



SAINT IGNATIUS

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March 24, 2021

Dear Class of 2025,

This summer the English Department is requesting that you spend some time engaged in summer reading. **All incoming freshmen** should read *Season of Life* by Jeffrey Marx. A description of the title is provided below.

[*Season of Life: a Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood* by Jeffrey Marx](#)

The best-selling inspirational book in which the author reunites with a childhood football hero, now a minister and coach, and witnesses a revelatory demonstration of the true meaning of manhood.

*Joe Ehrmann, a former NFL football star and volunteer coach for the Gilman high school football team, teaches his players the keys to successful defense: penetrate, pursue, punish, love. Love? A former captain of the Baltimore Colts and now an ordained minister, Ehrmann is serious about the game of football but even more serious about the purpose of life. *Season of Life* is his inspirational story as told by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jeffrey Marx, who was a ballboy for the Colts when he first met Ehrmann.*

Ehrmann now devotes his life to teaching young men a whole new meaning of masculinity. He teaches the boys at Gilman the precepts of his Building Men for Others program: Being a man means emphasizing relationships and having a cause bigger than yourself. It means accepting responsibility and leading courageously. It means that empathy, integrity, and living a life of service to others are more important than points on a scoreboard.

Decades after he first met Ehrmann, Jeffrey Marx renewed their friendship and watched his childhood hero putting his principles into action. While chronicling a season with the Gilman Greyhounds, Marx witnessed the most extraordinary sports program he'd ever seen, where players say "I love you" to each other and coaches profess their love for their players. Off the field Marx sat with Ehrmann and absorbed life lessons that led him to reexamine his own unresolved relationship with his father.

Season of Life is a book about what it means to be a man of substance and impact. It is a moving story that will resonate with athletes, coaches, parents—anyone struggling to make the right choices in life.

All students reading *Season of Life* should complete the summer reading guide attached to this letter in advance of your first day of class.

Availability

If obtaining a copy of your assigned book is a financial challenge for your family, please contact me via email at tcaputo@ignatius.edu. Please be sure to have a copy of the text with you during the opening weeks of school. E-books are also acceptable.

Summer Reading Assessment

The summer reading assessment will be given during the opening weeks of school. Be prepared to

answer objective, short response, and short essay questions during your summer reading assessment.

Active Reading Strategies

The English Department recommends that students keep a reading journal and/or that they annotate their personal copies of their assigned summer reading text. An effective active reading process may include:

Recording chapter summaries. Take some time at the end of each chapter to write, in your own words, what the chapter was about.

Annotating while reading. Make notes on important events, character developments, symbols, use of literary elements, and your own observations.

Asking critical thinking questions. What questions do you have after reading your book? What are the issues, viewpoints, and themes of the book? How does the content of this book apply to your life or the lives of others?

We hope that the summer break provides you with some time to rest, reflect, and prepare for the new academic year at Saint Ignatius High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terra Caputo".

Dr. Terra Caputo
Chair, English Department

***Season of Life* by Jeffrey Marx**
A Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood

Please complete this double-sided book reflection by the first day of school. It will be useful in our discussion of *Season of Life* by Jeffrey Marx. This sheet will be collected by your English teacher.

Part I: Connection

Please respond to the following questions using complete sentences.

1. As you finish reading the novel, what are your initial thoughts?

2. What connections can be made from your own experiences to the book? 3. In

your opinion, why did the author write the book?

4. Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

Please continue to Part II on the next page.

Part II: Understanding

Trace the plot of the novel by applying the following elements to the story. ●

Who are the main characters?

- Where does the story take place?
- List at least 5 major events that take place.
- How does the story end?

Please continue to Part III on the next page.

Part III: Textual Knowledge

List five important quotations from the book. Include the page number, and give the reason you chose the quote.

	Quotation Page Number	Reason/Explanation
Quotation #1		
Quotation #2		
Quotation #3		
Quotation #4		
Quotation #5		