**Independent Reading Requirement**

In this class, ALL students read! One proven way to increase intelligence is by making reading a daily habit.

***What is Independent Reading?***

Independent reading is just that; it is reading independently. This means you choose the text and read on your own time. Ultimately, you’re in control!

***How to make it matter…***

Now I know what you’re thinking, “If I choose the book, and I read on my own time, I can just pretend I am reading and Ms. B will never know!” Great idea, but I already know. Though you will have a lot of personal freedom in what and when you read, you will have to prove that you are making progress towards the following:

1. ***2 Million Words and Counting***
2. ***Personal Goals***
3. ***Vocabulary Expansion***

***How it works…***

**2 Million Words and Counting**

In planning for our futures, it is important to look ahead. According to content standards, “by grade twelve, students should read two million words annually on their own, including a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, and online information. In grades nine and ten, students should make substantial progress toward this goal.” To aid you in reaching this goal, I expect you to read 500,000 words this year.

***How many words are in my book???***

Calculating words in a text:

# of pages **x** # of lines on a page **x** # of words in a line

***Follow these steps to reach your goal:***

1. *Select your text*

You may select any text you wish to read. This includes, but is not limited to: books, journals, memoirs, magazines, newspapers, online articles, professional blogs, user manuals, cook books, graphic novels, and anything else you can think of! Be sure to keep Ms. Baldwin updated on what you are reading.

1. *Read your text*

Read your text on your own time. Take your text with you everywhere! You never know when you might get a spare moment! Spend that time reading instead of tweeting! Bring your text to class! Some days we may spend a block of time reading in class.

1. *Respond to text*

There are 2 ways to respond to text:

1. Written

To respond to a text in a written manner, you must submit a one page response. Please remember to use the SAC method. This is not a summary! If you submit a summary, you will receive a zero. The score you receive on your reading response will determine how many words you will be credited. (100%= 100% of words, 70%= 70% of words).

1. Oral

To respond orally, you must meet with Ms. Baldwin to discuss your book. You must still respond using the SAC method, however responding orally turns this into a structured discussion. You must meet with Ms. Baldwin on your own time (before or after school or during lunch). You may want to make an appointment in advance to ensure that Ms. Baldwin is available. The number of words awarded will be determined in the same way.

***You must submit at least one written response.***

1. *Track your progress*

After the number of words to be awarded has been determined, students will be able to track their progress online.

**Personal Goals**

Every student will meet with Ms. Baldwin to discuss their feelings toward reading, their tested reading level, and to set personalized goals. In order to provide evidence that students are working toward their goals, students will maintain a reading notebook or use a note card based response system (to be explained in more detail in conferences). Students must conference with Ms. Baldwin at least 3 times a semester (including the initial conference).

**Vocabulary Expansion**

Students will provide evidence of vocabulary expansion at least twice a month. This can be in document or note card form. Please follow the 6 steps of vocabulary expansion as outlined in the year at a glance packet.