**Reading Hogs Program**

Like me, Sherman Alexie, who is the author we chose to launch ninth grade English for the school year, is a strong believer in the power of reading and education to transform an individual's life.

***Reading is a life-changing activity: it pays to read.*** Research shows that the highest achieving students are those who devote leisure time to reading. Recently the largest-ever international study of reading found that the single most important predictor of academic success is the amount of time children spend reading books, more important even than economic or social status. And one of the few predictors of high achievement in math and science is the amount of time children devote to pleasure reading.

**Educational research demonstrates that the amount of time teenagers read has an enormous impact on their reading ability.**

The U.S. Department of Education NAEP Reading Report Card for the Nation (1999) found that at every age level, reading more pages in school and for homework each day was associated with higher reading scores. The largest-ever international study of reading found that the single most important predictor of academic success is the amount of time children spend reading books—more important, even, than economic or social status (Atwell, 2007).

**Student Choice**

Student choice is a powerful motivator for reading and leads to greater comprehension skills. In our classroom, we will be encouraging student choice of reading with the Reading Hogs program. Students can chose to read any book they like during the semester and receive extra credit toward their final grade. Graphic novels and nonfiction are accepted as well as many of the popular book series that are available.

**How It Works**

Students read to completion any book and bring it in to school. Arrange to talk with Mr. Johnson about the book. This will be an informal talk to encourage comprehension and understanding of what was read. For each book, a student earns a Book Hog that goes on the wall of the classroom. At the end of each semester, the student with the most books read will win the Reading Hog Program award. See the back of this sheet of paper for a list of suggested books. Feel free to suggest books you have read to the entire class.

**The Key: Establish a Daily Reading Routine**

You should find a time during each day when you could read and guard that time jealously! It is precious, amazing time that will change your life! For instance, if you almost always play video games from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., then you know you could play one less hour of video games and instead use the time to read. Always have the book you are reading with you. The weekends when you are bored are awesome times to read! Always have a book handy. You never know when you will get a chance to read a few pages here and there.

**Suggested books to read on back. Read them all!**

**Student Choice Means You Are Allowed to Read Almost Anything!**

The following list is just a starter list of really great books you should read if you haven't had the chance, but you can always browse any of the Minneapolis libraries to find great books to read.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl (or any books by Roald Dahl)

A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeline L'Engle

Bud, Not Buddy, by Christopher Paul Curtis

Wonder, by R.J. Palacio

The Alchemist, by Paul Coelho

The Hardy Boys, by Franklin Dixon (A huge, popular mystery series)

Z for Zachariah, by Robert C. O'Brien

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, by E.L. Konigsburg

Betsy-Tacy Series, by Maud Hart Lovelace

Junonia, by Kevin Henkes

The Hobbit, by J.R. Tolkien

Harry Potter, by J.K. Rowling

Anne of Green Gables, by Lucy Maud Montgomery

The Wind in the Willows, by Kenneth Grahame

The Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank

Mr. Popper's Penguins, by Richard and Florence Atwater

My Father's Dragon, by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Seriously, Norman!, by Chris Raschka

The Graveyard Book, by Neil Gaiman

The Phantom Tollbooth, by Norton Juster

The Complete Tales of Winnie-the-Pooh, by A.A. Milne

Twisted, by Laurie Anderson

Hip Hop High School, by Alan Sitomer

The Caddie Who Knew Ben Hogan, by John Coyne

Crooked Little Heart, by Anne Lamott

Keeper, by Mal Peet

The Hoopster, Alan Sitomer

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, by Ransom Riggs

Man's Search for Meaning, by Viktor E. Frankl

Call of the Wild, by Jack London

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith

Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway

The Nick Adams Stories, Ernest Hemingway

So Yesterday, by Scott Westerfield

Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah

The Great Wild Sea, by M.H. Herlong

The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic, And How It Changed Science and the Modern World, by Steven Johnson

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto, by Michael Pollan

Red Badge of Courage, by Stephen Crane

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, by Frederick Douglas

Life of Pi, by Yann Martel