June 2017

Dear Tenth Grade English Honors Student:

We would like to wish you a wonderful, productive summer. As an incoming English 2 Honors student, your summer reading assignment is to read *The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to his White Mother*, by James McBride.

McBride’s memoir was a New York Times bestseller for two years, has been translated into more than 16 languages, and has sold more than 2.1 million copies worldwide. It tells the story of James McBride and his white, Jewish mother Ruth, as James goes on a journey to uncover the mystery of his mother’s past as well as unlock his true identity. Told in two voices, both that of his mother and his own, *The Color of Water* sets the standard for modern day memoir writing. Most importantly, it is a powerful, resonating exploration of what family really means.

We encourage you to employ the close reading strategies you have learned over the years by keeping track of the characters and the details of their identities at the beginning, middle, and end of the memoir. In September, you will be asked to share your observations and apply your knowledge of the memoir through class activities and assessment.

We hope you enjoy this reading experience. We have high expectations for a successful year ahead, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Nicole Reis
Olympia Pahis
Patricia Melcher
Tracy Alfalla