

Accelerated Reader (AR) Guidelines

1. Students should read all books independently. First and second graders might need occasional adult help decoding a word, but these students have learned how to use the “five-finger method” to select a book at their reading level. Books that have been read **TO** the students are not eligible for AR testing without teacher permission. Naturally, students may not take tests on movies they have seen or on nonfiction topics they are familiar with (ex: basketball) without reading a book!
2. The platform for our school’s accelerated reader program may be accessed
 - a. via the school website www.stpatschool.org (click on “academics”, then “access classroom” to select the “media center”, then click on the “Renaissance Learning” tab to enter the AR program)
 - b. by going directly to <https://hosted258.renlearn.com/126814>. [note: a google search for “accelerated reader” will NOT lead to our specific platform!].

The student should enter his/her unique 7-digit user name and 4-digit password.

First and second graders might require adult assistance to enter the book title. The system will search for a book by its **title** or by **author** name--it is not able to search for a book by series name.

3. The student should take each AR test independently. First and second graders may need help reading a word or two and might even occasionally need an adult to restate an awkwardly-written question.

AR FAQs

When will AR testing be available? The testing system will be activated 8:25 a.m.-3:35 p.m. during the days that school is in session.

Can my child take tests on books from home or on ebooks? Yes, but not every book has a corresponding AR test. See below for more info.

Before my child begins a 300-page book, is there a way to CHECK whether there is an AR test for it? Yes, you may determine this by going to www.arbookfinder.com. This site also indicates how many AR points a book is worth and what the AR reading level of the book is (the AR reading level corresponds roughly to grade level, so a book with an AR reading level of 3.5 contains vocabulary comprehended by 75% of students halfway through their third grade year).

Can my child take the same AR test over and over? No, the system only allows a student to take a test once their entire time at Saint Pat’s, so please encourage your child to completely read each book before they take the AR test. Younger children may benefit from reading each book multiple times.

Is there a way to see whether my child has already taken an AR test for a certain book? Yes, when they are logged into the Accelerated Reader program, there is a **bookshelf** tab which displays every AR test the student has taken. The bookshelf is arranged with the most recent AR tests at the top, but also has a search box to look for a specific title.

Is there a way to know if a book reflects my Catholic values before I purchase or download it for my child? Feel free to contact your librarian jbrandner@stpatschool.org to do this important research for you. Another good source of information for the more popular books is www.commonsemmedia.org

What if my child's password doesn't work or he/she is locked out of the system? First, make sure that you have followed the instructions in guideline #2 above to access our school's specific AR platform. Three incorrect user name/ password attempts will result in your child being locked out of the system. Please contact your librarian at jbrandner@stpatschool.org if this occurs.