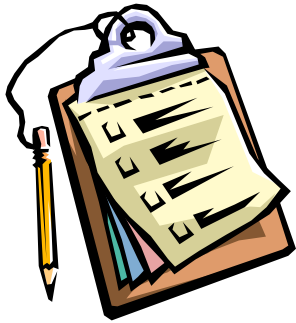

Reading Committee

Points of Contact

Program Highlights

- *All people on campus are asked to engage in reading appropriate material during the period designated for reading.*
- *Any self-selected reading material is permitted (school appropriate). No written work is permitted.*
- *The Rotating Cart/Crate Collection (RCC) will be stocked and managed by the reading committee. Teachers are encouraged to assign classroom management of the carts to students.*
- *Rally and testing bell schedules do not include the reading period.*



Committee Chairperson
Jan Speller

English Department Chairperson
Gina Hart

Library Media Teacher
Bruce Cummings

You're invited!

The reading committee members are volunteers from several departments. We encourage more faculty to participate in helping us to support this program. Please see one of the contacts above regarding meeting times and committee tasks. Some of the committee work includes:

- Purchasing books and acquiring other reading materials for the program (e.g. shopping trips to Borders)
- Identifying book titles and genres to purchase
- Devising SSR curriculum and training aids
- Generating ideas to promote reading literacy among our students
- Addressing faculty questions about the program



Better readers make better learners



El Camino High School
sustained silent reading
program

Program Brochure



2002-2003
School year

Reading Program

The faculty at El Camino High School voted in spring 2001 to pilot a daily reading period for the 2001-2002 school year. This program has been managed by a committee of interested teachers from several departments. This brochure will serve as a reference guide to the program.



Use this brochure to help make the reading program implementation go smoothly.

Reading Period

The reading period is attached to the 3rd period class. The first five minutes of the period are reserved for school announcements. The reading period begins after announcements and concludes around 10:37. Teachers, at their discretion, may include a brief break between the end of reading and the start of instruction. Please do not start this break until 10:35 if you choose to use it.

The reading period is not part of rally or test bell schedules. These schedules will be posted in the weekly announcements.

Bell Schedule

First Bell	8:10	
Period 1	8:16-9:09	(53 min)
Period 2	9:15-10:08	(53 min)
Period 3	10:14-11:30	(76 min)
[announcements	10:14-10:19	(5 min)]
[reading	10:19-10:37	(18 min)]
Period 4	11:36-12:29	(53 min)
Lunch	12:32-1:02	(53 min)
Period 5	1:08-2:01	(53 min)
Period 6	2:07-3:00	(53 min)

Eight Factors for SSR Success

Janice L. Pilgreen, in *The SSR Handbook*, identified traits common to successful SSR programs. The reading committee will assist teachers in supporting each of these eight factors.

1. Access

While students are encouraged to bring their own books to read, the reading program will provide all students with a range of reading material to include fiction and non-fiction books, magazines and graphic novels. These items will be distributed through the Rotating Cart/Crate Collection (RCC).

2. Appeal

To be successful in attracting the students to read, the reading material must be of high interest. A crucial element is self-selection. Each classroom RCC is stocked to make the materials genuinely inviting to students. Students are encouraged to make requests for additions to the RCCs.

3. Conducive Environment

The whole campus is participating in this program to promote an environment free of distraction during the reading period. Discourage talking and discussion during the reading period so that students are protected from noise and interruption when they read.



Promote surroundings where readers won't be disturbed

4. Encouragement

Students who already know reading is enjoyable won't need much encouragement, but many of our students are skeptical about how fun reading can be. Encourage students to sample lots of reading material until they find something they like. Provide time for students to share their favorite stories to encourage others to investigate. The reading committee will provide support by arranging for book talks and other reading promotion.

5. Staff Training

The reading committee will be providing staff training and support to make the SSR program successful in your classroom. Please direct your questions and suggestions to committee members so they may be included in the training plans.

6. Non-Accountability

This program emphasizes *free voluntary reading*, meaning that students do not complete books reports, write journals, take quizzes, or generate any "tasks" from their reading.

7. Follow-up Activities

Even though student reading in SSR is not task driven, students may want to express what they've read through discussion, drama, group writing, art, music or other avenues. The reading committee will investigate strategies you may incorporate to help students generate their own excitement about reading.

8. Distributed Time to Read

The research shows that consistent SSR periods of 15-30 minutes three or more times a week are the most successful. Programs that allow for the same amount of time, but on a weekly or monthly basis do not effectively promote habit-forming reading behavior.

Pilgreen, Janice L. *The SSR handbook: how to organize and manage a sustained silent reading program*, Boynton/Cook Publishers, Inc., 2000.