

Dear Families:

Hello! My name is Mrs. Erica Neal, and I will be your child's Senior English teacher this school year. This will be my fourth year teaching, and I could not be happier to have found Buchanan. I will be co-advising the senior class with Mrs. Cindy Hess and advising our chapter of the National Honor Society. I love teaching and am excited to begin another year!

I want to take a minute to share with you an important program I will be implementing in my classroom this year. It is one of my core beliefs that students need to develop life-long reading habits so that they become informed and engaged citizens. Even though students may read material like magazines, newspapers, text messages, tweets, etc., it is important they begin to develop stamina to read longer and more complicated texts. At the collegiate level, they will be expected to read a minimum of 200 pages a week. Most high school graduates are not comfortable with that amount of sustained reading, and I would like to spend part of my time with your student by helping to develop those skills he/she will need.

To that end, I am implementing a choice reading program this year. Each student will set individual goals for themselves weekly and long-term throughout the semester. I will conference with students on a weekly basis about the book(s) they are reading, and they will be reporting their reading progress multiple times a week. I expect students to read for a minimum of two hours outside of class per week with a goal of reading at least 9 books (hopefully many more!) this year.

Students will be able to choose from the books in my classroom library, our school library, or they may choose to bring in a book. As I am asking several classes of students to read multiple books this year, I will not know the details of every book they choose. I have books in my library I have not read and some I read years ago and the details have faded. The bottom line is I will not be keeping a tight filter on what students choose to read for this program as long as the texts aren't clearly inappropriate. With that being said, I respect your beliefs and your role as your child's parent(s). If you would like to more closely monitor what your student is reading or are uncomfortable with a text they bring home from my library, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be more than happy to set up a time to meet with you and your child to work out a plan that everyone is comfortable with.

Please sign below to indicate you are aware of my policies and to give your student permission to borrow books from my library. Regardless of whether or not students borrow books from my library, the expectation for consistent reading remains the same, so they will need to access books from other places.

I am always available if you feel the need to check on your child's progress. The fastest way to contact me is via email: eneal@buchananschools.com. Beyond monitoring your child's grades on PowerSchool, you can keep track of what we are working on in class by visiting my classroom website: eneal.buchananschools.com. I can also be reached in my classroom at (269) 695-8403 ext.20201 before and after school. Thank you in advance for your support, and I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Neal

****Please detach and return with student:**

My son/daughter has permission to read books from Mrs. Neal's library.

Parent Name: _____ Student Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent phone number:

Parent email address:
