September 2013

Hello parents and guardians of TBAISD Career Tech-Center Students,

One goal of our embedded ELA program is to establish a **reading habit** in the busy lives of high school students. We will have Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) every day and **students are expected to have a book to read with them every day**. Students may bring a book from home or may borrow a book from my rolling book cart. Because I want to students to engage in sustained reading, I am asking that they read a book, not magazines, newspapers, or shorter pieces. Other than that I have no restrictions on what a student selects for reading during SSR.

I won’t know the details of every book students read this semester, and I won’t remember the details of all the books I recommend to students. And, the book your student selects may challenge your values. Is that okay with you? Can you child choose to read *Be More Chill* by Ned Vizzini, which is about a boy who gets involved in drugs and alcohol among other things? Students love this book and I recommend it and other titles because the best books are the ones that are interesting to our students.

**The bottom line: I will not place a tight filter on what is read in this class and I’m asking for your support in this.** I hope you will talk to your child about what he/she is reading this year. If you want me to more closely monitor your child’s choices this year, by all means, call me and we’ll work out a plan to which we can both contribute.

IF YOU SIGN THIS, IT MEANS YOU UNDERSTAND BOOKS WON’T BE BANNED IN MY CLASSROOM AND YOUR CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED TO **CHOOSE** WHAT HE/SHE READS. STUDENTS WILL **NOT** BE FORCED TO READ A TITLE.

Thank you for your support,

Jennifer Stairs, English Language Arts Teacher

TBAISD Career-Tech Center

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P.S. Our book cart benefits every year from cast-offs. **Please send books** you no longer need to our rolling library. Better yet, come to class and share a book with us. I would love to have you join us for a 5 or 10 minute book talk. Thank you.

**I have read and agree to the contents of this letter.**

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PRINT Student’s Name Name of CTC Course AM or PM

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Parent’s signature Date