SMFC Education Foundation
Readathon 2025
Family/Student Readathon FAQs

1. **What is the SMFC Education Foundation (SMFCEF) Readathon?** The SMFCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves ALL students enrolled in the San Mateo-Foster City School District (SMFCSD). This is the 9th annual Readathon! Funds from the Reathon will support essential staff and programs like LEGO Education Labs and middle school clubs. Visit our website for more information.

2. **Who can participate in the Readathon?** ALL SMFCSD preschool - 8th grade students may participate in the Readathon!

3. **Is there a fundraising minimum?** No. There is no fundraising minimum. We encourage your family to raise as much as is doable for you. If you want a place to start, raise $25 and read 150 minutes!

4. **Is the SMFCEF still fundraising for its annual campaign?** Yes! The Readathon is just one SMFCEF fundraising event. It's not too late to make a tax-deductible yearly contribution to SMFCEF this school year; you can make donations here.

5. **Does the Readathon count as a fundraiser for my school PTA?** The SMFCEF and your school site PTA are separate nonprofits and fund different things, but they are both essential to a strong school community. Your Readathon donations will support programs for ALL students in the SMFCSD.

6. **When will the Readathon begin and end?** You can register your student(s) anytime, but logging of reading minutes starts on Friday, January 24th. All reading minutes must be logged by the end of the day on Friday, February 7th.

7. **How do I register my student(s) for the Readathon?** Visit https://pledgestar.com/SMFC and click "Not Registered For This Year's Event." Next, enter your name and email address, then click "Submit." Follow the instructions to register your student(s).

8. **Can my student(s) use their school/SMFCSD email addresses to register?** No. For security reasons, only personal email addresses may be used to register students. *Minutes entered for students registered with the SMFCSD email addresses will NOT be counted.*

9. **Can I change the language from English to other languages for my student(s) page and donation requests?** Yes. In the upper right-hand corner of the login page, there is a "Language" drop-down menu. Simply choose the language you want.

10. **Can I register multiple students?** Yes! Once registered, adding more students/readers under the "Enter Readers" tab on your family page is easy.

11. **Can my student(s) log their reading minutes?** Yes. Your student(s) can log their reading minutes, but they must have the username/email address and password you used to register. If you have multiple students who would like their own pages, they must register using a different email address.

12. **Can I register my student(s) with their school/SMFCSD email address?** No. For security reasons, only personal email addresses may be used.

13. **What counts as reading minutes?** All reading minutes during and outside school hours count! Minutes spent listening to audiobooks and books read aloud to your student (s) count as reading minutes. Watching TV does not count as reading minutes.

14. **Is there a maximum number of minutes?** Yes. The reading minutes will be capped at 500 minutes/daily per student.

15. **Does my student have to collect donations to participate?** No. You can still register your student to track reading minutes but do not have to seek donations.

16. **How do my student(s) seek and collect donations?** After registering, simply follow the instructions to send family and friends donation requests via email, text, or post on social media. You can also follow the instructions to create a PDF copy of your donation request to print out and give to neighbors.

17. **Can I have my company match my donation?** Yes. Simply check the box for a "Company Donation Match" on the donation page and follow the instructions.

18. **When are donations due?** Donations are due at the end of the day on Sunday, February 9th.

19. **Are donations tax deductible?** Yes. Donors should get an email/text with a donation receipt. If you have donors who need a paper receipt, just email us at readathon@smfcedfund.org.

20. **What are the Readathon rewards/prizes?** Your student(s) may earn rewards for their school, classroom, and themselves. Visit our website for a list of rewards.