



### LEADING THE WAY

The Central Bucks Schools will provide all students with the academic and problem-solving skills essential for personal development, responsible citizenship, and life-long learning.

September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the spring of 2016, our district welcomed Penny Kittle, author of *Book Love* and many other titles, to share her motivating teaching stories with our faculty. During her visit she provided teachers with advice, inspiration, and practical strategies on how to increase the volume and complexity of texts our students read, create a balance of student and teacher assigned texts, and build classroom libraries with themes that matter to 21<sup>st</sup> century students. Since then, our teachers and students have had great success with applying her strategies!

Our goal is to have students reading on a regular basis because they *want* to do so. There are times during the year where reading independently will include a book the entire class is reading together. Other times, your child will be reading a book of their choice, either for their own pleasure or for an independent reading activity assigned to them. When this occurs, we encourage students to choose books they believe will interest them. When students do this, they are more motivated and interested in the book, and they will find meaning in the text. We encourage your involvement as your child selects independent reading books. If you ever have a question about a book that your child has selected for independent reading, please reach out to the classroom teacher or school librarian for assistance. Additionally, you can visit the following websites for information about a title:

- The School Library Journal <http://www.slj.com/>
- The American Library Association <http://www.ala.org/>
- Common Sense Media <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

If you discover you are not comfortable with an independent reading selection that your child has made, you can redirect your child to a book that better upholds the values that your family honors. Since we, as teachers, cannot read every book available to our students, you play a critical role. Thank you for supporting reading in your child's life and helping to determine if a title is appropriate for your child. Our common goal is to foster a rich and enjoyable reading life for all.

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