

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Reading is a central focus in my classroom, and as we begin a new school year I would like to share some thoughts about reading with you.

Reading is a skill. The only way to get better at reading is to read – this holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant readers. With this in mind, **my goal is for your son or daughter to develop an appreciation for and to understand the value of reading for pleasure.**

One way to help your student reach this goal is by providing your student with lots of options for reading material. I have worked hard to develop my own classroom library. This library is available to any student who wants to choose a book to be read recreationally. Research shows that availability of books is a major motivating factor in getting teens to read. Students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more. Students who read more, read better. I have found that having my own classroom library has dramatically increased the amount of reading my students do.

As a teacher of young adults, I want you to know that I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in my classroom library. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from parent to parent. Some parents allow their sons and daughters to choose their own reading material. Other parents may find certain subject matter, such as sexual situations, violence, or certain types of language to be objectionable for a teenager. Please be aware that the selections in my classroom library, just like any public library (as well as our school’s library), range from elementary-level to university-level reading material. I ask you, as a parent and your son or daughter’s champion in reading for pleasure, to remain aware throughout the semester and beyond to the books your child has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness. You can find a full list of the titles in my classroom library on my website.

Rest assured the books in my classroom library are NEVER assigned. They are checked out on a voluntary basis only.* Some students use my library a lot; others find books elsewhere. Students may visit my classroom during Unit Lunch, or they may go to the Media Center. *From time to time, when asked by a student and with your permission, I may also suggest reading material based on numerous factors, including a student’s interests and reading abilities.* Any student who wishes to check out a book from my classroom library is asked to have a parent or guardian sign a permission slip (below) indicating that this classroom library letter has been read and understood.

*Please note that books not returned to my classroom library belonging to the school will result in a fine card. Books not returned to my library belonging to me (marked with a label inside the cover) will make me very sad!!!

Please feel free to contact me any time if you ever have questions about what your student is reading.

Sincerely,
Language Arts Teacher and Bibliophile, Catherine Muhlbaier

Please return this bottom portion to Miss Muhlbaier by _____.

Student name: _____

Block: _____

Library usage:

___ Yes, my son or daughter has permission to use Miss Muhlbaier’s classroom library.

___ No, I would prefer that my son or daughter not have access to Miss Muhlbaier’s classroom library. Parents/Guardians: if you choose this option, please discuss it with your son or daughter so that we do not have any misunderstandings in class.

Reading suggestions:

___ Yes, I give permission to Miss Muhlbaier to help my student choose his or her reading material. Miss Muhlbaier may also refer my son/daughter to Mr. Dilks, the Media Specialist, for help.

___ No, I would prefer only Mr. Dilks, the Media Specialist, or myself to aid my son or daughter in choosing his or her reading material.

___ No, I would prefer to aid my son or daughter in choosing his or her reading material on my own.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____