

Students who are proficient readers by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are more likely to graduate from high school.

- 16% of children who are not proficient readers by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade fail to graduate from high school.
- 35% of children who live in high poverty neighborhoods and who are not reading proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade fail to graduate from high school.

Findings from the Annie E. Casey  
Foundation Study  
[www.aecf.org/double-jeopardy/](http://www.aecf.org/double-jeopardy/)



Why listen to emerging readers?

- Reading is a skill that improves with practice
- Volunteering to listen to a child read provides an opportunity for much needed practice
- As a volunteer listener, you will feel so-o-o-o good knowing that you made a difference in a child's future.

Michigan's Early Literacy-  
Read by Grade Three Law

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/academic-standards/literacy/early-literacy-read-by-grade-three-law>

## Volunteer Contact

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# Listening To Kindergartners Read

MARCH  
2025



**Optimist Club of Pontiac**

**In partnership with  
Herrington Elementary School  
Alcott Elementary School  
Pontiac School District  
Oakland University**



# Volunteer to listen to an emerging reader!

During March 3 through March 21, 2025, M, T, Th, F from 9:15A.M. to 12 noon, volunteers can sign up in 55 minute session increments for one or more days each week to listen to kindergartners read at Herrington/Alcott Elementary School, 460 West Kennett Road. Pontiac. MI. 48340. Whatever time that you have available will be appreciated.

- First, complete the Pontiac School District Volunteer Registration Form and submit to Debora Burkett ([debra.burkette@pontiacschools.org](mailto:debra.burkette@pontiacschools.org)) or you may deliver it to her in person at the PSD Administration Building (47200 Woodward Ave, Pontiac, MI 48342). Be sure to indicate on the form that you are Volunteering to Listen to Kindergarteners Read  
After you have completed the volunteer registration form, contact Roselyn for the link to sign up on SignUpGenius where you will indicate your days and times of availability.

Prior to your first volunteer day, you will be invited to a zoom orientation which will provide an overview and tips for listening. A volunteer coordinator will be available on your first listening day.

Email/phone Roselyn Northcross, coordinator, if you need assistance or have questions with the online sign up. ([rjnorthc@aol.com](mailto:rjnorthc@aol.com)) or phone /text 248 396-8659 ) That's all there is.

## Make a difference in a child's life. Listen to a child read during March is Reading Month.

### When?

**March 3-21, 2025. Volunteer to listen to kindergartners read.**

**Listen once each week or just once during the month of March. The teacher will give you a list of readers. You'll listen to each child read for 3-5 minutes.**

**The student will read to you from book(s), that they have already pre-read with their teacher. That's it. No teaching just listening to kindergartners and encouraging them to read.**

### Where?

**This program is coordinated by the Pontiac Optimist Club in cooperation with**

**Herrington\* & Alcott Elementary Schools**

**440 W. Kennett Road, Pontiac, MI 48340**

*During the renovation of Herrington Elementary School, Students are using classrooms at Alcott*

### Why?

**Reading is a skill that requires practice. By March some children have begun to independently use the basic reading skills they have been learning all year.**

**Your listening to an emerging reader will help a student practice these essential reading skills.**

**Children who leave kindergarten reading are more likely to be proficient readers by third grade.**