Frequently Asked Questions About
Read Out of School Often
ROSO

1. What is ROSO?

ROSO is a system to improve reading capability and long term academic achievement by increasing the amount of reading students do out of school.

2. Why was ROSO implemented at MACS?

- There is evidence that amount of out-of-school reading in which students engage in is very strongly related to achievement (Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding, 1988).
- Becoming an expert takes 3,000 to 10,000 hours of practice (Chase and Simon, 1973). Assuming 3,000 hours for reading would mean 75 minutes of practice every school day from K through 12.
- Given the demands of various subject matter, enough reading practice cannot be accomplished in school.
- Consequences of inadequate practice are that reading will remain laborious and limited in effectiveness (LaBerge and Samuels, 1972; 1985).

3. Beyond increasing amount of reading, are there other goals?

Yes. The other goals are that students get so used to reading out-of-school that it becomes a habit. For example, they get so interested in reading, they sometimes choose to read; sometimes they read rather than turning on the television or computer. It is an attempt to establish a love of books and a habit of life time reading.

4. How will we judge ROSO’s success?

We have designed an evaluation plan that includes measuring students’ reading growth and administering attitude surveys. Measuring students’ reading growth will include assessing students’ performance within a school year and across school years. Students’ attitude surveys will ask such questions as the extent to which they like or do not like ROSO, whether they think the amount of out-of-school reading they do has increased, how ROSO could be improved, and similar matters. Surveys to parents will ask similar questions, but will be appropriate to parents’ interests and concerns.

5. What separates ROSO from other reading programs, such as 25 Book Challenges or America Reads?

The goals of all such initiatives are to increase out-of-school reading. For example, the 25 Book Challenge simply challenges students to read 25 books and all the students need to do is record the titles of the books they’ve read. One issue in approaches, such as the 25 \Book Challenge, is the extent to which students have actually read the books that they indicate they have read. In ROSO, there are requirements that students complete a prepared booklog about how many minutes they read each day and where they read. Moreover, the booklog needs to be signed by an adult and turned into the teacher at the end of every seven-day cycle. During a cycle, teachers try to informally ask students, “what part of the story are you reading now?,” “what was happening in your story the last time you read?,” “What’s the name of the main character, I forgot?.” Additionally, each child has an individual conference with the teacher about a book that he or she recently completed. The conference allows the teacher to check on the extent to which the student has read as well as to discuss ideas together. The reward system includes small prizes for good ROSO conferences and a celebration for students who participate in ROSO fully in, at least, 7 of 9 cycles.
6. **If my child loses a book can they continue to check out books? Are parents or students responsible to pay for a lost book?**

   Students will be permitted to continue to check books out. However, in an effort to teach responsibility, students will be required to replace a lost book. Students can pay for the book using MACS money and/or real money. Two MACS dollars equal one real dollar. For example, if the book cost $5.00, then it would cost a student $10.00 in MACS money. Payment can be a combination of MACS money and real money.

7. **What happens if my child loses their log?**

   If a student loses his/her reading log, teachers will have extra logs available within their classroom. Beginning in the fall, a ROSO website will be accessible by visiting the school website at [www.macsk8.org](http://www.macsk8.org).

8. **How does my child check out a book?**

   Within each classroom, there are red book cases that are stocked with grade appropriate ROSO books. Students visit the bookshelf during their class check out time to select a book. Upon selecting a book, students will turn in the book’s library card to their teacher.

9. **What happens if my child was absent from school the day books were checked out?**

   If students are absent the day books were checked out, they will be able to check out a book the day they return.

10. **Does ROSO count as part of their reading grade?**

    Yes. Students do receive an evaluation for ROSO on their report card each 9 weeks. The ROSO grade is a part of their reading and language arts grades. Students are given a percentage grade out of 10 points based upon their participation. Their participation is determined by the number of minutes students read and recorded on their reading logs. Each minute is given 1% point. The score will be recorded as a weekly homework grade in their reading and language arts classes.

11. **How is my child’s reading level determined?**

    A student’s reading level is determined through teachers’ assessments. Students are administered a beginning of the year assessment which will determine a students’ level.

12. **Can my child move from one color to the next?**

    Yes. It is likely that students will move up or down from one color (level) to the next. Teachers will monitor the students throughout the process. They will administer fluency tests across the year, which will assist in assessing student progress. Also, among other advantages of the teacher-student conferences is that teachers gain valuable information about whether the level in which a student is reading is appropriate or needs to be changed.
13. If my child is in blue, can they choose books from, say, the white or red?

Yes. Students can choose a book from a lower level. Keep in mind, that the levels were pre-determined based upon the degree of difficulty. Each classroom teacher will be able to determine if a book is appropriate for the individual involved.

14. What if my child is not finished with their book when their current log is due, can they keep it or must they turn it in?

If students are not finished with their book, they may keep it for another week. The do, however, need to bring their book log back to class at the end of every cycle, and get a new booklog when the next cycle begins.

15. Can my child read during the school day and have their minutes count?

No. A student may read their ROSO book in schools, but the minutes cannot be counted toward the 100 minutes per cycle requirement. ROSO is an out-of-school reading program where the goal is to have students read outside the school day.

16. Can my child read books from home or the library?

Yes, with one requirement. Students must get approval before choosing a book from home or the library. Approval can be granted by the classroom teacher or Mr. Kuban.

17. How many minutes is my child required to read?

Across one, seven-day cycle,

- 4th and 5th grade students must read, at least, 100 minutes a cycle on, at least, three days.
- 2nd and 3rd grade students must read, at least, 75 minutes a cycle on at least, three days.
- 1st grade students must read, at least 60 minutes a cycle on, at least three days.

For example, if a 5th grade child reads 100 minutes on one day, he or she has fulfilled the amount of reading requirement, but would be required to read on two more days to fulfill the reading on three days requirement. Since they already have read 100 minutes for the cycle, they can read as much or as little on the two additional days. However, we are hopeful that they will read more rather than less.

18. How would a situation like the following be handled? My child was sick for four days and was not able to read. When he came back, there were only three days of the cycle left and he had to complete a lot of homework that he missed?

If a student misses several consecutive days, the classroom teacher is able to pro-rate the student’s requirements. If a student misses an entire week or cycle, then the student’s requirements will be reduced by one week. In addition, all students can make-up time the following weeks.

19. Must every student participate? Is ROSO a requirement?

Yes. ROSO is a required school reading program and all students are expected to participate.

20. How does my child earn a reward?

Students earn a reward for returning their book and a completed booklog. A completed book log consists of, the appropriate number of minutes for his/her grade (See # 17 above) to be read across a
minimum of three days, with an adult signature on every day that the student read. Awards are also given for an excellent conference, a book talk, more reading than the requirement, and the like.

21. What is my role as a parent in ROSO and how can I help my child be successful?

The role of a parent is to provide a quiet place where your child can read, reminding your child to read his or her ROSO book, occasionally asking your child a question about the book he or she is reading, asking your child to read a small part of the book aloud to you, checking and signing the weekly logs, and remind children to return the log and book they read to school at the end of a cycle.

22. What if my child doesn’t like to read?

Students who don’t like to read, don’t read much and that is a serious problem for their academic achievement throughout school. Therefore ROSO is like any other school subject, say math. Students don’t have a choice about doing math, whether they like it or not. We think of ROSO the same way. We will, however, try to help the student check out books that we think the particular student might like, and we will encourage him or her to engage in ROSO. We will also be happy to talk with parents about ways they can encourage their child to read. For instance, if the child is a weak reader and finds reading difficult, we might suggest that the parent join the child and each take turns reading a page to each other. There are other such ways to encourage reluctant readers to read, but it is essential that the parent take a role in encouraging the child. Again, we hope you will contact us so we can discuss ways for your child to begin to reap the benefits of reading more often.

23. Will my child have to read a book I don’t want him/her to read?

No. If your child has a book that you do not approve of, simply have student to exchange the book for another.

24. What are the conferences my student participates in? What is the goal of a conference?

The individual conference between the student and the teacher serves several important purposes. One is to check on the extent to which the student has actually read the book, as well as to discuss ideas together. The conference also provides the teachers with another opportunity to listen to the child read a bit of the book. All this assists the teacher in assessing whether the level of book in which the child is reading is best for that child. Each child is scheduled for an individual conference approximately three times per nine week report period.

25. What if my child finishes the ROSO book before the end of the cycle?

The students can bring the book that they read back, get another book and enter the new book on the log. Sometimes at the beginning of the year in the earliest grades, we suggest that the child reread the book and then get another book. Rereading is an excellent strategy for building fluency.

26. Where can I find a booklist for each grade?

Booklists can be provided upon request by emailing Mr. Kuban at roso@macsk8.org

27. My child does great in school and is always reading. What is the advantage for him of participating in ROSO?
As a member of the class in which your child is enrolled, we would like every student to participate in ROSO. Students who are excellent readers and read out-of-school often can read library books with permission of the teacher. Students need to show the teacher the book that they want to read to fulfill the out of school requirement. We do want all students to keep a log for every cycle.

28. **How are incomplete logs and late logs handled?**

There will be a 10% deduction in the students’ points for late logs. For incomplete logs, if the log is brought in on the day due, the student’s points will be counted toward celebrations. For late logs, if the log is brought in the next day, the student’s points—minus the 10% deduction—will be counted toward celebrations. If that requirement is not met, points will not count.