**Dear Parent/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 read as much as they can this school year. I will do my best to motivate your student to read academically as well as for fun. Some of the reading will be assigned through book points, but your son or daughter will have opportunities to select his or her own books to be read independently.

To help your child reach their individual goal, I have worked hard to develop a classroom library with the help of many. My library is available to any student who wants to choose a book to be read recreationally and to earn book points. 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.

As a reader myself, I want you to know that I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in our classroom libraries. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from one parent to another. Please be aware that the selections in the classroom libraries, just like any public library, range from elementary-level to high school-level reading material. I ask you to remain aware throughout the year to the books your child has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness. Some books I have not read, some I have read recently, and others I have not read for many years.

Rest assured, the books in my classroom library are never assigned. They are checked out on a voluntary basis only. Some students will use the library a lot; others find books elsewhere. Any student who checks books out of my library is asked to have a parent or guardian monitor the books they wish to read. I will do my best to forewarn the students of books that seem to be of question, but it is ultimately up to parents to help me monitor books your child will be reading.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Let’s get reading!

If there is ever a book I need to remove from my library, please let me know.

Miss Dragoo