

# The Largest Classroom at Your Child's School? The Library!

## 10 Reasons to Visit and Use Your School Library

**School libraries support enthusiasm for learning & reading.** They address students' and staff's academic needs and personal interests, and ensure open access to diverse ideas.

**School libraries offer digital access and makerspace options for all students.** Media literacy and media creation are essential skills for today's students; school libraries offer places to explore these interest-based possibilities (blogs, videos, coding and more) beyond the classroom as well as for academic purpose.

**School libraries are safe havens for all, where every student is appreciated as unique.** Students need to be able to find their individual preferences in reading, research and life. Libraries support that discovery.

**School libraries are managed by trained librarians.** Certified librarians are experienced teachers with additional education in resource selection and management; some schools hire staff with less training who work to support student growth.

**School libraries ensure that students are prepared for their next level of academic challenges.** Whether students are moving to the next grade, or advancing to the next school level (first grade, middle school, high school, college) school library access throughout the PK-12 years offers maximum opportunity to read widely, build literacy skills, and develop academic growth in many directions.

**School libraries strengthen reading and literacy skills.** The broad collection of age-appropriate resources in multiple formats supports learners at all levels with appealing books and digital resources.

**School libraries support equity of access for every student.** The school library provides open access to all resources, especially important in areas without a public library branch or other opportunities to find interesting, appealing and age-appropriate reading or academic collections.

**School libraries share accurate information resources and teach skills to locate facts and ideas.** In a world of potentially "fake news", school libraries teach digital citizenship and safety as well as how students can credit the sources they use in classroom projects.

**School libraries offer classroom teachers opportunities to collaborate.** The librarian is a knowledgeable teacher who can expand classroom resources as well as be a second teacher for complementary skills such as research, citation use, etc.

**School libraries may provide ways for parents to be actively involved in the learning process.** Parents might borrow books to read with students at home. The library may also offer digital access (passwords and user names), online resources and computer use as well as information to facilitate student learning beyond the campus. If your library doesn't offer these, ask the librarian.

For more information, visit your school and talk to the librarian. If you discover your campus has no library - or no librarian - ask the principal why.

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