**Reading Volume = Reading Achievement:**

**How can you support your child grow as a reader?**

Reading volume matters. It predicts reading comprehension in 5th graders, 8th graders, and even in high school. In fact, by the end of 8th grade, most middle school students will possess the reading skills needed for high school and even college *if they are avid readers*. Like anything else, becoming a proficient reader takes practice and time.

The most important way you can help your child grow as a reader is this: Ensure that your son or daughter reads A LOT of books at his or her level – *at least* one book or more a week. Support your child’s reading habits by limiting television and video games, making sure high-interest books and magazines are everywhere, and talking about books together. Your own excitement about reading will make a magical difference.

Consider these questions:

* Is your child reading about 25-30 pages (on average) at home each night?
* Does your child have a consistent place at home where he or she can get “lost” in a book that is free from distractions?
* Does your child have a book or two on deck ready to go?
* Is your child able to read aloud a paragraph from their book with expression, accuracy, and at a conversational rate? Their reading should sound like talking.
* Does your child jot down his or her thoughts strategically based on their reading goal – a couple of post-its or jottings per chapter? Perhaps the parts that they are dying to talk about or that may be confusing for them.
* Is your child able to talk about his or her book so you can picture the story unfold?
* Is your child matched to the right book? You’ll know this if your child is able to do all of the above. If not, the book may be too hard -- for now.

**Remember –**

*The number one strategy for your child to grow as a reader is to read books within their reach every day. Your support makes an incredible difference.*