

Greetings!

➡ The Summer Reading for the entire high school is *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice on Death Row*, by Anthony Ray Hinton.* Hinton spent thirty years in prison, on death row, before being found innocent and released in 2015. Relying on the love of his family, his faith, and his own inner resources, Hinton was transformed during his incarceration and had a transformative effect on those around him for three decades, from condemned inmates on death row to prison guards to visitors. This book is a raw and riveting read, inspiring for its example of how a human being found the brightest light in the darkest of places, and deeply troubling as its very existence is evidence that the American justice system and the society it supports do not uniformly provide justice for all.

"Waldorf 100: Learn to Change the World." This is the motto taken up by Waldorf schools all over the world in this year of the centennial of the founding of the first Waldorf school. Discussion, debate, and action around this timely summer reading book and the issues it raises demonstrate our community's commitment to global human values as we "learn to change the world."

Things to contemplate as you read:

- How did this book make you feel as you were reading it?
- How are parents and parenting part of this story?
- Hinton has not received compensation for his time on death row. Do you think he should?
- "[W]e are all more than the worst thing we have done," says Bryan Stevenson, Hinton's attorney, in the Foreword of the book. Do you agree? Do we act as if this is true, or not?
- In the title, Hinton says he "found life and freedom on death row." Do you believe it likely that he would have found these things had he not been on death row?
- What is *freedom*? What conditions are necessary to be *free*?

We invite everyone, parents, guardians, friends and relatives, to read and talk about the book even before school reconvenes in the fall.

➡ Class Readings for Summer

Each student is asked to read a second book over the summer selected from the category listed for their grade:

9th Grade: Read a book considered to be an American classic.

10th Grade: Read a book within a literary genre of your choice.

11th Grade: Read a book by a reputable author who has written (4) or more books.

12th Grade: Read a book related to your senior project.

➡ What else should you read this summer? Whatever books interest you. We encourage you to visit the library or the bookstore or whatever book distributor you prefer and follow your

interests, or explore some new ones. All we ask is that you keep track of what you read (author and title) and return to school in the fall with the list.

If you're looking for inspiration, consult the attached recommendations. If you want more, try "The Reading Lists" at www.thereadinglists.com. Not only will you find loads of ideas, but there are also some very interesting and entertaining interviews with the people who created them.

* Hinton, Anthony Ray. *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice on Death Row*. St. Martin's Press, 2019.