

m a t c h

The MATCH School Pleasure Reading Program

The MATCH School is a public, tuition-free, charter high school in Boston. Our mission is that our students will succeed in college and beyond. Statistically, our students are fighting odds of 1:20 that they will graduate from college. The MATCH School aims to become the first school to erase, not narrow the Achievement Gap between our low-income, minority students and their peers. In order to do so, we must take steps to bolster our students' basic skills and study skills while simultaneously providing them with a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. One way MATCH does this is through its Pleasure Reading Program where MATCH students are taken to a local bookstore monthly and select a pleasure reading book at the school's expense.

The average student arrives at the MATCH School in the 9th grade with 6th grade reading skills. A majority have failed the MCAS tests at their former schools. They have little track record of independent reading, have rarely experienced the joy of reading, and have an average of only three books at home. As a result, they tend to be weak readers who do not associate reading with pleasure; instead, they equate reading with academic struggle, with dry textbooks, and with failure.

Through the Pleasure Reading Program, students are taken to a local bookstore monthly, where they may spend \$10 on a book of their choice. As a guide for book selection, we ask students, "Would you read this book in front of your mother?" Student book selections range from Stephen King to Maxine Hong Kingston, from pop musicians' autobiographies to classical novels. By purchasing one book a month throughout their tenures at MATCH, students can build personal libraries of 40 books by the time that they graduate.

Students read their selected books before school, after school, and at home. Freshmen and sophomores, who are more likely to struggle with basic literacy, also read their pleasure reading books during their daily, 56-minute Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) period. Numerous studies have shown that daily silent sustained reading, even for as little as 20 minutes, has more impact on improving literacy than any other strategy.

Please help support MATCH's Pleasure Reading Program and help our kids reach the goal of success in college and beyond!

----- 1001 Commonwealth Avenue • Boston, MA 02215 • (617) 232-0300 • www.matcheschool.org -----

Only through private donations can MATCH provide this opportunity for its students. I would like to support the MATCH Pleasure Reading Program with my donation of:

- _____ \$100 to provide books for a year for a MATCH student
- _____ \$500 to provide books for a year for five MATCH students
- _____ \$1000 to provide books for a year for 10 MATCH students
- _____ \$5,600 to provide books for a year for all MATCH 11th graders
- _____ \$6,800 to provide books for a year for all MATCH 10th graders
- _____ \$7,000 to provide books for a year for all MATCH 9th graders

Please make check payable to:
The MATCH School Foundation
(fully tax-deductible)

Please mail donation to:
The MATCH School
c/o Jared Taillefer
1001 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

Or pay by credit card online at:
www.matcheschool.org

_____ I would like to donate \$ _____ to benefit the MATCH Pleasure Reading Program