

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased that your child will be a part of the English program at our school. Our immediate goal is to encourage students to read more and better books, and to write and talk about them. Our long-range goal is to create lifelong readers/learners. The intent of this course is to create competent readers and writers by total immersion in both reading and writing. The program has two goals: improving students' access as well as their ability to understand a wide variety of reading materials, aiding students' selection and evaluation of these materials, and providing time in school to read, write and discuss.

During this class, students will regularly read and write. Available books used will be a mixture of fiction and nonfiction books. In addition, students will engage in discussion with teachers and peers about the reading/writing that emerges from the class.

Teachers have selected titles for classroom libraries that meet the diverse needs of their students. These titles range from course recommended titles, suggested titles from a variety of book lists, and student and teacher recommendations. Some selections will be studied by the entire class; other selections will be discussed by small groups within the class. Please refer to the course syllabus for specific titles that will be used as whole class or as small group books. Students will also independently select titles for their personal reading to be done on a daily basis. Some students choose to bring in books from home or from the public library for their independent reading time.

Young adult texts often use mature language and/or address sensitive and mature topics reflective of teenage experiences or concerns and/or historical contexts. One of the best ways a parent or guardian can help their student deal with the complexities of a book is to spend time reading together and/or listening to a child read in English, as well as participate in discussions along the way. **If any selections do not meet with your approval, alternate selections may be made.**

Please sign below, indicating that you are aware of your child's reading responsibilities for this course and the opportunity you have for input on the choice of books that your child will make. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the following number: _____ or via email at _____.

I look forward to working with your student this year.

Sincerely,

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____

Comments: