



Kirtland Schools'



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**Fluency**



I can read accurately with expression,  
& understand what I read

Past and present Parent Collaborator editions and resources can be found at:

<https://www.kirtlandschools.org/PupilServices.aspx>

# KIRTLAND SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT COLLABORATOR



January 2021



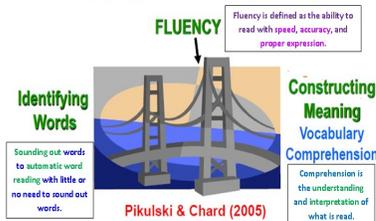
Happy New Year! We would like to extend best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy new year.

It's an absolute pleasure to see our children, teachers and staff back at school!

May this year bring new happiness, new achievements, and new adventures in your life as well as in your family's lives. We are excited for the new year and the new learning opportunities for our Kirtland students, parents, staff and community!

## Bridge to Comprehension

Fluency forms the bridge between word identification & constructing meaning



**Reading Fluency** is comprised of accuracy (correct word reading), rate (number of words read per minute), and prosody (rhythm, tempo, stress and intonation).

Fluency is also a significant indicator of reading comprehension.

When children can read fluently, it means that instead of using brain power for decoding (sounding out words), they can turn their attention to the meaning of the text and comprehending what he/she is reading.

Students should work on Fluency by reading books at their ability level (within their Lexile Level).

## Ideas and Tips for Parents to Practice Reading Fluency at Home

**Reread the same text until mastery:** Of course you want a variety of text but rereading the same text over and over for mastery is a great way to build fluency. The more times a child reads a passage, the more fluent he or she becomes with reading.

- 1) Grab a reading passage at your child's reading level.
- 2) Give your child a timer and have them cold read the passage.
- 3) Have your child read the passage at his/her own pace (no timer!) and highlight any words the he/she has difficulty with.



**Read sentences adding one word at a time:** For children who are really struggling, have him/her read sentences adding one word at a time.

- \* For example, if the sentence is "The fat cat sat on a mat." the student would say. "The. The fat. The fat cat. The fat cat sat. The fat cat sat on. The fat cat sat on a. The fat cat sat on a mat."
- \* It may seem repetitive but there are many kids that need that. It's a great way to build fluency.

**Put reading practice everywhere!** It seems obvious but children should be reading all day. When starting the new activity, read the directions together. Have your child read a menu at a restaurant, read signs while you are driving, put the "closed captions" on when watching TV, that way your child hears and sees the words, have your child look up recipes and read them to you or have him/her read the directions on a box. Words are everywhere, have your child explore!

**Sight Word Mastery:** We all know this will help build fluency! Parents should know what sight words your child is working on each week to practice at home. The more sight words children know with immediate recognition, the more fluent they'll be. There are many fun ways to practice sight words. Look for lists of words on the *Kirtland School Website under Pupil Services Home*.

**Model fluent reading for your students:** Make sure you're reading high interest picture books aloud to your children and that you model good reading! You can also choose an ability level book for your child, take turns reading with him/her. While the parent is reading, your child should be following along as you read. Show expression and enthusiasm. Parents are great role models for fluent reading! It's easy to forget with everything parents have going on but try to work it into your daily routine.



**Students should always be reading OUT LOUD:** Yes, it makes the room a little louder but it's worth it! If they're "reading in their heads", they might skip words or he/she may even be pretending to read and looking at the pictures.





Marissa Burwell grew up in Chesterland with her dad, mom, and older brother. Marissa truly enjoys spending time with her family, she comes from an enormous family (46 cousins-holy cow!). Most of all she loves her weekends to spend time with her 7-month-old nephew.

Marissa loves everything health and fitness. She spends much of her free time outside any time of the year. Marissa enjoys coaching girl's high school soccer while brushing up on new soccer plays and techniques. You can also find Marissa taking various types of fitness classes or learning a new sport in the summer time.

Marissa earned her Intervention Specialist certificate from Cleveland State University where she was also part of their teaching fellowship. Marissa has been teaching for two years. She began her career at Kirtland Elementary School in late winter of 2020. She began teaching in the classroom and working with students that have special abilities and quickly had to move to virtual learning. Marissa had to quickly learn how to change up her instruction and did a fabulous job.

Marissa always has a smile on her face and cannot wait to see her students each and every day. She is eager to provide support and guidance for all Kirtland students and help them succeed!



## TIPS & TRICKS

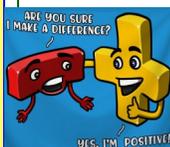
### The Power of Zero!

Help your child understand the importance of turning in every assignment.

Have her add up several of her grades ( $97 + 89 + 93 = 279$ ) and divide by the number of grades to get her average ( $279 \div 3 = 93$ ).

Then, ask her to change the last grade to zero and average again—suddenly, the 93 becomes a 62.

One low or missing score makes a big difference.



### Activity Makes A Difference!

Just a few minutes of physical activity can immediately improve your middle grader's concentration. Remind her to use her distance-learning or study breaks to move around. She could write quick ideas on slips of paper ("Dance to a song," "Do 5 jumping jacks") and pick one to do between classes or subjects.



### Did you Know?

Working in front of a computer screen can cause eye strain. To avoid headaches, blurred vision, and watery eyes, your child should use the 20-20-20 rule. For every 20 minutes of screen time, look up at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.



### Noteworthy Quotes:

"Life is like a trumpet.

If you don't put anything into it, you don't get anything out of it."

W. C. Handy



### How can I make sure my son doesn't cheat when he works online at home?

It can be tempting for students to copy and paste information from the internet or chat answers to friends. Or they may not even realize they're cheating. Explain to your children that cheating is dishonest, can cause him to get a zero on their work—and will prevent them from learning. Instead of copying and pasting, encourage them to read their source material, close that window, and type the information in their own words. Point out that it's not enough to rearrange words and sentences. Students need original explanations and examples, and they need to cite the source.

If your children are taking a test or quiz at home, make sure they turn off chat and email notifications. This will help them with distractions like pings or feeling pressured to share answers.

Finally, **praise** hard work rather than focusing on grades—you'll teach your child to value both **effort** and **honesty**.



### Upcoming Workshops:

#### Student Virtual Connect: Monday, February 8, 2021

\*KMS and KHS Students: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

\*KES and KHS Students: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

#### Parent Virtual Connect: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

\*KES Parents: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

\*KMS and KHS Parents: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Registration will be required for all future meetings in order to protect our students and parents from outside entities that may try to hack the meetings.

Emails will be sent out the first week of February to register.



Continue to look for upcoming Parent Workshops. Resources can be found on the Pupil Services Home Page: <https://www.kirtlandschools.org/PupilServices.aspx>