Dear US faculty colleague and WA staff member,

Are you looking forward to reading something new or rereading a work over the summer? Are you a sci-fi fanatic? An Austenite? A voracious reader of mysteries or sports works? A serious reader of biographies? A worshiper at the throne of Oprah’s list? A reader of every work on *The Times* bestseller list?

**The English department invites and welcomes your help in our third year of including teachers of other disciplines to our traditional Summer Reading program. We are asking faculty members to select a book or play they would enjoy discussing with students with 20 or fewer students during an assembly period on the second day of school. You will not be required to assess any student’s reading in a formal way, just to encourage all to participate and share their thoughts on the book and to tell me if it is obvious a student did not read. The discussion group would meet for about 50 minutes; there may be an ice-cream social on that day (or it might take place on the first day of school).**

We have several purposes for this book-of-choice portion of the summer reading program:

* Teachers can share works they enjoy or works related to their discipline or sport which would interest 9-12th graders.
* Students will take more ownership of summer reading by selecting a work from a wide range of disciplines and genres.
* Students will see all their teachers, coaches, and administrators as life-long readers.
* Students in grades 9-12 and on all track levels have a chance to read the same work and exchange ideas in an informal setting.
* Students and teachers will start the year with a celebration of reading and an ice-cream social!

If we have fifty five or more faculty members willing to read (or reread) a work and facilitate a book discussion, we will go forward with this program. If you participated in the last years and want to use one of the same texts with the same advertising “teaser,” just let me know.

Please email [peggy.mcnash@woodward.edu](mailto:peggy.mcnash@woodward.edu) if you are willing to lead a group and check out the book discussion wiki (<http://wasummereadingbookchat.wikispaces.com/>) for more information. We do ask that you choose a book or play not currently on the summer reading list and/or taught in the normal school year. Other suggestions will appear at the wiki page. Interested faculty should volunteer by March 15, 2012.

If more than one teacher selects the same work, you may have a co-host of your session if the number of students who select the work is less than 20. If more than 20 students select the book, we will divide the students into two groups. Each group will be capped at 20 students.

Peggy McNash and The Upper School English Department