

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The only way for a student to improve their skills in reading is to read. Research has shown us that voluminous reading leads to better reading. One of the goals of the English 10ACP course is to establish a reading habit that will serve students throughout school and life. With this in mind, during the school year students will participate in a Reader's Workshop that has been designed to inspire students to become stronger readers and writers. The Reader's Workshop approach will include 10 minutes of dedicated reading time each day in class plus another 70 minutes per week of required independent reading outside of class, totalling two hours of independent reading per week for each student.

Using a Reader's Workshop approach will challenge students to develop their reading life outside of the school day. My goal is for students to increase their reading stamina and the complexity of the books they choose for independent reading.

According to Penny Kittle, author of *Book Love*, here are a few benefits your child will experience while working hard to improve their literacy skills:

- **Developing reading stamina for college**
  - Students should be prepared to read between 200-600 pages a week while studying at the university level, freshman year
- **Finding Lessons for Life**
  - Books help us to become resilient with life struggles
  - Books call us to action - informing us about the world
  - Dennis Dutton believes books offer intellectual stimulation, which in turn helps us to infer, predict, wonder and attempt to solve problems
  - Deep reading helps develop empathy

For a teacher, knowing every book or remembering every detail of a book is near impossible. Please know that I am not censoring the books your child is choosing for independent reading. They are permitted to use the public library, home library, classroom library or bookstores to obtain their reading material. If, for any reason, you are uncomfortable with your child's choice - please let me know. I respect your role as parents and I will work closely with you to find other engaging titles that will interest them.

As I work with your child during the second semester, please feel free to send along titles you remember loving as a teenager; or books you have recently read that others might enjoy. I'll add them to our list.

One last request - please consider donating books or money to buy books for our classroom library. The American Library Association and other leading literacy researchers recommend that classroom libraries have at least 1,500 books to choose from - ours has less than 100.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. I look forward to helping your child continue developing their reading life.

Regards,

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