



# The Taft School

June 2019

Dear Taft Parents & Students,

This year the Summer Reading Committee has decided to change the course and structure of our annual summer reading program. Traditionally the school has read one book over the summer break, and would then come together in the fall to discuss the book. In an effort to promote greater student engagement, the committee has decided to offer a variety of books based on the theme of grit and perseverance, and allow each student to select a book that he or she is most interested in.

In conjunction with a variety of departments, the Summer Reading Committee is pleased to offer the following selections this summer:

- *City of Thieves* by David Benioff
- *Coach Wooden and Me* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *The Martian* by Andy Weir
- *The Scribe of Siena* by Melodie Winawer
- *The Thing Around Your Neck* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel

Students may sign up using the online portal linked below. They can sign in using their Taft username and password.

<https://taftnet.taftschool.org/signup>

All books can be purchased on Amazon or through other major booksellers. Any student who has a hard time acquiring a book should reach out to Megan Valenti at [mvalenti@taftschool.org](mailto:mvalenti@taftschool.org).

The Summer Reading Committee will be rolling out a program in early September 2019 with a visit from author Sarah McBride to continue the discussion of the themes of grit and perseverance with Taft students and faculty.

For further information about our summer reading program, please consult the Taft School website: <https://www.taftschool.org/academics/summer-reading>.

Sincerely,

Stuart Guthrie & Megan Valenti

Co-Chairs, Summer Reading Committee