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**AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ANTHEM HONORED AS #1 AZ SCHOOL IN THE SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READING CHALLENGE FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW**

**[ANTHEM] - OCT. 16, 2017** – American Leadership Academy (ALA) Anthem has reason to celebrate because its students read more than 1.2 million minutes this summer, earning them the title “Best in State” for Arizona in the 2017 [Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge](#). ALA Anthem defended their 2016 title by increasing their reading minutes in 2017 by more than 500%. The school will be featured in **2018 Scholastic Book of World Records** and will receive a commemorative plaque and a celebration kit to commemorate the students’ summer reading achievements. This summer, children in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., two U.S. territories and 14 countries read 138,399,392 million minutes in the 2017 Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge. **To help celebrate this monumental accomplishment, ALA Anthem will host a celebration at 9 a.m. on Oct. 23 at the school campus, 4380 N. Hunt Highway, Florence, AZ 85132. This celebration will also mark the launch of their early literacy Rockin’ Readers Program which will bring members of the community into ALA Anthem classroom to read with students.**

ALA Anthem would like to thank Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and his Office of Education for their support on the school’s big achievement and appreciates the Governor’s continued dedication to early childhood literacy, the [foundation of his education policy agenda](#).



Following

Best in State - 2 yrs running! So impressed by [@ALASchools](#) students (over 1 MILL mins read this summer) [@Scholastic](#)  
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The complete list of “Best in State” schools is available at [www.scholastic.com/summer](http://www.scholastic.com/summer).

The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge is designed to help kids turn the “summer slide”—the learning loss which can occur over the summer months—into a “summer leap” by discovering the power and joy of reading for fun. This year’s theme, “Happy Camper: Take a Reading Adventure,” came to life featuring beloved Scholastic characters, including custom Dog Man illustrations from Dav Pilkey, bestselling author and illustrator of the Captain Underpants and Dog Man series and our Scholastic Summer Reading Global Ambassador. The program offered kids the chance to log their reading minutes to earn digital prizes as they completed weekly reading challenges, gaining access to 18 reading activities, including games, quizzes and videos based

on popular children's books. Parents and families also had access to free summer reading resources, including booklists across all age groups in both English and Spanish.

"We are so proud of our families at Anthem for achieving "Best in State" for the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge two years in a row," said **Bryan Foster, Director of ALA Anthem**. "Beating our reading minutes by more than 500% from last year is a testament of our students, parents and teachers working together to display a genuine love and joy for reading. We take pride in building strong readers at our campus and participating in the Reading Challenge echoes this important initiative."

*"Scholastic is immensely proud of the students who joined the 2017 Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge and read all summer long, taking their own reading adventures and logging more than 138 million minutes,"* said **Michael Hagen, Chief Academic Officer, Scholastic Education**. *"Thanks to the encouragement and support of their families, educators, public libraries and community organizations, these students have returned to school ready to learn and prepared for the current school year."*

#### 2017 Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge highlights:

- Nearly 4,000 schools, libraries and community partners participated in this year's Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge.
- Students from the U.S. and around the world read a whopping total of **138,399,392 minutes!** That's the fifth year in a row kids logged more than 100 million minutes.
- The top five U.S. states with the most summer reading minutes read by children are: **Texas** (28,468,135 reading minutes), **Florida** (10,243,733 reading minutes), **Pennsylvania** (7,967,560 reading minutes), **Louisiana** (7,782,666 minutes) and **Massachusetts** (7,275,762 reading minutes).
- For the second year in a row, Scholastic sent two traveling **Summer Reading Road Trip RVs** across the U.S. to highlight the importance of summer reading and host reading festivals for kids and families in 50 cities. The RVs journeyed more than 10,000 miles from May through July and featured bestselling Scholastic authors and reading activities.
- Three **U.S. Governors** and 42 **Gubernatorial Spouses** and 1 **Lt. Governor** signed on as [Reading Ambassadors](#) to help spread the message to kids in their respective states and territories about the importance of reading during the summer months. Scholastic donated 500 books to the school of **each Reading Ambassador's choice (for a total of 23,000 books)**, and many of the Ambassadors hosted reading events at these schools.

For more information about Scholastic and the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, please visit [mediaroom.scholastic.com/SummerReadingChallenge](http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/SummerReadingChallenge).

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