



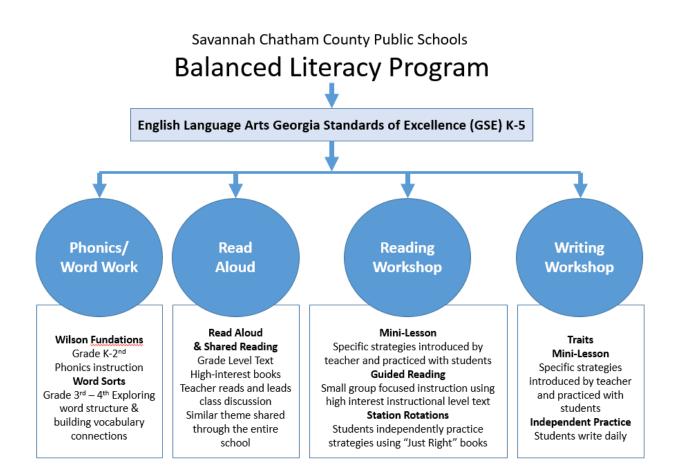
## **Balanced Literacy**

## Parent Information

2017-2018 - Office of Academic Affairs Savannah Chatham County Public School System

Exciting changes in reading and writing instruction are happening in kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms in Chatham County this school year. The Balanced Literacy program is an opportunity for teachers and students to use high-interest, engaging books to practice the Georgia English Language Arts Standards of Excellence in reading and writing.

We all know that practice makes perfect. Research shows that the amount of time students are directly engaged in reading and writing dramatically affects academic success. The Balanced Literacy program assures that students get the maximum amount of time with eyes on the page and pen in hand.



## What Can Parents Do at Home?

- The single most important thing you can do is encourage independent reading, read with, or listen to your child read daily. See the chart below to see the impact just 20 minutes a day will make.
- Talk to your scholar about what they are reading. Ask
  questions that might spark a conversation. For instance,
  ask what advice they might give the main character or
  what would happen if the story took place at another time
  or place?
- Consider joining the public library. In addition to free book checkout, the Live Oak library also offers videos, audiobooks and e-books for the entire family.
- Consider the ways your own attitudes about reading impact your scholar. Use positive language about reading with your child.
- Write letters to each other. Remember how special it felt to get a letter when you were young? Have fun writing notes and responding to each other.
- Play games using language Hangman, Boogle, Would You Rather?, crosswords, puns, MadLlbs, etc.



SCCPSS has launched a serious book challenge! One million books by May! Each school is being challenged to collect 12,000 books. Amazing prizes are being offered to those first at meeting their goals.

For more details, check with your school, or visit https://www.smore.com/4bu98-million-book-challenge?ref=email.

WHY READ	20 MINUTES	AT HOME?
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	900 minutes per school year.	180 minutes per school year.
1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
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Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.