**PARENT INVOLVEMENT READING CONTRACT**

Dear Parents:

The reading patterns you establish at home directly influence your child’s ability to do well in school. Here are a few suggestions:

LISTEN, TALK AND READ WITH YOUR CHILD

Studies show that most parents spend as little as fifteen minutes a day talking, listening and reading to their children. Yet, it is exactly these activities that encourage a child to read. The very best way to help your child become a good reader is to read *to* them and *with* them at home. The more children read, or are read to, the better. Books are not the only materials they can read. Encourage your child to read cereal boxes, street signs, catalogs and magazines. Make sure you take time out each day to read and communicate with your child.

READING AND WRITING

Teaching and encouraging a child to write helps them to read. Keep pencils, paper, chalk and crayons on hand. Young children can learn to form letters and words. This gives them the opportunity to recognize the relationship between letters and sounds. Older children can practice writing at home, as well. Have them write the grocery list, write letters to grandparents, aunts or uncles, or have them write down some things you dictate to them. These activities will be fun and also can strengthen their short term memory and writing skills.

HOMEWORK

The work done in school is typically reinforced with homework. This gives children time to study and practice what they have learned in the classroom. It is very important to set a time for homework and provide a quiet place where they can do their work. Remember to monitor and check your child’s work and to stay in touch with your child’s teacher. **We are asking your child to read (or be read to) for at least 15-20 minutes a night. They will keep track of reading time in their planner by just writing down the minutes engaged in reading, and we would like you to initial the recorded minutes.**

LIMIT TELEVISION, VIDEO GAMES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Most children spend hours in front of the television or playing video games and little time reading at home. In fact, kids 8 to 12, spend an average of 4 ½ hours a day watching television and/or playing video games. It would be beneficial to limit TV and video gaming and replace it with quality reading time for your child or having meaningful conversation. This has proven to support academics as well as strengthen family bonds.

Learning doesn’t start or end at school. The more we work together to develop good habits at home, the more successful your child will be.

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As the parent, I pledge to encourage my child to read, check his/her homework, and initial his/her daily reading.

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As the student, I pledge to read at home, do my homework, and spend at least 20 minutes engaged in reading.

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Student Signature Date