

Independent Reading

August 2020

Dear Parents:

Reading is a central focus in our classrooms, and as we begin a new school year, we would like to share some thoughts about reading with you.

Reading is a skill. The only way to get better at reading is to read – this holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant readers. With this in mind, our goal for your son or daughter is to read a wide range of texts, representing a wide range of complexity levels. We will do our best to motivate our students both academically and for fun. Some of the reading will be assigned, but your son or daughter will also be expected to take ownership of the opportunities to select his or her own books to read independently. Not reading is simply not an option.

Research shows that availability of books is a major motivating factor in getting students to read. Students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more. Students who read more, read better, and we have found that having our own classroom libraries has dramatically increased the amount of reading our students do.

When in-person, we will visit frequently with our campus librarian, Mrs. Gamble, and we highly encourage you to visit our amazing city library for books and age-appropriate programming when it is safe to do so. As we are utilizing more digital resources this year, as well, we wanted to make you aware of the amazing digital options that are available to your student. Please see the reverse side of this paper for more details and helpful resources and sites. These resources will allow your student to have access to current and engaging texts without you needing to purchase anything! It's like a library at your fingertips!

As parents ourselves, we want you to know we are sensitive to having appropriate reading material in our classrooms. That said, what is considered "appropriate" may vary from one parent to another. Some parents do not mind that their child is reading John Green; other parents object to the young adult genre at this age. We ask you to remain aware throughout the year to the books your child has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness. We *highly* recommend the Common Sense Media website (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>) for parent and student reviews of many books. If there is anything specific you would like for us to guide your child to or from, please communicate that with your child's ELA teacher. We are more than happy to work together, and one of our main goals is to respect the values and preferences of your family.

For required classroom reading, students will participate in whole class novels and book clubs throughout the year. Letters will go out prior to any book club where students may choose the book to read. These letters will detail the book club book options and allow you some upfront time to scan and speak with your student about the options.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, please feel free to contact your student's ELA teacher.

Respectfully,

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Digital Reading Resources

1. To access digital reading resources, visit the **Cheatham Elementary** webpage.
2. Click on “**Library**” on the top menu.
3. Click on “**eBook Resources**” on the left-handed menu.

The screenshot shows the Cheatham Elementary website. At the top, a red navigation bar contains links for HOME, FA, LIBRARY, OUR SCHOOL, PARENTS, STUDENTS, TECHNOLOGY, and CALENDAR. A large number '2' is overlaid on the LIBRARY link. Below the navigation bar is the school logo and name: CHEATHAM ELEMENTARY, Beverly Cheatham Elementary School. To the right, there are links for Translate Language, User Options, District Home, Our Schools, and Web Store. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home » Library » Cheatham Library » eBook Resources. The main content area is titled 'eBook Resources' and features a row of logos for Overdrive, Cheatham Elementary Book Library, Tumbleton, EBSCO eBooks K-8 Collection, BookFlix, and Unite. A large number '3' is overlaid on the 'eBook Resources' link in the left-hand menu. Below the logos, there is a text box with a link: 'Please click on this link when logged into your AISD Portal for all usernames and passwords. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NbhlgJUG6CUscQDzQLGen5dEuIPZ080KIusp=sharing'.



Scan here for direct access to the **Cheatham Library's eBook Resources** webpage



Scan here for **Common Sense Media**, a website you can use to read reviews on books and films

BOOKS ARE THE PLANE, AND THE TRAIN, AND THE ROAD. THEY ARE THE DESTINATION, AND THE JOURNEY. THEY ARE HOME. —ANNA QUINDLEN