

Hello Mustang Parents!

We are looking forward to another busy school year. We are always excited to fill the library with teens after school. Over the years we have developed some guidelines and rules in order to serve our teens, families, and adults to the best of our ability. We'd like to inform you of these here.

Please do not use the library as your pick up spot after school. While we understand that after school pick up can be chaotic, there are simply too many kids and cars and we would like everyone to stay safe. We ask that anyone waiting for a ride wait on the sidewalk on School Street or inside the library. To keep the door clear, people will not be allowed to wait in the foyer or under the awning. If your child is waiting for you inside, please park in a parking spot and come inside to get them.

From 3:15-5:30 we reserve the main areas of the library for those who are quietly playing with young children, working on homework, using the computer, or reading books. We have split the library up so that there is an area for everyone. The upstairs is kept as a "traditional" quiet library. We ask that students enter the building through the courtyard on the lower level after school so that the upstairs can remain quiet and peaceful. The downstairs is for those working on homework or playing with young kids. If teens want to socialize at the library, as so many of our teens do, we have two additional areas for that: The Chat Room and Teen Island.

The Chat Room is for junior high and high school students to socialize and is open every day for about 2 hours after Memorial Junior High School lets out. We will have daily activities to enrich the students' time here. We will also have board games and coloring pages available for those who do not want to participate, as well as laptops for those who own a Lansing Public Library card.

Teen Island is for students in grades 8-12 and is open from 3:00-6:00 Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday as staffing allows. It has comfy seating and a Wii-U and a PS4 for the teens to play. Teens must have a school ID or library card to enter and will be asked to sign in. Tuesdays this room will be used for teen clubs. Wednesday will have extended hours 2:00-6:00 and will be reserved for high school students only.

We reserve the right to ask any patron who violates our Behavior Policy to leave library property. If a patron continually violates the policy, a patron may be banned from library property for a longer period of time. If they do not obey that ban and continue to come onto library property, the police may be called and a ticket for trespassing may be issued.

At peak hours, off-duty police officers may be here to help the library handle crowds and enforce policy. This allows the librarians to focus on helping patrons use the library. Say hello to Chief Murrin when he's here!

Respect: Respect for self, for staff, for other patrons, and for library property is the basis of our rules and any behavior deemed disrespectful may result in consequences. A few things to remember are:

Disruptive behavior such as swearing, running, speaking loudly, or listening to media without headphones is not tolerated.

Patrons may not bring food into the library to eat as it can be messy for books, computers, tables, and carpets.

Patrons must keep their things with them at all times. Leaving bags at one table and sitting at another takes up space other patrons could be using on busy days. Additionally, the library is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

We have zero-tolerance for fighting—whether real or in play. Even roughhousing often leads to injury.

If some members of a group violate the behavior policy, all members of that group may be subject to the same consequences. Each person is expected to understand the rules and remove themselves from situations that violate them. Any individuals who do not remove themselves from the situation are subject to consequences given to the group as a whole.

Children in 5th grade or below MUST be accompanied by a caregiver over the age of 18. If they are here alone, we will help them call an adult. If we cannot contact an adult, we will have to contact the police to bring the child home. Teens in 6th grade and older may use the library unaccompanied.

Some rules are specific to using library services:

Children under the age of 18 must own a library card in order to use a computer.

Patrons may not use each other's library cards to access a computer—even if they are related.

Cards can be saved to our new app, SWAN Libraries, so that patrons always have their cards with them.

Bicycles must be in the bike rack. We encourage patrons to use a bike lock as we have had bike thefts in the past. If a patron does not have a bike lock, they may borrow one from the desk to use while they are at the library.

The full behavior policy is available on our website www.lansingpl.org click About, then click on Library Policies and Mission, then click on Behavior Policy. We want the library to be a place for everyone to use. We hope that by adhering to the above stated guidelines, we can continue to make the library a comfortable place for everyone in our community. Any questions can be directed to the following people:

Emily Laidley, Head of Youth Services

Debbie Albrecht, Library Director

Please share this information with your student. Thank you very much and we look forward to a great school year,

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