



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, N.J., January 31 --- The Pennington School welcomed *New York Times* bestselling Author Mark Doty as a guest speaker on Tuesday, January 31, as part of the School's 2016-17 Stephen Crane Lecture Series. Doty is a poet, essayist, and National Book Award winner.

Doty read a selection of his poems and discussed their context and his writing process with students and faculty. He noted that he often uses the world around him as a catalyst for his creative process. After his presentation, he held a Master Class and working lunch in the Silva Gallery of Art with 40 students grades 8-12. Doty commented on the students' profound questions and earnestness.

Doty is the author of three memoirs: the *New York Times*-bestselling *Dog Years* (HarperCollins, 2007), *Firebird* (1999), and *Heaven's Coast* (1997), as well as a book about craft and criticism, *The Art of Description: World Into Word*. Throughout his writings, Doty shows special interest in the visual arts, as is evident in his poems and also in his book-length essay, *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon* (2001).

He is the author of nine books of poetry, most recently *Deep Lane* (W.W. Norton, 2015). *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems* was published in 2008 and won the National Book Award for that year. Doty is the first American poet to have won Great Britain's T. S. Eliot Prize, for *My Alexandria* (1993), which also received both the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. His other collections of poetry include: *Turtle, Swan* (1987); *Atlantis* (1995); *Sweet Machine* (1998); *Source* (2001); and the critically acclaimed volume, *School of the Arts* (HarperCollins, 2005).

In addition to the National Book Award, Doty has also received two NEA fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writers Award, a Lila Wallace/Readers Digest Award, and the Witter Byner Prize. In 2011, Doty was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He is a Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University, and also teaches in NYU's low-residency MFA program in Paris. He is currently at work on a memoir that centers on his poetic relationship with Walt Whitman, entitled *What Is the Grass*.

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts. For more information about this event or the Stephen Crane Lecture Series, please contact Amelia Becker, Director of Speaker Programming, at abecker@pennington.org.

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Caption for photo: Author Mark Doty spoke at The Pennington School on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.