June 4, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Patrons of Raytown:

In an effort to continue to maintain a high quality education for the students in the Raytown School District, the middle school and high school English departments are constantly working to enhance the choices and experiences for all students. The district is also committed to engaging in dialogue with the community about these choices and experiences so that we can all work together to provide the exceptional experience students deserve. As we expand text selections, it’s important that the community is provided an opportunity to consider those choices and to express concerns and ask questions in order to understand the curricular and instructional purposes those texts will be put to.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Raytown Consolidated School District is considering adoption of the books listed on the back of this letter.

Each text has been requested by a teacher, is being screened by district personnel, and is now available for community members to read if interested. All the books are available at the public library or through your favorite book retailer. The district also has copies available to borrow. Please contact Alicia Wallace by email at alicia.wallace@raytownschools.org to arrange borrowing a copy.

On Tuesday, July 14, 2020, the school district will host a virtual open forum, for community members to hear the rationale for the use of these texts, voice concerns, and ask questions in an effort to make sure that the community and the district are working in concert to provide an engaging and rigorous English education for the students of the district. This forum will be open from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Text Forum

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Jennifer Pearson, English Language Arts Middle School Curriculum Coordinator, jennifer.pearson@raytownschools.org or Jeff Dierking, English Language Arts High School Curriculum Coordinator, jeff.dierking@raytownschools.org.

Sincerely,

Alicia Wallace
District English Language Arts Coordinator

www.raytownschools.org
This New York Times bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial.

Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.

Monster is a multi-award-winning, provocative coming-of-age story that was the first-ever Michael L. Printz Award recipient, an ALA Best Book, a Coretta Scott King Honor selection, and a National Book Award finalist.

Monster is now a major motion picture called All Rise and starring Jennifer Hudson, Kelvin Harrison, Jr., Nas, and A$AP Rocky.

The late Walter Dean Myers was a National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, who was known for his commitment to realistically depicting kids from his hometown of Harlem.
If an entire nation could seek its freedom, why not a girl?

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

From acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson comes this compelling, impeccably researched novel that shows the lengths we can go to cast off our chains, both physical and spiritual.
Amazon Blurb:

You can go after the job you want...and get it! You can take the job you have...and improve it! You can take any situation you're in...and make it work for you!

Simon & Schuster Audio is proud to present one of the best-selling books of all time, Dale Carnegie's perennial classic *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, presented here in its entirety.

For over 60 years the rock-solid, time-tested advice in this audiobook has carried thousands of now-famous people up the ladder of success in their business and personal lives.

With this truly phenomenal audiobook, learn:

The six ways to make people like you

The twelve ways to win people to your way of thinking

The nine ways to change people without arousing resentment

And much, much more!

There is room at the top, when you know... *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

Wikipedia Summary:

*How to Win Friends and Influence People* is a self-help book written by Dale Carnegie, published in 1936. Over 30 million copies have been sold worldwide, making it one of the best-selling books of all time.[1] In 2011, it was number 19 on *Time Magazine*'s list of the 100 most influential books.[2]

Carnegie had been conducting business education courses in New York since 1912.[3] In 1934, Leon Shimkin of the publishing firm Simon & Schuster took one of Carnegie's 14-week courses on human relations and public speaking.[3] afterward, Shimkin persuaded Carnegie to let a stenographer take notes from the course to be revised for publication. The initial five thousand copies[3] of the book sold exceptionally well, going through 17 editions in its first year alone.

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In 1981, a revised edition containing updated language and anecdotes was released.[4] The revised edition reduced the number of sections from six to four, eliminating sections on effective business letters and improving marital satisfaction.