

SMMHS LMC

Empowering students to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers,
skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

Blind Date with a Book!

This month we are promoting enthusiastic reading through our Blind Date with a Book program. Students can check out one book per day max. All participating books are wrapped, so their identities are hidden. Students have to decide on interest based on a few vague facts on back. If they check out a book and find a heart inside, that book is a “keeper,” otherwise they return the book with no hard feelings or awkward silence when they are finished!

School Store is Open!

Extended hours will be coming, but for now we are open during Directed Studies. Basic supplies are for sale. More info is available on the LMC website. Have suggestions? Let me know, and I'll stock up for you!

Middle School D.S. Rotation:

It has slightly changed; click (above) for the new schedule!



A Newsletter?

One of the greatest things about teaching is the opportunities to start over so often. So, as we move into the second half of the year, I'm already listing what I want to do differently. One thing I've learned is that communication is KEY in the role of Library Media Specialist. In order for you to be informed, I have to communicate! With that in mind, I've decided that a regular newsletter is a must and there's no better time to start than the present. I'll try to keep things short and to the point because I know how valuable your time is, but please do read them so that you can be aware of all I am doing to support you!

Ginger Kirchmyer
Library Media Specialist
National Board Certified Teacher ELA/YAYA





SPOTLIGHT:

American Rhetoric

American Rhetoric was introduced to me for the first time last year by our own Jennifer Mastin (who, by the way, is an INCREDIBLE teacher - one of the best I've seen in my life!). This site offers so much, and it's not just for English teachers.

Nearly all of the speeches (political, religious, literary, and even pop-culture) are accompanied by a written transcript, an Mp3, AND a video! You can look at a speech by JFK, find out the rhetorical devices he is using, and then look at hundreds of other great speeches using that same technique!

Additionally, there is a News and Info link which takes you to current sites for news media today: CNN, The Boston Globe, Google, and miscellaneous sites like Google Translate, U.S. Supreme Court, American Universities (every university in America!), etc.... When you scroll down, there are links to legal resources and polling data. This site is a playground for primary source research! Have fun!!!

Researching Tools made available to our students:

Researching is an important element in all of the curricula here at SMMHS. That's why I have worked hard to organize and present the resources in such a way that they are easy to use and make the most sense. With icons on which to click, students should be able to navigate easily. All of our databases are free, and most do not require a password, but if they do, the password is "Elvis" (there is a hint at the top of the online page - it's a picture of Elvis).

Your media center website contains lots of databases, newspapers, and other general sites for research and learning, and in each newsletter, I'll spotlight one or two to help you get to know what they offer.

No other school in Hamilton County has a website dedicated to the resources available through the media center. Our students are fortunate to have these resources at their fingertips. If there are things I can add or tutorials I can create that would make use of this site easier and more meaningful, please let me know!

Resource	Description
Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab)	A resource to help you with MLA writing and citation rules
ManageBac	This site is used for keeping track of school goals and projects
Study Island	A test-preparation site
Turnitin.com	A place for submitting your written work
The ACT	ACT Practice Test Questions Online questions for English, Math, Science, and Reading.
The ACT	ACT Test Prep Booklet Includes test information, practice tests, and writing prompts.