

Dear Incoming Freshmen and Parents of Incoming Freshmen:

The faculty at Antioch Community High School eagerly anticipates the arrival of our new freshman class. We want to do everything possible to make high school a rewarding experience for both our students and their families.

We believe that reading is one of the keys to academic success. To promote reading, we would like the incoming freshmen to read *Downriver* by Will Hobbs. The English teachers selected this book because it tells an engaging story that raises challenging questions. Students will find the book an entertaining, thought-provoking read.

The book belongs to the student. Students, please write your name on the book, and as you read, highlight passages that you feel reveal important aspects of the characters or themes of the story. After you finish reading the book, respond to one of these questions:

- Select a major character from *Downriver* and discuss how and why he/she changes throughout the novel. (Hint: Freddy, Troy, or Jessie)
- Discuss how the theme of peer pressure influences the major characters and the plot of *Downriver*.

Write at least one page to answer the question. Please type the paper, and double space it. This essay should demonstrate your skills in both writing and reading comprehension.

The freshman English teachers will start the first day of class with this book, so all students should complete the reading and writing assignments before the start of school and bring them to class the first day.

We encourage parents to join their children and read along. Thank you for completing this work during the summer. If parents or students have any questions, please contact Mr. Nekritz or Mr. Whitehurst. We hope you have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mike Nekritz,
Principal

John Whitehurst
English Department Chair