

Toms River Regional Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Did you know that reading the same book as your child and talking about it can spark your child's enthusiasm for reading? We've got a great opportunity for you to do this: High School North is hosting a **family book discussion of *Station Eleven***, which is this year's selection for NEA Big Read and, if you're the parent or guardian of a high schooler, the book your child has likely been reading in English class. Please join us for this discussion on Thursday, October 19th, at 7pm in room C04; refreshments will be served. (**Note:** If participation exceeds what the newly remodeled classroom can hold, the event will be moved to the HSN media center.)

The Big Read is a grant awarded to us by the National Endowment of the Arts; its goal is to spark constructive communication by having an entire community read the same book. Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven* is set in the near future, after a flu pandemic wipes out most of civilization; the main characters are part of a traveling group of musicians and actors determined to keep the arts alive in this bleak landscape. The topic of life after a natural disaster also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the impact of Superstorm Sandy.

Physical copies of *Station Eleven* are available at the Ocean County Library; digital ebooks as well as audiobooks are available at www.elibrarynj.com (you'll need your county library card to download those books). Even if you've only read a chapter or two of this book by October 19th, you'll still be able to participate! **Please RSVP for this event by calling 732-505- 5702.**

Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Karla Ivarson
Mariner Media Specialist



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.