

**Fall Reading**

**Book Clubs are Back!**  Once we settle into the school year, book clubs will return at both lunch times. This year’s selection will feature one classic read and one more lighthearted novel. This should be a fun time in which your student can make friends and boost reading skills.

**Mackin Via App!** – Parents, set your kids up with the Mackin Via app to enable them to use O’Brien’s eBook collection on their phones. There are approximately 1000 titles of eBooks and audio books available. (These titles are also available on computers.) Listening **while** reading increases comprehension ability for that text by 2 grade levels! And this is great for time in the car – the family can listen together!



**Hours:** 7:10 AM to 2:05 PM most days.

Students access the library with a class or on a pass from a teacher. The library is open at lunch on the days that the library is not booked by a class.

**Circulation:** Students may borrow library materials for 15 school days at a time, and materials may be renewed once. Most students will borrow one or two books at a time. Students who owe fines will be limited to one book.

**Missing Books:**  If a student still has a book checked out from O’Brien (or another school in the district), please have your student return the book to O’Brien. The lost book fine will disappear, and the library will be able to loan the book to another student. Win! Win!

**Parent Reading Guidance**

School librarians make every effort to develop a collection of classical and contemporary fiction and nonfiction that includes both award-winning and popular literature. A middle school library collection can be particularly tricky because our ages range from 11 years old to 14 years old. Student maturity, reading levels, and interests in middle school also range from primary grade to college-level abilities. It is the priority of the teacher-librarian to protect our students’ right to read those materials protected by the First Amendment. It is also the priority of the teacher-librarian to develop and maintain a collection appropriate to students that reflects diverse and balanced topics, interests, and reading levels. This is no easy task and is why parents are the number one censors for their own children. A young-adult book that may be perfectly appropriate for an 8th grader may be of concern to a parent of a new 6th grader.

Young adult literature, often abbreviated “YA” is a type of literature specifically targeted towards teenagers and pre-teens, typically ranging in age from 12 to 18 years old. YA literature is known for its relatable characters, authentic voices, and writing that engages young people. It often addresses the unique experiences and challenges faced by young adults, such as but not limited to identity, friendship, love, family dynamics, self-discovery, mental health, social justice, and overcoming adversity. These themes connect with readers as they often experience similar issues in their own lives. Additionally, YA literature frequently incorporates diverse representation, featuring characters from various backgrounds, cultures, and identities.

As parents, you play a crucial role in guiding your child's reading choices and fostering a love of reading. By having open conversations and sharing in your child’s reading journey, you can enrich their reading experience and strengthen your bond as a family. If you have any questions or would like recommendations for books, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we can inspire a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

If, however, you wish to prevent your child from checking out books classified as young adult interest level the school librarian can put a note on their account to that effect.

**If you do not want your child to check out YA books, return the bottom of this form to school. You do not need to return this form if you are okay with your child checking out these books.**

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Please return this form to your child’s school library as soon as possible **only if you DO NOT**want your child to check out YA books. If you prefer to determine as a family what is appropriate on a case-by-case basis, you do not need to do anything else.

[ ] **NO, my child may not check out YA-designated books in the library this year**. Please put a note on his/her account.

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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