

Dear Parents and Educators,

During the period of virtual instruction and beyond, the Washington County Department of Education seeks to provide new and exciting ways for students to learn and grow.

We have an excellent, new reading service available through **Sora, the student reading app**, which provides free 24/7 access to eBooks and audiobooks. What better way to engage students' minds than through reading?

The **Sora** platform will offer access to a shared collection of titles within our district as well as public library eBooks and audiobooks. Users marked as **Juvenile** can view and borrow only juvenile titles from the public library, while those who are marked as **Young Adult** (Grades 7 and up) can view and borrow both young adult and juvenile titles. Parents should be aware that **Young Adult materials are most often content appropriate to that age group, however, they can contain more mature content and themes than Juvenile materials**. Any concerns about *Young Adult* access for students can be addressed with the student's school librarian. Access for any student can be limited to *Juvenile* materials only, upon written request from the parent.

Benefits of Sora:

- **Supports distance learning**
- **Supports a variety of reading levels and learning styles**
- **Accessible everywhere 24/7, 365 days a year**
- **Works on Chromebooks, tablets, laptops, desktops and phones**
- **Easy to use application**
- **Greater selection of high interest books**
- **Supports independent learning**
- **Increases student engagement**
- **Increased access through Public Library consortium**

We are excited to offer this new reading tool for our students, knowing that strong readers have increased success in all other academic subjects as well as fuller, more enriched life experiences.

Happy Reading!