



Dear Parents,

Merritt Memorial is participating in a fun reading project: the Read for the New York Boulders Reading Challenge, sponsored by the New York Boulders and NY's 529. Research tells us that students that read at least 20 minutes a day score in the top range on reading tests and express more motivation and interest in learning and reading over time. Even short blocks of time every day are better than bursts. Our reading challenge unites students from around Rockland, Orange, Bergen, Passaic and Westchester counties in an attempt to establish a positive habit of independent reading at home.

The Reading Challenge **begins April 25, 2022 and concludes May 15, 2022**. The following are the prizes that will be awarded as your child reaches certain milestones:

- o **Single** - read under 400 minutes: A participation certificate
- o **Double** - read at least **400** minutes: A participation certificate plus 2 tickets for a specified Boulders game.
- o **Triple** - read at least **800** minutes: A participation certificate plus 4 tickets for a specified Boulders game
- o **Homerun** - read **1300** or more minutes: A participation certificate plus 4 tickets for specified Boulders game plus a first pitch at a specified Boulders home game with T-Shirt.
- o **Top Reader** - recognition at a Boulder's game on field, autographed baseball and photo with manager and Boulder Bird.

Your child will be given a reading log to list the number of minutes read **at home** each evening. Start at the bottom of the page. Cut off the week's slip and your child's teacher will collect the log with your signature confirming the minutes reported. After the three weeks of the competition, the results will be reported by the school to the New York Boulders and prize information will be tabulated so they may distribute the certificates and prizes.

Here are a few simple ways to help your child become a home run reader:

- Set a goal together and encourage reading with library visits if possible, story time at home, and conversations about books. Let your child see you reading, too.
- Read together: Time spent together reading and discussing a book increases overall comprehension and allows for valuable conversation.
- Encourage your child to participate and track reading minutes independently, challenging them to take responsibility for their work.
- **Limit screen time.** With so much learning and class time on the computer these past few years, what better way to move away from a screen for a little than with a good book!