

XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2020



Dear Incoming Sophomore,

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.

In August, you will be expected to complete **two assessments** on these books. **One assessment will be a test, while the second assessment will be an in-class essay.** Please carefully read and annotate both books in preparation. Please read the assignment below; you will find information to help you focus your attention while you read.

Required Books:

- ***The Art of Racing in the Rain*** by Garth Stein (Fiction)
A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, unconditional love, loyalty, and hope. It is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life...as only a dog could tell it.
- ***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*** by Wes Moore (Non-Fiction)
Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation.

Assignment:

Xavier, like other Jesuit high schools, describes its graduating students with five characteristics called the Graduate at Graduation, or the “Grad at Grad.” After four years at a Jesuit school, this is what we hope you, our students, will look like. Before you begin this assignment, **you should familiarize yourself with the way Jesuit high schools describe the graduate at graduation.**

Your task is to analyze each of the books you read for characterization and plot, as well as to locate the “Grad at Grad” qualities that appear in each book. Your job during the first several weeks of school is to prove that you have read the text AND that you understand the “Grad at Grad” by writing and discussing how these qualities come through in BOTH books. Bear in mind that the authors you are reading may not present the same image of the qualities as the “Grad at Grad” document envisions. You will be asked to describe how you see this text in relation to the “Grad at Grad” document, then to defend your opinions with clear reasoning and concrete evidence.