

August 2016

Dear Parents or Guardians:

The Seventh Grade Language Arts teachers no longer exclusively use a literature textbook. This decision is based on the research of Nancie Atwell (and others), along with the new Common Core State Standards. This year, I will include a reading workshop approach to teaching reading skills. This is in an effort to meet the needs of the diverse reading levels of my students.

My goal is to help students become critical thinkers who are better able to problem solve, work through personal issues, and feel more competent people learners and leaders. **This approach requires that each student select an independent reading book of his/her choice** so long as it is not too easy or too challenging. Students are required to bring their book with them to class every day since many of their assignments are based upon the novel or text they have chosen.

In addition, **students are required to read independently outside of the classroom for 20–30 minutes a day.** The students will be responsible for their reading status to me each Tuesday and they will also have a variety of activities and projects that include their choice book.

With choice being involved, please monitor your student's book selections. Today's young adult literature explores many issues that teens may encounter in their lives including content that you may feel is too mature for your student. **You know your child best.** I believe that parents should have the ultimate say in what they feel is appropriate for their child. **Please direct your student to a more suitable reading book if you are uncomfortable with any specific content.**

If you have any questions, please know that I am always available to you via email or phone. I would like to thank you in advance for your support as I strive to meet the individual needs of all of my students.

Warmly,

*Mrs. Sauerbier*

Language Arts Department Head

7th grade ELA Teacher

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Student Name (please print)

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**Parent/Guardian Signature**

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**Parent/Guardian Contact Info (email and/or phone):**

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