

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Region #10's reading philosophy aligns with the research of reading professionals Dr. Richard L. Allington and Rachael E. Gabriel. The philosophy supports the importance of student choice and selection of text. With this philosophy in mind, the English department and media centers of Lewis Mills and Har-Bur have been working diligently over the past few years to foster the love of reading in our students. With this in mind, we recognize the importance of bringing our families into the conversation and want to offer information for how to help your child(ren) select just right books. We recognize that as a community of readers, we have a diverse audience of various ages and interests. While your child's English teacher and/or school librarian will work with him/her to select appropriate texts throughout the year, we would like to take this opportunity to include families as partners in our initiatives. Therefore, we are reaching out to you asking for help as we continue to grow our program.

At the media center level, books with content that is more appropriate for high school students are labeled with an orange sticker marked "High School Content." These books are located on the second floor of the media center. Furthermore, the media center uses a program called Destiny, an online cataloging system, which provides information to users about each book's content and its location. As another level of interest screening, the librarian may conduct an informal "reference interview" with a student to help articulate their interest and preference.

*If you are a middle school family, and would like your child to have access to books that contain high school content (titles may include mature subject matter, the complexity of text increases at the high school level, and they include more detailed representation and exploration of universal themes), please sign and return the bottom portion of this letter to Mrs. West, and she will add a muted alert to your child's account noting they have permission to check out High School material.*

Please note, all middle school students are required to check out their book selections with the Har-Bur library staff on the first floor, and all high school students are required to check out their book selections with the LSM library staff on the second floor.

At your earliest convenience, sit down with your child to discuss his/her reading habits, and what your family values are when selecting texts. Our library website displays some prominent themes for books that may help guide your discussion. Another great resource, created specifically for parents, is Common Sense Media, which helps parents search books and movies for what language and themes are included in titles. QR codes for both resources are included at the end of this letter. If at any time you have any questions about your child's choice, please contact his/her English teacher; his/her school librarian; or the department coordinator, Jillian Yantz. *Please flip over page to view permission slips.*

Sincerely,

Jillian Yantz  
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**For 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders: Permission to read YA books from the Har-Bur library - books recommended for grades 7 and 8.**

**Please sign and return this to your child's librarian.**

Child's Name (first and last) \_\_\_\_\_

has permission to check out YA books from the Har-Bur library.

Parent Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Grades 5 – 8: Permission to read books with high school content from the LSM library.**

**Please sign and return this to your child's librarian.**

Child's Name (first and last) \_\_\_\_\_

has permission to check out books with high school content from the library.

Parent Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

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