

Dear Parents,

This is a lot of information, but it's very important. Thank you in advance for taking time to read over this message.... 😊

I-Station is an interactive program used at Hicks that targets the four areas of reading instruction - comprehension, vocabulary, text fluency (pace of reading), and word analysis (spelling). Students are given an individualized test called the ISIP at the first of each month at school, and based on their performances are placed on tiers. Tier 1 is the target goal, but if this goal cannot be attained, the goal is *improvement* with targeted practice provided by strategies reviewed in class as well as I-Station.

The following is the recommendation for weekly I-Station practice.

- **Tier 1: 30 minutes 1x/week = 30 minutes completed at school (no home practice)**
- **Tier 2: 30 minutes 2x/week = 30 minutes completed at school & 30 minutes completed at HOME**
- **Tier 3: 30 minutes 3x/week = 30 minutes completed at school & 60 minutes (in TWO separate 30 minute time blocks) completed at HOME**

An email will be sent following this initial contact if a student is on Tier 2 or 3. If you do not receive an email or phone call, your child is Tier 1 and no I-Station homework is required. Keep in mind that this tier may change each month based on the ISIP performance. I always like to give my students incentive, and so... no matter if the extra minutes are required or not, I award every extra 30 minute block of practice time with a reward ticket. I-Station home practice may also be added to Weekly Home Reading Goals and count towards minutes.

Students can access I-Station via their iPads at home. They have log on info taped inside their orange folders. Because these tiered homework minutes serve as crucial intervention tools, it is imperative the environment be free from distraction. **It is best if the TV is off and the whole 30 minute block of time is uninterrupted.**

You will be able to monitor your child's tier and how many minutes he/she has been on I-Station by accessing the parent portal and using your child's log on information (see the link below for instructions). You should not need to download I-Station to your home computers since students have iPad access.

<https://www.istation.com/istationhome>

The assessment was completed yesterday for most students. A few students are still wrapping up, and we should know their tier soon. I conferenced with each student on Tier 2 or Tier 3, and they should be working on their extra practice time at home. **Home minutes will need to be completed by Saturday of every week.**

Thank you for helping in your child's reading success! Let me know if you have any questions.

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