



Malden Public Schools Title I Parent Connection

Why So Much Emphasis on Reading?

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Many elementary teachers will assign as daily homework that students read every night for a certain amount of time. Many English teachers at the secondary level will require students to do some independent reading as part of their homework. Summer reading is now required at most schools for all students. Why such an emphasis on time on reading?

Reading has a tremendous impact overall on all students' academics. Children who read more do better in school not only in subjects like English and history but also math and science. The main way we gain knowledge about topics and the world is through reading. The cliché, "Reading opens up new worlds," is actually true. The knowledge offered by reading is unlimited. Children may also develop new interests and hobbies as they read.

Reading is exercise for the brain. Reading improves memory. As we read, we are thinking and building more connections within the brain.

Students who read more have larger vocabularies. Being exposed to more books means you have the opportunity to see more words. Many of the words in the books children read are words we are not likely to use in our everyday vocabulary. A stronger vocabulary translates into students being a better writer, speaker, and communicator.

Students learn about language as they read. While reading, they will see grammar in action and learn how language works. Reading can even impact students' spelling skills.

Reading increases children's attention. Children have to sit and concentrate on the task of reading or being read to. Over time, as they strengthen their own ability to read, they are able to concentrate for longer periods of time.



Reading can improve children's social skills. Reading with your child, young or old, can be a great time to connect as a family and talk and share stories with each other.

Students who read more are also better writers. Readers have the opportunity to see great writing in action. Students who read start to transfer much of what they see other writer's do to their own writing.

Now that you are convinced, grab a book this evening and start reading with your child! It is never too early to start, and it is never too late. Babies benefit from reading. The above benefits also go for adults as well.

The Parent Connection is an effort of the Malden Public Schools Title I Program to outreach to parents and help strengthen home and school connections.

