

Hello Parents of English 9 Students:

If you have attended our school's Open House, then most of this information will be repetitive for you. If you were not able to attend, this note will provide you with a look into a yearlong project your student will be working on in our classroom.

A major goal of English 9 is to establish positive reading habits. Throughout this year, freshmen students will have the chance to choose the books they want to read.

Listed below are a few of the researched benefits of a Choice Reading Program:

- **Reading builds stamina, fluency, vocabulary, and writing skills.** Each of these better prepares students for the future. Reading for fluency and stamina has been proven to improve the reading rate for students. Fast reading increases confidence, develops an appetite for books, and teaches vocabulary in context, which improves writing. This happens best when students find books they *want* to read.
- **Reading can be for everyone.** There is a lot of talk in the media that “students today won’t read,” but I believe students substitute other distractions (the Internet, TV, etc.) if they feel no passion for the book assigned to them. In my experience, students who have not been readers outside of school since their younger years will suddenly become passionate about reading again, with *the right book* in their hands.

Freshmen will be able to choose from a variety of books available in the WMAA classroom libraries. If we are not able to find a book that suits a student's needs, we can reach out to other libraries/areas. Books provided in our school have been selected mindfully by our staff, and students will be guided in their selection process.

I will not know the details of every book students read or refer to this year, and I won't always remember specific details of all the books I have ever read. The bottom line is that there is not a tight filter on what is read as long as it is considered school-appropriate.

Because I very much respect your role as parents, if you want to monitor your child's reading choices this year more closely, feel free to either email or call me!

Thank you so much for supporting our freshmen readers this year!

Mrs. Stanley
English Department Teacher

Contact Information:

Allie Stanley
English Department Teacher
Room 301
Email: astanley@westmichiganaviation.org
WMAA Phone: (616) 446-8886

Please return this signed document by _____ to Mrs. Stanley.

Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

I have carefully read and I agree to the contents of this letter. If I have questions or a concern about the Choice Reading Program, I will contact Mrs. Stanley to discuss.

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____