to the events that happen at school is getting easier! Each Thursday, your child will bring home papers about upcoming events. A monthly newsletter will also be emailed home (for September & October paper copies will also be provided). If you are not receiving the emails, please contact the school to double check your email address. The Laurel Hills website located at www.raytownschools.org (selected Laurel Hills) is another place to find out about our events.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Sept. 19th – PTA Black & Gold Night featuring Mad Science at 6:30

Tuesday, Sept. 19th – PTA Fundraiser Orders & Money Due

Tuesday, Oct. 10th – 4th & 5th Grade Music Performance at 6:30

Thursday, Oct. 12th – End of 1st Quarter

Friday, Oct. 13th – NO SCHOOL

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences Oct. 18th & 19th – more details to come

Attendance Matters

We will recognize our students with perfect attendance each month by reading their names during the morning announcements.

We understand that children get sick and/or have necessary appointments from time to time. Perfect attendance may not be feasible all of the time, but we do expect your child to attend school for 90% or better of the time.

WE want your children at school! Your children are very important to us!