

From the desk of Mrs. McGuire

Dear Coleman Families,

Reading is a central focus in my classroom, and as we begin the 2019 school year, I would like to share some thoughts about reading with you.

Reading requires utilizing a variety of skills and strategies. 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 child to read 1.5 million words this year. For the average student, one million words translates to twenty minutes of reading every day (this includes weekends). Their word count is determined through a computer-based program called Reading Counts. The program can be accessed here at school as well as your own home.

Once your child has finished reading a book, they can take a quiz on that book. If they pass the quiz, they will receive the entire word count of that title towards their reading counts goal. For example, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone has 77,508 words. If they do not pass the quiz, they have **two** additional opportunities to retake the quiz to earn the word count for that title.

Your child should have a book with them in class every day. To allow my students more opportunities to read, I have provided a classroom library. Research shows that availability of books is a major motivating factor in getting kids to read. Students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more. Students who read more, read better.

As a parent myself, I want you to know that I am sensitive to having “appropriate” reading material in my classroom library. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from one parent to another. Some parents do not mind their child reading James Dashner; other parents object to the dystopian genre. Please be aware that the selections in my classroom library, just like any public library, range from elementary-level to high school-level reading material. As a parent, I am asking you to remain aware throughout the year of the books your child has chosen to read and assist them in gauging appropriateness. A wonderful resource for reviewing published books is the website: <http://www.commonsemmedia.org/>.

Please note that the books in my classroom library are never assigned. They are checked out on a voluntary basis only. Some students use my library a lot; others find books elsewhere. Any student who checks books out of my library is asked to have a parent or guardian sign below indicating that this classroom library letter has been read and understood. These books are NOT provided by our district and are purchased by me personally via input through student requests, recommended lists, and word-of-mouth buzz. Students are expected to pay for lost books or provide a replacement.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at debbie.mcguire@sdhc.k12.fl.us or send me a message in Edsby. Let the reading adventures begin!

Mrs. McGuire's Classroom Library Permission Form

Yes, I have read this letter, and my child has permission to use Mrs. McGuire's Classroom Library. Lost books will be replaced by the student.

No, I do not give permission, and would prefer that my child not have access to McGuire's classroom library.

Student Name _____ Period _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____