

**XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING 2019**



Dear Incoming Junior,

We hope that this letter finds you well and anticipating the end of a rewarding year. We hope that you will have many good experiences and make many good decisions before we see you again in August. One of those decisions we would like to help you with is the decision to remain engaged in some kind of academic activity this summer. It is our belief that encouraging students to read year-round is a key element in the development of lifelong learners. While the summer is certainly time to be away from school, we hope that it is not a time to stop reading, thinking, and growing.

You will read two books this summer (see below). These required works will be part of the overall theme of the year. These books have been selected for their interest level and readability as well as for their challenging, compelling content. In short, you should expect to think, but they should be fun to read.

Please read the assignment below; you will find information to help you focus your attention while you read.

Required Books:

- ***Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*** by Father Greg Boyle
Down-to-earth and utterly heartening, these essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love in difficult times and the importance of fighting despair. With Gregory Boyle's guidance, we can recognize our own wounds in the broken lives and daunting struggles of the men and women in these parables and learn to find joy in all of the people around us. *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.
- ***Every Day*** by David Levithan
Every day a different body. Every day a different life. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. "A" has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere.

Assignments:

Tattoos on the Heart: As you read, create margin notes and annotations. Keep in mind, especially, several of the following:

- Characters' interactions with one another and with God
- Setting and the importance of place
- Resilience of various characters
- How characters exhibit the five "Grad at Grads." (Information on the "Grad at Grad" can be found on the Xavier College Prep Website.)



Upon your return in August, you will be asked to complete an in-class essay; this essay will center on the aforementioned topics. You will be permitted to use a hard copy of **your** annotated book for this assignment, which means that you need a personal copy of the book. Students are not permitted to use another student's book.

Every Day: As you read, create margin notes and annotations. There will be an objective test the first week of school.