



ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL LIBRARY



Welcome to Back-To-School Night!

Our school library follows the Diocese of Harrisburg's Library Curriculum. Here are a few of the highlights we will cover this year:

- ***Library Citizenship:*** This includes teaching the proper use of library materials, circulation procedures, and using technology safely and responsibly.
- ***Basic Book Skills:*** Parts of the book are identified and discussed. This includes the interior of the book (like title page, copyright page), as well as the exterior of the book – front/back covers and spine.
- ***Location Skills:*** Locating books in library either alphabetically or numerically, we spend time learning about the card catalog (Destiny Quest electronic card Catalog) is available online from home and at school and you can access it:
<http://school.stjoanhershey.org/library---mrs-murphy.html>

Click on the blue Destiny Quest link, upper left corner. You must go on through our school's site or you may land on another school's Destiny Quest via Google.

- Choosing books based on genre: Depending on the grade, we begin by discussing the differences between fiction and nonfiction titles and where they're located and we expand from there to discussing poetry books (April is Poetry month), historical fiction, and biographies. We also study the Dewey Decimal System and learn how it began and how it works to help organize the books in the library.
- ***Interpreting Literature:*** Understanding the differences in literature genres and reading with a purpose and understanding, as well as knowing the parts of a book and reading with expression and fluency (what we practice when we do Reader's Theater). A big part of what we do is to develop our skills in order to be discriminating when we evaluate essential vs. nonessential information as well as fact vs. opinion.
- ****Research:***
 - For Younger Students:*** We talk about selecting the right book for an assignment. We also begin working with dictionaries; identifying and using guide words in alphabetical order in order to locate a word and its meaning. Encyclopedias, Atlases, etc. are discussed in 3rd grade.
- ***Research for older students:*** This includes identifying and using appropriate and varying types of reference sources. We study what an index is, how to use it and what cross-references mean when searching for additional, specific information. We compare print verses electronic methods and research materials. Gathering relevant information and understanding how to perform searches and downloading useful information. This includes a focus on the concept of Plagiarism, what it is and how to avoid it!!
Most importantly, we create a "MLA Report-free Bibliography" for eighth graders to get them ready for Information Literature in 9th grade.

- **Dictionary and Encyclopedia skills:** Identifying parts of the dictionary and encyclopedias, such as guide words, pronunciation keys, and word origins.
- **Students in Grades 4 and up choose a Book Pick-of-the Week title that they recommending their peers to read. We display in them on a special shelf in the library.**
- **LIBRARY HOMEWORK: After Thanksgiving holiday, students in Grades 4 and up, write a monthly book review using** our Destiny Online Card Catalog system. This small assignment helps them to be accountable for the books they check out and also it helps them learn how to *summarize* and *evaluate* the books they read. It is worth 5 points each and students do a total of 6 book reviews (different genre's each month), for a total of 30 points in their homework ILA grade.
- **Reader's Theater, Dewey Decimal Raps, Newbery title Book Talks:** Reader's Theater is a lot of fun. Students practice reading aloud with expression and fluency in small groups then as a whole group when they "perform" without the pressure of having to memorize a script.

Dewey Decimal Book Raps: Middle School students work in small groups to study and focus on a particular assigned section of the Dewey Decimal System. They write and create their own performance "raps" for their classmates. The Newbery book titles are award-winning books which are exemplary fiction and non-fiction titles. Middle School students will choose a Newbery book and they write up a short video book talk or review, which they present to the class and it is uploaded onto our Google Classroom page.

OTHER HELPFUL INFO:

A Public Library card is required for students in Grades 5th – up. Please see the form coming home which explains the information needed. Our school's library books are checked out for one week at a time. Renewals can be made one time. Late books are charged .05/day for each day past the due date. Exceptions are made for sick days, doctor visits and school holidays only. For family vacations, we respectfully ask that your child either not check out a book beforehand, or return their book before they leave.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason with any questions or for clarification!

Mrs. Christina Murphy,
Teacher Librarian

Email Contact: cmurphy@stjoanhershey.org

Library Website: <http://www.stjoanhershey.org/library.html>

WORLD BOOK ONLINE

User name: stjoan

Password: hsyapa



Library time is instructional time!

