

June 1, 2020

Dear Eighth Graders and Parents,

Welcome to summer and reading for pleasure. Our goal is to create lifelong readers and to build a community of readers, especially during these unusual and unprecedented times. There are **two required** summer reading books for eighth grade Humanities. First, ***Internment*** by Samira Ahmed (Little Brown Books for Young Readers; ISBN-13: 978-0316522700) and the **second** book is ***Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Readers) A True Story of the Fight for Justice*** by Bryan Stevenson (Ember, ISBN-13: 978-0593177044). Set in a future United States where Muslim Americans are forced into internment camps, *Internment* will challenge readers to think about American identity while characters are fighting for freedom. *Just Mercy* will support our eighth grade American Studies theme while taking a closer look at political activism, Black Lives Matter, and our justice system. In addition, students are encouraged to read two or more other works.

You can visit **Oakwood Connected** and click on the **SS Library Resources** tile for a list of other books. Click on the **Topics** tab and then **Summer Reading**. You will see a summer reading list for 8th grade which is filled with a variety of levels, styles, and genres, and contains interests for everyone. Use your own discretion, your expert librarians and booksellers, reviews, and your own good judgment to make your selections. Remember that summer may be one of those rare opportunities to choose your own reading. Take advantage of that opportunity: pursue new worlds, meet unusual characters, consider philosophies that support your own beliefs—and challenge them. As you begin your adventures in summer reading, please feel free to suggest additional titles. These summer readings will be shared with peers beginning in the first week of school, and there will be assessments on *Internment* and *Just Mercy*.

When purchasing Humanities texts this summer, we request that you **please buy new texts** for the following titles: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *Julius Caesar*, and *In Our Time*. Using new texts allows us to teach active reading and using margin notes, so we do not allow students to read used texts with pre-existing underlining and notes. If you have any questions, please email Nechelle Wong-Littman, Humanities Department Chair at nwong@oakwoodschool.org.

Wishing you a relaxing summer,

Nechelle Wong-Littman, Matt Fagen, and Max Duncan