

The Balanced Reader

At Sacred Heart we teach reading by ensuring that students are Balanced Readers, going from 'Learning to read' to 'Reading to learn'. Many students learn all of their letter sounds and blends and can read the words on the page well, but reading is much more than that. Readers need to be fluent with their reading, use expression, good phrasing, follow the punctuation on the page and have a reading rate that allows them to not lose the understanding of what they have read.



Speaking of understanding, we read to understand, so readers must have a comprehension of the words on the page, not just how to say them. The need to understand the simple things the author is writing about, but more importantly how to “read between the lines” and understand the hidden meaning. Learning to read is not like a running race where everyone competes against each other to be first across the line. We often think that if our child can read all the words on the page (decode) then they are ready for a higher level book *but we need to remember when we are at home helping our children become amazing readers we are supporting them with decoding, fluency and phrasing and comprehension.*

<p>Decoding Students need to understand the sounds found in words and be able to put those sounds back together to form words and sentences.</p>	<p>Fluency and Phrasing Students ability to “read like you talk” using punctuation and the ability to break text into meaningful sentences.</p>	<p>Comprehension A balanced reader can not only read, but comprehend what is happening in the story. They are then able to answer questions about what they have read.</p>
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