



# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Dear Families,

Reading is the bedrock of lifelong learning, and literacy can open doors that help our students thrive.

In order to promote literacy and help students expand literacy skills, the School District of Philadelphia is pleased to announce the “20 in 20 Reading Initiative”. Through this new initiative, we are encouraging third-grade students to read 20 books in 20 weeks by April 24, 2023.

Each student will receive 10 high-interest, culturally-relevant books to build students’ personal home libraries, enhance students’ joy of reading, cultivate their literacy skills, and expand their reflections on themselves and the world around them. Students are encouraged to track their progress by April 24, 2023. Those who successfully complete the 20 in 20 Reading Initiative will receive an incentive for all their hard work.

We encourage you to take part in this initiative and help develop your child’s reading ability, comprehension and literacy skills.

Here are some tips and advice for you to enhance these experiences at home:

### **Reading Together:**

- When reading together, you and your child take turns reading parts of a book. When reading, ask your child to make connections to the story by asking questions like:
  - Why did you choose this book?
  - How do the headings help you locate information?
  - How do you know what you are saying about the book is accurate?
  - How does the author present information?

### **Before - During - After Reading**

- Ask questions before, during, and after reading aloud. This can help your child focus attention on the ideas in the story. Before reading, look at the book cover and talk about what might happen in the story. During reading, ask what questions he/she has about the story. After reading, talk about what happened. Ask your child to sum it up and relate the story to what he/she already knows or has experienced.

### **English Language Learners:**

- If you use a different language at home, speak and read to your child in that language. This can help grow vocabulary and make connections at school. It can also increase curiosity and readiness to learn at school. Learning opportunities in a home language

will help literacy learning in English.

In addition to these tips, here are additional reading opportunities and programs:

- **Digital Reading Community:** Families receive prompts to spark book discussion, book-related games, virtual author visits, a digital library with more books to read, and other activities at <http://scholastic.com/phillyreadandgrow>
- **Questions:** Go to [AskTerica@scholastic.org](mailto:AskTerica@scholastic.org)
- **Power Library:** is the online portal to all that Pennsylvania libraries offer. This is the place to find 24/7 access to newspapers, magazines, journals, historical documents and photos, online databases, and eBooks. Research a subject. Learn about your family history. Locate a title. Explore career options. It's all here at POWER Library.  
Link:  
<https://sites.google.com/philasd.org/sdppowerlibrary/home>

To support this initiative, we will share read-alouds through our website and social media. We also encourage you to share your photos with us! Please send us pictures of your children with the books and/or reading to [academicprojects@philasd.org](mailto:academicprojects@philasd.org). These pictures may be used on the District's social media platforms.

Thank you for your support and for participating in your child's reading experiences at home. Supporting this initiative can develop your child's reading ability, language skills and instill a love of reading.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [academicprojects@philasd.org](mailto:academicprojects@philasd.org).

Sincerely,

The Office of Academic Supports