



Ticking For Fluency



Parents thank you so much for participating in Ticking For Fluency. We have had great success with this reading initiative. The students are very excited about Ticking For Fluency. Our student/parent participation goes up every 6 weeks.

I would like to take a few minutes of your time and explain why Ticking For Fluency was created. Dr. Witt and I (Mrs. Harper) wanted something to put in the hands of our parents to help them help their child at home. One of Morningside Elementary School's challenges is Reading. Because reading is a challenge, MSES has made reading one of our school goals. MSES wants to see students reading levels increase 15% per year. We wanted to put something in place to help our students to achieve their reading goals. We knew this would be done by giving our parents the tools they need to help their child succeed in reading and comprehension. We realize if we could find a way to put something in the parent's hands to help their child at home, it would make a huge impact on our students' academic achievement in reading and comprehension.

Ticking For Fluency was not created to take the place of any of our reading programs. It was created to help parents help their child at home. We want parents to understand that they are their child's first teacher. When it comes to the students here at Morningside Elementary, we want parents to know we all have one common goal and that is to make sure all our students are SUCCESSFUL!

Ticking For Fluency is based on the students' Lexile Reading levels. It is not based on their Guided Reading Levels. Our thinking behind this was to let our parents see what a grade level reading passage looks like. Many times our students are 5th graders reading on a 3rd or 4th grade reading level. If parents only get to see and experience their child reading below grade level, they may not see a true 5th grade reader. Parents, we also would like for you to keep in mind that Georgia Milestone passages are going to be grade level appropriate according to Lexile reading levels. We understand when we send the passages home the students

for the most part would not be able to read the entire passage in one minute. However, we still want them to read as much as they can in one minute. This will expose the child to words that they may not know and allow the parent to help their child when they come to a word that they may not be able to decode. We also understand that some students may be reading above their Guided Reading Level or even above their Lexile Reading Level and that's ok. We still want our students to have that one on one practice time with their parents. Many times we hear teachers/parents say "those passages are too easy for my child, they can read those passages in less than a minute" and, that is great! However, please keep in mind the quality time the child is spending with their parents, the reading practice that is taking place, and a sense of achievement and accomplishment with the parents and the child knowing that this was something that you both accomplish together.

Ticking For Fluency helps the students with their comprehension as well. When students are fluent with reading, it builds their comprehension. It's ok if the student does not understand what they have read the first night because they probably won't finish the entire passage the first night. This is when the students will get to infer the information they have read.

Parents, we want you to keep in mind that we do not want you to get upset if your child cannot read the passages all the way through. We understand that some of the students are going to have some difficulty with the passages and that's ok. Don't be hard on them. Allow them to make mistakes. Make Ticking For Fluency a fun time at your house. Encourage your child everyday by letting them know that the more they practice the better they will become at reading. Please see this time that you spend with your child as parent and child time together. Let them see you enjoying reading and having fun with Ticking For Fluency.

If you have any questions concerning Ticking For Fluency initiative, please call the school or send Dr. Witt or Mrs. Harper an e-mail. Our school telephone is 988-6261. Our e-mail address is pat.witt@hcbe.net or pamelia.harper@hcbe.net

Thank you for supporting your child's education!

Dr. Witt/Principal

P. Harper/Family and Parent Engagement Coordinator

