Dear Parent or Guardian,

For 8th grade reading this year, I want to encourage your students to love reading! One thing that will be a staple in my classroom is independent reading. Students will be expected to bring a book to read every single day, and there will be some time dedicated to independent reading every week. They will receive a participation grade for reading each week in order to allow students to work on their own pace. In order to encourage students to not only read more books, but also expand their interests, I will be using a rewards system. Because of the popularity of the phone game pokemongo, I have made it so that after a student has read a book and filled out a book note catcher, students will receive a pokemon sticker that they will collect in a booklet I have provided. If students fill out their booklet, they receive an award at the end of the year. If students partially fill out the booklet, they will also receive a smaller award. This incentive program is in no way required, and students can opt out, but students do not have to like pokemon to enjoy the awards at the end.

I want students to be willing to explore many different genres of reading, so I will be setting up a classroom library that students can borrow from. Students also will have the school library, interlibrary loan, and the book mobile available for them to get books. What I really need from parents like yourself is to chat with them about what they are reading! I will not be monitoring the books that they choose to read, so if there is material you do not want your students reading, please monitor that. I also think that the important part about reading is that students read and comprehend the story by talking about what they liked with people they care about.

If students borrow a book from my library and it is not returned, or is returned in disarray, students will be responsible for the replacement of that book or the cost of the book. Many of the books in the library are personal books I am bringing from home, so I hope students will be respectful of the books. If you would like to donate books to the classroom library, I will have an ever changing wish list available on the class website.

Thank you,

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