

August 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A central goal of Upper Moreland High School is to develop strong readers. This is a particular challenge with today's students, who as a group are less likely to pick up a book to read for pleasure when compared with previous generations. We hope that during this school year we can work together to inspire a pleasure and passion for reading.

Many articles about education say that today's students do not read because they have too many distractions. We believe, however, that given the right book, one dealing with the issues that are meaningful to them, a desire to read will be reignited in our student population. In fact, we hope that you will read the books too, and discuss them with your child and, perhaps, with your child's teacher. We won't know the details of every book students read and refer to this semester. What we seek for all students is a compulsion to read—for pleasure—for knowledge—for a passion for stories and information that will keep them into the pages of a book past our assigned time for reading.

Every English classroom now contains its own library of high-interest books, most by modern authors and many of which address contemporary topics. In some of the modern-day books, there may be topics covered and use of language that individual parents may find controversial or offensive. However, the books offer students an opportunity to confront the reality they know filtered through the imagination of the writer.

We encourage you to take an active part in your child's book choices and help your child become part of a community of lifelong readers. Since these books are individual choice, we ask that you as parents play a role as you see fit in helping your children as they select books that may be of interest to them. We can tell you that these book titles have been recommended by experts in the field of English education and by professional groups who focus on high school learning.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Upper Moreland High School English Department