What defines success? Is success determined by popularity? By academic or athletic accomplishments? By innovation, integrity, or personal satisfaction? Through Oakton High School’s summer reading selections for 2012, students will reflect on their own mindsets, talents, choices, and ambitions as they investigate what two writers believe are the keys to successful living.

Through a community-wide vote, teachers, students and parents selected two books as their top choices for this year’s summer reading: *The Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell and *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth* by Alexandra Robbins*. Please choose ONE (or both!) of these books and acquire a copy through your local library, bookstore, or online vendor. Read actively by taking notes in the margins or on your paper so that you will be able to recall and discuss what you have read when you arrive at Oakton in September. Here are some ideas to prompt your annotation of the book:

- **Connect**—How can you personally connect to an example or argument in a particular passage?
- **Predict**—Think ahead. What are the implications of the anecdote or example in a particular passage or chapter?
- **Visualize and Respond**—What images does the author conjure in your mind? Why does he or she choose that image?
- **Question and Clarify**—What confuses you or does not seem to make sense? Can you clarify later?
- **Summarize**—What are the main ideas in each chapter and in the book as a whole?
- **Analyze**—How does the author construct his or her argument? What key details and stylistic features comprise the argument?
- **Evaluate**—What is your opinion of the author’s perspective? Is it thoroughly logical? Is it realistic?

Ultimately, the book that you choose should help you to reflect personally: how do *you* define success in high school and beyond? Compare or contrast your own understanding of success with the perspectives of Gladwell and/or Robbins. Your reactions and notes will contribute to school-wide discussions at the beginning of September.

If you have any questions about Oakton’s all-school reading assignment, you may contact Colleen Eddy, English Department Chair, at CAEddy@fcps.edu. Students enrolled in AP courses should check the Oakton website for additional assignments.

*Important note: *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth* follows the lives of several high school students and incorporates potentially offensive language and behaviors that are unfortunately present at the high school level. Parents, please assist your child in making the best choice of summer reading for his or her individual needs.*