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Parents & Guardians
English 9 Honors
1/6/16

RE: Sherman Alexie Novel

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Starting this week, students in the English 9 Honors classes will begin work on a novel unit based on the work of one of the Pacific Northwest's most-beloved living authors – Sherman Alexie. For reasons too numerous to list here, "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" is a particularly powerful novel for young adults, in part because it speaks directly to their own lives, their peers' lives and the lives of other teens throughout the world around them.

Although "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" has been taught for several years in English 9 classes at MTHS, we wanted to communicate with each family because of some of the personal and sensitive content that the protagonist – Junior – encounters. Please know that this wonderful book is on the Edmonds School District's approved reading list, although it is not a required text.

We have a copy of the book for each student to borrow, but we encourage you to consider purchasing the book for your student. This would give your student an opportunity to write notes in the margins and reflect on the book's meaning well beyond this school year. If you want to buy the book, we encourage you to do so at school as part of an English 9 Honors class fund-raiser. The special collectors' edition we have for sale normally retails for \$20+, but we're selling a very limited number of them for just \$10 exclusively to our English 9 Honors students.

In addition, we encourage you to learn more about the novel by visiting Common Sense Media's website at www.common sense media.org. You may also follow what we're doing with the novel on our class teaching website www.teachfreespeech.com.

Thank you in advance for your support. As always, we welcome your support, questions and comments.

Sincerely,

Vincent F. DeMiero
Instructor/Adviser

Greg Smiley
UW Teacher Candidate

CC: Principal Greg Schwab