



**WALTHAM HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES 24-HOUR STUDENT READATHON
TOURNAMENT TO CHOOSE 2019 “ONE SCHOOL, ONE STORY” BOOK SELECTION**

WALTHAM, MA — This year **Waltham High School** is once again leaving their seventh annual “**One School, One Story**” selection in the hands of the students: On March 22, 60 teenagers will lock themselves in the school’s Library for 24 hours to read as much of 16 books as possible, narrowing down the field by pitting book against book in a March Madness-style tournament bracket until only four books remain. Students will then create materials to introduce the final four books to the student body for a school-wide vote. Students will also have the opportunity to talk with five of the authors via Skype chats.

This year’s selection of books range from nonfiction texts to realistic Young Adult literature and also include 2 podcast and a graphic novel. The sixteen books are selected by an interdisciplinary team of teachers, librarians and directors.

“One School, One Story” is Waltham High School’s annual community reading initiative. All students and teachers read the same book selection over the summer and discuss it together in the fall. The high school often brings the author to speak to students about their novel and writing craft. Past selections include *All American Boys*, *Speak* and New York Times best selling novel *Scythe*. In 2015, “One School, One Story” received national recognition for selecting the podcast sensation ***Serial***.

The 24 hour Read-a-thon is a true community event. Local business donate food, community members volunteer to read with students and staff of the schools plan high energy breaks to keep the kids motivated and excited for the 24 hour cycle.

Contenders for selection include *Fearless*, *Gym Candy*, *Here to Stay*, *I Have Lost my Way*, *Distance Between Lost and Found*, *Monday's not Coming*, *Darius the Great is Not Okay*, *Hey, Kiddo*, *Dreamland Burning*, *Every Falling Star*, *Born a Crime*, *The 57 Bus*, *This Side of Home* and the podcasts, *More Perfect* and *Start Up: Success Academy*.