Hello, My name is Ms. Waddell, I have the honor of being the librarian at Dilworth Middle School. School librarians make every effort to develop a collection of classical and contemporary fiction and nonfiction that includes both award-winning and popular literature, and all new books should be reviewed by at least two professional sources and recommended for middle-grade readers. A middle school library collection can be particularly tricky because our ages range from 11 years old to 14 years old. Student maturity, reading levels, and interests in middle school also range from primary grade to college-level abilities. It is the priority of the teacher-librarian to protect our students’ right to read those materials protected by the First Amendment. It is also the priority of the teacher-librarian to develop and maintain a collection appropriate to students that reflects diverse and balanced topics, interests, and reading levels. This is no easy task and is why parents are the number one censors for their own children. A young-adult book that may be perfectly appropriate for an 8th grader may be of concern to a parent of a new 6th grader.

Young adult literature often abbreviated “YA” is a type of literature specifically targeted towards teenagers and pre-teens, typically ranging in age from 12 to 18 years old. YA literature is known for its relatable characters, authentic voices, and writing that engages young people. It often addresses the unique experiences and challenges faced by young adults, such as but not limited to identity, friendship, love, family dynamics, self-discovery, mental health, social justice, and overcoming adversity. These themes connect with readers as they often experience similar issues in their own lives. Additionally, YA literature frequently incorporates diverse representation, featuring characters from various backgrounds, cultures, and identities.

As parents, you play a crucial role in guiding your child's reading choices and fostering a love of reading. By having open conversations and sharing in your child’s reading journey, you can enrich their reading experience and strengthen your bond as a family. If you have any questions or would like recommendations for books, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we can inspire a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

If, however, you wish to prevent your child from checking out books classified as young adult interest level the school librarian can put a note on their account to that effect.

**If you do not want your child to check out YA books, return the bottom of this form to school. You do not need to return this form if you are okay with your child checking out these books.**

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Please return this form to your child’s school as soon as possible **only if you DO NOT**want your child to check out YA books. If you prefer to determine as a family what is appropriate on a case-by-case basis, you do not need to do anything else.

[ ] **NO, my child may not check out YA-designated books in the library this year**. Please put a note on his/her account.

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_