



October 1, 2019

Dear Parents and Families,

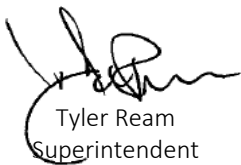
The Helena Public Schools are thrilled to announce that we have been selected to participate in a new partnership with Audible. As you likely know, Audible is the world's largest producer and distributor of audiobooks and other spoken-word entertainment. Our Helena schools are one of just a handful of districts across our country to serve as a formal partner with Audible. As part of this partnership, participating students 13 years of age or older as of September 1, 2019 (and their teachers) will receive an Audible account providing free access to a collection of 80 titles commonly used in upper middle school and high school classrooms. Many of these titles will be offered with Captions, a new, piloted feature providing students the opportunity to read along with the text as well as click on words to see definitions, Wikipedia entries, and translations into over twenty languages. Students will be able to access their accounts in school or at their home via their personal smartphone and/or a district-provided device.

In addition to the collection of curriculum-aligned titles, each student will receive 12 credits (also free) which can be used to download 12 book titles of their choice from the Audible catalog of over 450,000 titles. This will provide the opportunity to pursue topics and genres of interest to your child, beyond our classroom curricula.

We will begin distributing student accounts in mid-October. However, to participate in this partnership, your child will need your formal permission as their parent/guardian. To participate, please sign the attached form. Your child should return this form to their English Language Arts teacher. Once returned, we will work to provide your child with a select student account.

For additional information, please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions document. Should you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to our schools.

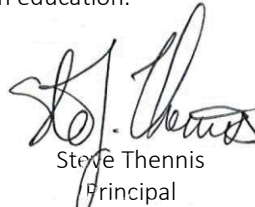
Thank you all for your time and for the opportunity to partner with you in education.



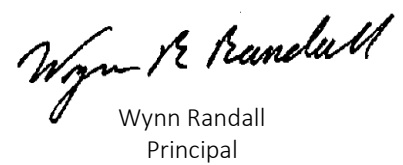
Tyler Ream  
Superintendent  
Helena Public Schools



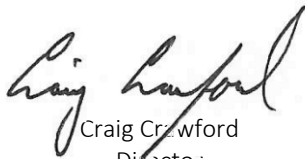
Brett Zanto  
Principal  
Capital High School



Steve Thennis  
Principal  
Helena High School



Wynn Randall  
Principal  
Project for Alternative Learning



Craig Crawford  
Director  
Access to Success  
Adult Learning Center



Cal Boyle  
Principal  
Helena Middle School



Dave Thennis  
Principal  
CR Anderson Middle School



## Helena Public Schools Partnership with Audible Frequently Asked Questions

***Q: In using their 12 free credits, will my child be able to choose from an inventory of every Audible title?***

A: No. While your child will be able to use their 12 free credits to add many of the over 450,000 titles to their HSD/Audible account, there are genres and books not included in the Audible for Schools experience. Additionally, all accounts within this program include a “safe filter” which will prevent mature content from being listed in search results. While several safeguards exist, opinions regarding what is appropriate certainly vary. We encourage parents/guardians to select titles with their child as this may clarify what their parent/guardian deems appropriate. While there is no parent portal or dual account, we would be happy to provide parents with their child’s login information to ensure that they are comfortable with the titles your child has selected.

***Q: Will my child be provided an HSD/Audible account without parental permission?***

A: No. Our schools are carefully tracking signed parent/guardian permission forms to ensure that students are not provided an account without permission.

***Q: Will my child be denied any curricular and/or learning opportunities if they do not have an HSD/Audible account?***

A: No. The partnership is supplementary in nature and will not supplant learning opportunities associated with our classroom, classes, or courses. This partnership provides students with an additional tool to enhance their learning but is entirely supplementary to our required, core curriculum. A student without an HSD/Audible account will not be denied opportunities to access required, assigned reading material.

***Q: Will the Helena Public Schools share any personally identifiable information with Audible?***

A: No. Audible is seeking to better understand how students read especially as it relates to their use of the enhanced text features. Account codes are sent to HSD in an encrypted manner and assigned only by our educators. As a school district, we keep a master list that matches students with accounts. However, student identifiable information will not be shared with Audible in any regard. Audible accesses information based only on the account code (not name, age, gender or school). Audible utilizes only the below information and reports this information back to the Helena Public Schools on a monthly basis.

**Aggregate Data:**

- Number of active users per month
- Total listening/reading time
- Average active time per account
- Weekday v. weekend listening
- Top titles accessed

**Account-Specific Data:**

- Listening/reading time
- Days active per month
- Average listening/reading time per day
- Top 10 books listened/read
- Total listening/reading time per book

## Helena Pubic Schools Partnership with Audible

### Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q: My child already has an Audible account. Will they be able to merge their HSD/Audible account with their personal account?**

A: No. For financial security reasons, we have chosen to keep this free HSD/Audible account separate from any personal, membership accounts.

**Q: Will I be able to see what my child is reading via their HSD/Audible account?**

A: Yes. While there are no available parent portals or dual accounts, HSD will certainly provide parents with login information for their child's account. Once logged in, a parent/guardian will be able to access the books that their child is reading. Please contact your child's school to make this individual request.

**Q: Will my child be able to pay to add additional books to their HSD/Audible account?**

A: No. As noted above, we believe it is best to keep the HSD/Audible accounts free from any personally identifiable financial information.

**Q: Can my child change their login information?**

A: No. Login information is predetermined and cannot be changed by the user. While accounts are provided to students in a random manner, each school will keep a record of student user identification numbers and passwords. Should an account become compromised by someone other than the assigned student, your child's school will be able to resolve this matter with Audible. Again, no personally identifiable information will be shared with Audible as only your child's school will have access to student account information.

**Q: Will the 12 free book credits be immediately available?**

A: No. Credits used to download books of a student's choosing will be automatically distributed on a quarterly basis. Per the below schedule, students will receive their first three credits as soon as their account is activated, followed by three additional credits in December, March and June.

1 <sup>st</sup> of the Month	Launch	12/2019	03/2020	06/2020
# of Credits	3	3	3	3



# AUDIBLE FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

## Free Audible Audiobooks for Students and Teachers

As part of Audible's commitment to public education, Audible is providing participating students and teachers in your district (as well as others across the country) free access to a collection of educator-selected audiobooks as well as 12 credits to use on any 12 audiobooks across the Audible catalogue. These resources will be used in classroom, school and district-wide assignments, projects and activities. This program is designed to help students increase their vocabulary, classroom participation and academic performance.

To have your student participate in this program, please complete this form and return it to their teacher ASAP.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM THE ABOVE-NAMED STUDENT'S PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN AND:

- I confirm that my Student is or will be 13 years of age or older as of September 1, 2019;
- I confirm that my Student may participate in this Audible program and may give voluntary feedback about the experience.
- Audible may share account-level usage metrics, like listening time, with the school to aid in the school's management of this program. The school will not share any of your Student's personal information with Audible.
- I have read and accept [Audible's Conditions of Use \(www.audible.com/terms\)](http://www.audible.com/terms) and Amazon's [Privacy Notice \(www.amazon.com/privacy\)](http://www.amazon.com/privacy) and I waive any and all claims against Audible and/or its affiliates arising out of or in connection with my Student's acceptance of the products and participation in the program.

- I understand that my Student will have access to numerous free audiobooks and other audio content for educational purposes, as well as access to Audible's full catalog of titles, which includes content containing a wide range of opinions and topics, including content that some parents may consider inappropriate for students.
- All the information in this consent form is true and accurate, and I am legally authorized to make the representations and guarantees contained in this consent form.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>ND</sup> PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME\*: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>ND</sup> PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If only one Parent/Guardian signs, then such Parent/Guardian represents that he/she has the exclusive authority to act for the Student or the non-signing Parent/Guardian.

# QUESTIONS?

Contact your student's teacher for more information!