

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We have a wonderful opportunity to offer to our families. **Lexia Reading** is an exciting, fun software program that provides the individualized, targeted practice students need to master their reading skills! Our school has implemented **Lexia Reading** as part of our curriculum in reading and language arts. This program will support the students' learning of English at home. This is truly an exciting opportunity for all of our students.

Here's how this award-winning, computer-based reading program works:

- Students will be placed into **Lexia Reading** based on their individual reading needs.
- Students may spend time several days per week working on a **Lexia Reading** program outside of school.
- **Lexia Reading** automatically paces each student by providing reinforcement activities when they need additional time on a task. Students practice, apply and proceed with the skills they have mastered.
- **Lexia Reading** focuses on critical reading skills that have been identified by national reading experts.
- Various levels of activities provide extensive practice in everything from basic phonological awareness to advanced word-attack strategies and vocabulary development based on Greek and Latin root words.
- Students systematically progress through the software and gain a sense of achievement, confidence and independence. Student's successes are recorded and teachers and parents can see growth through a web based record system. Even though students are working at home, teachers can still monitor the progress being made.

Lexia Reading has helped thousands of students across the United States to develop fundamental reading skills, in a fun and dynamic way. Our school has decided to make this a part of your child's reading curriculum – please share in our commitment by using this valuable tool at home!

Website: <http://www.lexiacore5.com/?SiteID=9239-4469-3437-7820>

Username: student's full first name plus the first letter of the student's last name

For Example, Jane Doe's username would be **janed**

Password: Your child's 5-digit student ID number

Join us in your child's reading growth and success!

Best,

Phillip Morris

English Language Assessment Coordinator

phillip.morris@yinghuaacademy.org



What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice and its purpose is to develop the habit of reading and, in doing so, to realize the joy of reading. Your child picks a book at his own level and reads it at his own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) AR gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set goals and direct ongoing reading practice. Accelerated Reader is available for use at school, school library, and computer lab or on the classroom iPad.

Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them. Teachers help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

Students in grades 2-8 are administered a Star Reading Assessment which helps determine your child's reading level. Star Reading is a computerized reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The assessment uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

What is Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?

In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a Star Reading Assessment. Shortly after receiving their ZPD, or reading level, students can begin taking book quizzes.


How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

You can visit Accelerated Reader's BookFinder at www.arbookfind.com.

Username: student's full first name, period, student's last name


For Example, Jane Doe's username would be **Jane.doe**

Password: Your child's 5-digit student ID number



Ni Hao Meets Hello...

What's the Scoop
in 2nd Grade?



Familiar routines:

- ▶ Homeroom teacher is a native-speaking Chinese teacher.
- ▶ Daily HW assigned.
 - ▶ PM Homeroom from 3:06-3:30 PM
 - ▶ AM Homework lab available from 7:45-8:15 AM
- ▶ Typically HW is two pages of Chinese and two pages of Math every day.

New facets and routines of second grade homerooms:

- ▶ **To build independence**
 - ▶ There will be no EAs in classrooms
 - ▶ Tests will not be read to students
 - ▶ Daily folder system utilized; different color for different subjects.

New facets and routines of second grade homerooms:

- ▶ **To promote student's literacy and numeracy skills**
 - ▶ Journal writing
 - ▶ Use notebooks for class notes and practice of daily lessons.
 - ▶ Addition and subtraction to 1000, mental math, introduction to multiplication and division, fractions, clock reading and time intervals, and more.

New facets and routines of second grade homerooms:

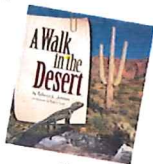
- ▶ **To coordinate instruction between Chinese and English teachers**
 - ▶ Common planning time for teachers
 - ▶ Many of the Social Studies and Science topics will be reinforced in both languages
 - ▶ Academic Performances in May share topics

Hello!
Nice to meet you.



Introduction to 2nd grade English

- ▶ **7 periods of English instruction per week**
 - ▶ phonics and spelling
 - ▶ vocabulary
 - ▶ reading comprehension
 - ▶ handwriting
 - ▶ writing
 - ▶ grammar
- ▶ **Small Group Guided Reading**
- ▶ **Reading Street Curriculum serves as the foundation for instruction**



What to expect in 2nd Grade English?



- ▶ **Nightly Homework** in a homework packet that travels between school and home
- ▶ **Weekly Spelling Quizzes** based on phonics theme of the week



Support tools

- ▶ **Lexia** Software program that provides targeted phonics practice at school or at home
- ▶ **Accelerated Reader** Students select books, read independently (or are read to), and take an independent comprehension test on the computer.

Assessments

- ▶ **NWEA testing**
 - ▶ Spring test in Grade 1 provides baseline for decoding and pre-reading skills
- ▶ **STAR testing**
 - ▶ Measures a student's independent reading level
 - ▶ Provides opportunity to measure growth up to 5 times per year
- ▶ **Reading Fluency and Sight Word testing**

English taught in levels:

Why?

- ▶ Provides smaller class size
- ▶ Opportunity for differentiated instruction to accommodate initial wide range of reading levels (along with small group guided reading)

How?

- ▶ STAR
- ▶ NWEA
- ▶ Reading Fluency

What's a parent to do?

Be aware of Kindergarten and Grade 1 MN State Standards:

- ▶ Know basic features of print
- ▶ Recognize features of a sentence (first word, capitalization, end marks)
- ▶ Recognize and name all upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet and their sounds
- ▶ Identify rhyming words
- ▶ Know long and short vowel sounds
- ▶ Recognize common sight words (the, of, to, you, etc.)

What's a parent to do?

- ▶ Read at home; visit the library.
- ▶ Enrich your child's vocabulary by talking about the world around you.
- ▶ Practice sight words (www.spellingcity.com)
- ▶ Stay positive; don't let your worries become your child's worries!
- ▶ Be your child's best cheerleader!

What can kids and parents do this summer?

- ▶ **Lexia**
 - ▶ username: firstnamelastinitial ex: kristinn
 - ▶ password: English
- ▶ **Summer Reading/Activity Book**
- ▶ **Practice handwriting/printing**
- ▶ **Listen to audio books**
- ▶ **Write postcards**



What can kids and parents do this summer?

- ▶ **Use flashcards to memorize addition and subtraction facts to 20**
- ▶ **Practice counting and writing numbers to 1000**
- ▶ **Practice iChinese Reader**
- ▶ **Do first grade summer break homework**



Questions?