Language Arts encompasses reading, writing, speaking and listening. Monroeville Elementary is launching a new approach to teaching language arts for the 2017-18 school year. The company which supplies materials and teacher training for this adoption is The American Reading Company. A large portion of the program is called The 100 Book Challenge. (This sounds as if our goal is for students to read 100 books, but that is not the case. Please read below):

The 100 Book Challenge

All students K-6 will be reading (or read to) 30 minutes per day at school. When reading independently, students will read books at their determined level and will be asked to read for enjoyment first and then to go back and work on an individual “Power Goal” that their teacher has assigned them. Teachers will conference with students one-on-one or in small groups to provide instruction and monitor progress toward goal attainment. Students will move into different levels as they master the skills needed and goals assigned.

In addition to 30 minutes of reading at school, students’ primary homework for language arts will be to read 30 minutes per day at home. This expectation will be monitored with a reading log beginning October 2, 2017. We will send home information the week of September 25th and will have a Family Reading Night on September 26th to demonstrate how parents can support this expectation by being a Reading Coach for their child.

Research shows that students who read 60 minutes per day increase their reading ability by 2.66 grade levels per year.

Our main goal is to instill a love of reading for all students because we know that reading ability is linked to success in other subjects and in all walks of life.

The 30 minutes per day reading time explained above is only part of the language arts class. During the 2017-18 school year, teachers will be moving away from worksheets, and isolated spelling, grammar, and vocabulary drill and practice. Students will be reading, talking about what they read, listening to books being read to them, writing, and engaging with other students and their teacher about reading and writing. Students will be assessed on individual goals as well as on grade level expectations.

Our teachers will be supported along the way by a Literacy Coach who will spend 8 days in the classrooms to help teachers refine the art of teaching using this approach.