

I.R.I.S.H

Motivational
Reading Program



P A R E N T
H A N D B O O K

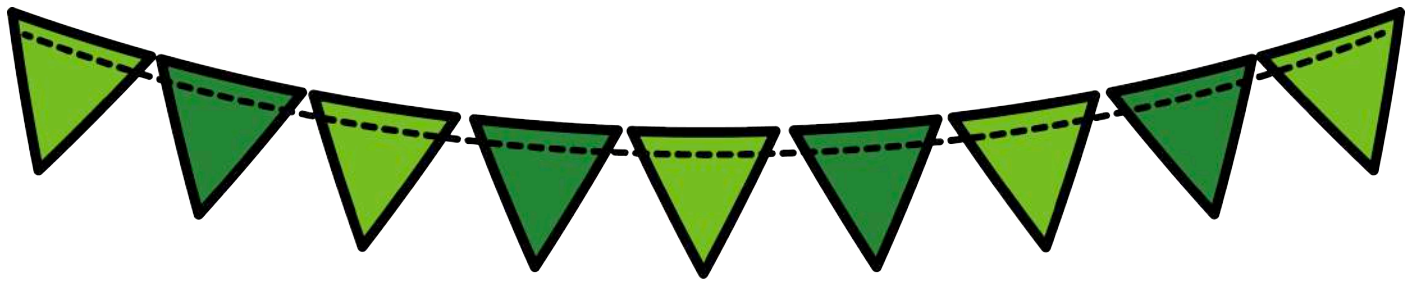


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Dear SPS Parents and Guardians,

As some of you know, I am currently in graduate school pursuing my Masters in Education, specializing in reading. As one of my final projects, I am creating and putting a motivational reading program in place for our students at St. Patrick's. My hope is that this program motivates our students to read, builds fluency, comprehension, and creates a positive literacy environment here at school. This is something I have been working on since August and I am thrilled to finally be able to present it to our community.

This Parent Handbook will provide you with all the information that you need to know to help your student succeed in this program. I hope you find it informative. If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Thank you in advance for you support!

Miss Ashley Farmer
ashley.farmer@sps-tn.org



What is I.R.I.SH?

I.R.I.SH is a motivational reading program designed with the needs of St. Patrick's students in mind.

I.R.I.SH stands for "I read, I shine."

St. Patrick's students are taught at a young age exactly what it means to shine. Some of our school's first and second grade students reflected upon what it means and came up with some great answers. According to our young students, when you shine you are happy, excited, joyful, loving, helping others, using God's gifts, learning, and growing.

It is the goal of the I.R.I.SH program to help students realize that we too can shine when we read.

We can learn, grow, experience happiness and joy, help others, and use and develop the skill of reading that God has given us.



Personal Goals

Each student will be given a personal goal by his or her teacher. The goal is decided upon by a number of factors including your student's needs, reading skills, and grade level. The goals given are based on research findings to increase fluency.



The goals that a teacher give a student are designed to be challenging but still obtainable.

The I.R.I.S.H program is not designed to discourage students, but to encourage, motivate, and get them excited about reading.

Your student's goals will be sent home at the beginning of the semester along with a schedule of when his or her goal should be met.

Each student will have way of tracking their personal progress based on the teacher's preference.

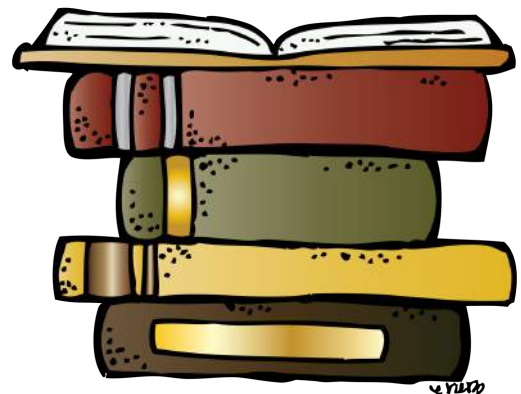
Class Goals

Each student's personal goals will be combined to create a class goal. The class goals will be displayed in the library as a color in the rainbow. As each class gets further along in their goal, their color of the rainbow will inch closer and closer to the pot of gold at the end.

Book Checks

After a student has completed a book, he or she will fill out a book check. Book checks are in place of tests or quizzes on the books. The book check is a reflection of the student's comprehension. Book checks will range from grade to grade and student skill level. Students will have several options of book checks to choose from. For example, they may choose to draw a picture of a character, sequence the plot, summarize what happened, write a review, or a text to self reflection.

Books checks are how the students will earn credit for reading books. Book checks will be reviewed once a week and their personal and class goal progress will be updated.



Motivation and Rewards

If a grade meets their class goal, they will be invited to the I.R.I.S.H celebrations at the end of the quarter or semester. The reward will be announced at the beginning of the quarter or semester. It can range from anything from a field trip to afternoon pizza and movie party. Parent help and involvement would be greatly appreciated in the I.R.I.S.H celebrations. To encourage a supportive, positive, learning community reaching the class goal (not personal goal) will earn a class an invitation to the reward celebration.

For every book a child reads, he or she will be given a raffle ticket. Periodically, we will draw a name from the raffle and that student will win a prize. Parents, families, and the community are encouraged to donate prizes for the I.R.I.S.H raffle.



How Will My Student Benefit?

I.R.I.S.H is a program based on research to develop your student's reading fluency and comprehension skills. Becoming a more developed reader will help your students in many ways. It will help them to become better test takers, develop comprehension skills that will be needed for subjects such as science and history later in their education, and become a more well rounded individual in general.

How Can I Help?

St. Patrick's would gladly accept donations made to the I.R.I.S.H reading program for our I.R.I.S.H celebrations and raffles. But, the way you can help us the most is to encourage your children to read at home. When families are on board with their student's educational program, children are more likely to be as well. Please help foster a love of reading in your children like we are doing at school.

