



Dear MotorSports Institute,

During the first seven weeks of the 2009-2010 school year, our school, Ivy Bound Academy, participated in the Read to Race program. In these seven weeks, our almost 250 students read 123,795 pages. Every page was confirmed by the students' parent or teacher and came from a book *outside* of the curriculum in school. While this program was a great fun while in progress, the real successes have come after the program's completion.

A major goal for our school was to raise the frequency of recreational reading in our students. According to a 2004 US study, "Recreational readers are more engaged in their communities. They're more likely to vote, attend a museum or sporting event, and volunteer, and, go figure, they live longer, an average of seven years. The decline in reading, therefore, parallels a larger retreat from participation in civic and cultural life" ([www.nea.gov/pub/ReadingAtRisk.pdf](http://www.nea.gov/pub/ReadingAtRisk.pdf)). While studies that prove the benefits of recreational reading are on the rise, somehow, reading for pleasure is on the decline. This is certainly a trend that started to become the norm in our school—then we started Read to Race.

Read to Race jump-started our students' idle hands, minds, and engines; they began reading furiously. The pages piled up. While students were, on the surface, reading because of a major incentive provided by the Motor Sports Institute, on the inside they were developing habits of proficient readers, and traveling to places far-off places that they would have never imagined. When the program stopped and the incentive was rewarded, the *true* incentive was still available—our student continued to read. Since, every child in the school has read at least 3 novels this year, and completed essays and book reports. When our school participates in standardized state-testing this spring, I am confident that our reading and writing scores will soar. A large part of this success can be attributed to the Read to Race program.

Thanks MotorSports Institute,

Adam Gaunt

Ivy Bound Read to Race Coordinator and Language Arts Teacher