

HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

July 27, 2009

Dear President Obama,

It is summer here in New England, and three things are certain: the Red Sox will keep it alive, a President will vacation somewhere on our magnificent coastline, and students will be doing their summer reading. It is in light of the third certainty that I am writing to request a special favor.

We have chosen your book, *Dreams from My Father*, as the 2009 whole-school community summer reading selection for all 1,099 students attending Hingham High School in Hingham, Massachusetts. I am very excited about this selection as your book lends a unique authenticity to the grade-level essential questions that inform our summer reading choices and frame the content of our regular English curriculum. Given the fact that all students will return to school in September prepared to discuss some aspect of your book, I was wondering if you would consider creating some kind of communication for the students of Hingham High School. I am envisioning either a written, audio, or video message that we could share with the students at our opening assemblies prior to our discussions. (At our final student assemblies in June we “launched” this initiative by showing a clip – from the *Frontline* documentary entitled *Dreams of Obama* – of you reading an excerpt from your book.) I have included copies of our summer reading materials so that you can see the types of questions students at each grade have been asked to consider as they read both your book and a book selected from our suggested reading lists.

I am well aware that your job may be keeping you a bit busy, so I understand if it is not possible to honor this request. Either way, I look forward to some interesting and informative discussions taking place about the nature of journeys, the importance of understanding world cultures, the pursuit of American dreams, and the relevance of personal memoir. Please accept the enclosed “family pack” of T-shirts as a token of the Hingham High community’s appreciation for the contribution you have already made to our summer reading initiative.

It may interest you to know that Hingham High School has been named a finalist in the NCLB Blue Ribbon Program. We are eagerly awaiting word and hope to be in Washington, D.C. to receive this recognition on November 1, 2009. With any luck we’ll see you then!

Sincerely,

Helaine R. Silva
Director of English/Reading K-12
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