



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Merritt Memorial School is participating in a fun reading project: 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 a higher 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, Westchester counties and beyond, in an attempt to establish a positive habit of independent reading at home.

The Reading Challenge begins March 27, 2023 and concludes April 16, 2023. 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.

Start planning your visit to the stadium! Prize tickets can be redeemed May 30, or June 1 2023.

Your child will be given a [reading log](#) to record the number of minutes read **at home** each evening and on the weekends. Start at the bottom of the page. Every Monday morning, 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 prize information.

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.
- Digital or Print - it all counts! Whether its an e-book or an actual book in hand, as long as your child is reading
- Please help us encourage integrity and being honest about reading times. Children are extrinsically motivated by these incentives but, in the end, this project is about being responsible and taking the time to read for pleasure.

Good Luck to all of our readers!