



# ECCHO DECODER'S CLUB

## 2026–2027 FAMILY HANDBOOK

*Growing Confident Readers—One Word at a Time*

### **Welcome to Decoder's Club**

We are excited to offer the ECCHO Community Decoder's Club, an interactive group tutorial dedicated to advancing student reading skills and developing a love of reading. Decoder's Club serves students in grades 1–12 and meets on Fridays at Heritage Baptist Church in Waxahachie. Students are grouped by instructional reading level, and enrollment is intentionally limited to maintain small-group instruction and individualized support.

### **Mission Statement**

To support and empower young readers through patient, joyful, and skillful instruction rooted in love and encouragement while developing confidence in reading and writing.

### **Vision Statement**

To see struggling readers become confident, joyful readers and writers who are equipped for lifelong learning and academic success.

### **Meet Your Instructors**

Niki Fay

Niki and her family have been part of the ECCHO community for nine years. She serves ECCHO as a Board Member, Branch Liaison, and co-op teacher. Niki holds a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and a Master of Divinity and has completed training in Reading Simplified, Diane Craft's Right Brain Teaching workshops, and Orton-Gillingham methods.

David Fay

David is a retired English Language Arts teacher with 29 years of classroom experience. He holds a BA in English and Education, an MA in English, is a certified Reading Specialist, and has completed Reading Simplified training.

## **Evaluation & Placement Process**

All prospective students and parents meet with the instructors prior to registration. Evaluations help determine reading level, instructional needs, and group placement. Families receive placement recommendations and registration instructions after the evaluation.

### **Level 1 Program (Elementary, starting in 1<sup>st</sup> grade)**

Students strengthen fluency, multisyllabic decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, written language, syllable division, prefixes, suffixes, and reading confidence.

### **Level 2 Program (Middle-High school students)**

Students strengthen morphology, academic vocabulary, comprehension of complex text, writing skills, critical thinking, and upper level readiness.

## **What Families Can Expect**

- Small-group instruction
- Weekly homework and practice
- Progress monitoring
- Encouraging learning environment
- Individualized support

## **Student Expectations**

- Come prepared
- Participate fully
- Complete homework
- Practice reading aloud
- Encourage classmates
- Honor God with your effort

## **At-Home Practice**

Students should practice reading and writing approximately 10–15 minutes daily. Consistent practice leads to the greatest growth.

## 2026–2027 Calendar

September: 11, 18, 25

October: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November: 6, 13, 20

December: 4, 11

January: 15, 22, 29

February: 5, 12, 19, 26

March: 5, 19, 26

April: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

## Registration Checklist

- Submit application
- Complete student evaluation
- Receive placement recommendation
- Complete registration
- Submit registration fee

## Registration Timeline

Evaluations occur prior to registration (must be completed by July 19). Returning families receive priority registration. Registration is July 22.

## Fees & Payment

Registration Fee: \$20 per student

Monthly Fee: \$60 per student

Monthly fees remain the same regardless of attendance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

How are groups assigned?

Students are placed according to instructional reading level.

Can siblings be together?

Placement is based on instructional need rather than age.

What if my child struggles with reading?

Decoder's Club is specifically designed to support developing and struggling readers.

## Contact Information

David Fay & Niki Fay

Niki@eccho.us

## Parent Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the Decoder's Club Handbook, expectations, registration process, and policies.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_