

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Accelerated Reader (AR) Guidelines

2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR | GRADES 2ND – 5TH

Welcome to an exciting new year of reading! The Accelerated Reader program is designed to foster a lifelong love of reading while strengthening comprehension skills. With access to the complete AR quiz database, students can choose books from a school, classroom, public, or home library.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS

- **STAR Reading Assessment:** At the beginning of each nine-week period, students take a short 15–20 minute STAR Reading test at school to determine their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), which identifies their optimal reading level range.
- **Choosing the Right Book:** Guided by their reading teacher and librarian, Mrs. Penton, students select books within their ZPD. Our library features a color-coded labeling system to help students find books at their appropriate level. Staying within their ZPD ensures confidence and steady growth.

Summer Reading Note: Summer reading books count as a separate grade and do not count toward the first nine-week AR point goal.

QUARTERLY POINT GOALS

Students are expected to reach the following point goals during each nine-week grading period:

Grade Level	1st Nine Weeks	2nd Nine Weeks	3rd Nine Weeks	4th Nine Weeks
2nd Grade	3 points	4 points	5 points	6 points
3rd Grade	6 points	7 points	8 points	9 points
4th Grade	9 points	10 points	11 points	12 points
5th Grade	12 points	13 points	14 points	15 points

CELEBRATING SUCCESS & INCENTIVES

Goal Met	Certificate of Achievement
Double Goal	Free Dress Coupon
Triple Goal	Free Dress Coupon + Choice of Candy
Top Homeroom	Special Gift from Mrs. Penton

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Accelerated Reader Parent Acknowledgement Form

2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Please Note: Please review the Accelerated Reader guidelines on Page 1 with your child, complete and sign this form, and return it to your child's homeroom teacher by **Friday, August 28, 2026**.

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

- I have read and understand the St. Alphonsus Catholic School Accelerated Reader guidelines for the 2026–2027 school year.
- I understand my child's nine-week point goal expectations and the requirement to read books within their designated Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD).
- I will encourage and support my child in reading regularly at home to help them reach their goals.

Student's Full Name:

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed):

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Grade & Homeroom Teacher:

Date:

Questions or Need Assistance?

If you have any questions regarding your child's ZPD, book selection, or AR goals throughout the school year, please feel free to reach out to your child's reading teacher or our librarian, Mrs. Penton.

Thank you for partnering with us to inspire a lifelong love of reading in your child!