

Algonquin Middle School 8th Grade Parent/Student Book Club

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The 8th grade literature teachers are beginning a new adventure in literacy this year. We would like to start a parent/student book club. A lot of meaningful and insightful parent/child conversations can take place over a good piece of contemporary literature. It provides another avenue for communication with a teenager.

Meetings will take place once a month with one or both of the 8th grade literature teachers facilitating the meetings. Eventually it is our hope that the students will completely take over and facilitate their own meetings by midyear with a teacher present simply as a “coach” if needed. We will meet in the AMS library to start. However, we are open to the possibility of changing up our meeting places to keep things fresh – perhaps Starbucks, the Algonquin Public Library, or other areas of interest. During the first meeting, we will establish a schedule of meeting times and places that will meet the needs of as many parents and students as possible.

Teachers will present several choices for reading each month, and the group will vote on which books they would like to read. Books will be chosen based on reading pleasure and not for instructional purposes. Students and parents will be responsible for obtaining copies of the books from the school library, the public library, or a bookstore. The format is up to each individual student and parent. You may choose to use a hardcover book, a paperback book, or an e-book. The choice is yours.

While the intent of a parent/student book club is to engage parents in reading with their students, no student will be turned away. Lack of a parent/guardian presence will not eliminate any student from the book club. If you feel that you and your student are interested in joining us on Thursday, August 29th, at 3:45 in the AMS library, please indicate so at the bottom of this letter and return to school by August 23rd. If you are interested but cannot attend the first meeting, please contact Mrs. Gidlund or Mrs. Hermann to make alternate arrangements. Email us at deane.gidlund@d300.org or brooke.hermann@d300.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yes, my student, _____, and I will be attending the first book club meeting on August 29th, at 3:45.

My student, _____, and I are interested in participating in the book club; however, I cannot attend the August meeting. I would like one of the 8th grade literature teachers to contact me with more details.