

Dear Parents,

The Iditarod is a very tough and exciting Alaskan sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome, and all those who enter do it for the challenge. Only a few teams are good enough to do it for the money and fame it will bring them. We are going to follow the Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race this year at Soldotna Montessori Charter School. This challenging race of approximately 1,000 miles can take from 9 to 14 days to complete.

We are accepting a similar challenge in reading. We call it the Iditaread Challenge. Classes attempt to read to match the veteran and rookie mushers for each of the race checkpoints. Each student that participates will read a page of an independent reading book for each race mile between the race checkpoints. Students will keep track of their reading on an Iditaread Challenge Reading Record.

Although the Iditarod's official start date is March 4th, our reading will begin on Monday, February 27, 2023 and will continue until Spring Break (Thursday, March, 9th).

Here are some general guidelines:

- Participation is optional, however reading can include in-school as well as at home reading
- Help your student choose reading material that is challenging but enjoyable. Picture books are acceptable, as long as they are appropriate to your child's reading level. Chapter books are encouraged.
- All participating students will keep a record of their reading on their Iditaread challenge Reading Record. Please verify your student's pages read.
- There is a new record for the "distance" between each checkpoint.
- Reading Records will be given out as the student progresses, and students may take up to three checkpoints home at a time.



To find out more about the Iditarod Race visit <http://iditarod.com/race/> and check out musher profiles at <http://iditarod.com/race/mushers/>

Certificates of participation and Iditaread dog tags will be awarded to all finishers after Spring Break, to allow for the conclusion of the Iditarod itself. Participating students must turn in at least one completed reading record to qualify for a dog tag.

Thank you and good luck in our Iditaread!