

LEWIS S. MILLS HIGH SCHOOL & HAR-BUR MIDDLE SCHOOL
Burlington, Connecticut 06013

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

In 2015 Region 10 revised its reading philosophy to align with the research of reading professionals Dr. Richard L. Allington and Rachael E. Gabriel. The philosophy supports the importance of student choice and selection of text. With this philosophy in mind, the English department and media centers of LSM and HB have been working diligently over the past few years to foster the love of reading in our students. With this in mind, we recognize the importance of bringing our families into the conversation and want to offer information for how to help your child(ren) select just right books. We recognize that as a community of readers, we have a diverse audience of various ages and interests. While your child's English teacher and/or school librarian will work with him/her to select appropriate texts throughout the year, we would like to take this opportunity to include families as partners in our initiatives. Therefore, we are reaching out to you asking for help as we continue to grow our program.

Throughout the year your child has opportunities to select texts of interest from his/her English/Language Arts teacher's classroom library, from the LSM/HB libraries, Burlington or Harwinton libraries, or any other public library. To that end, we want to inform you that Region 10 has measures in place to help your child select appropriate texts for units of study or as independent reading books.

At the classroom level, teachers have been asked to organize their libraries with texts that are developmentally appropriate for the grade level(s) they teach. Should a student ask for a book that is above his/her grade level, the English/Language Arts teacher will have a conversation with the student and a dialogue with the parents/guardians as needed.

At the media center level, books with content that is more appropriate for high school students are labeled with an orange sticker marked "High School Content." These books are located on the second floor of the media center. Furthermore, the media center uses a program called Destiny, an online cataloging system, which provides information to users about each book's content and its location. As another level of interest screening, the librarian may conduct an informal "reference interview" with a student to help articulate his/her interest and preference.

If you are a middle school family, and you would like your child to have access to books that contain high school content, please contact your child's Language Arts teacher and school librarian. The librarian will add a muted alert to your child's account noting s/he has permission to check out "High School" material.

If you are a high school family and you wish to add an alert to your child's account limiting the type of material to which your child is exposed, please contact your child's librarian and English teacher, and a muted alert will be added to your child's account as an additional measure.

Please note, all middle school students are required to check out their book selections with the Har-Bur library staff on the first floor, and all high school students are required to check out their book selections with the LSM library staff on the second floor.

At your earliest convenience, sit down with your child to discuss his/her reading habits, and what your family values when selecting texts. If at any time you have any questions about your child's choice, please contact his/her English teacher; his/her school librarian; or the department coordinator, Jillian Yantz.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Jillian Yantz,
5-12 Language Arts Coordinator
(860) 673-0423 ex. 10192
yantzj@region10ct.org