

Orchard Park Central School District

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Superintendent*



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The goal of the Orchard Park Central School District Libraries is to promote a love for reading that will develop an appreciation for books to become information literate and life-long readers. The Orchard Park School Libraries strive to provide patrons with materials that will enrich and support the educational program of the school. It is the responsibility of the school media center to provide a wide range of materials on different levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and representing different points of view. Responsibility for the selection of library materials rests with professionally trained and certified library personnel. District librarians handpick materials using a variety of professional selection resources to support the curriculum, foster a love of reading and literature appreciation, and support inquiry and research both in the library and classroom. Materials are added that are culturally responsive and inclusive for all learners, relevant and updated, and align with the instructional needs and interests of our learning community.

Orchard Park Central School District Librarians select materials in alignment with the Board of Education Policy #8320 and the following suggested criteria from the American Library Association¹.

- Support and enrich the curriculum and/or students' personal interests and learning
- Meet high standards in literary, artistic, and aesthetic quality; technical aspects; and physical format
- Be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social, emotional, and intellectual development of the students for whom the materials are selected
- Incorporate accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources
- Earn favorable reviews in standard reviewing sources and/or favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional personnel
- Exhibit a high degree of potential user appeal and interest
- Represent differing viewpoints on controversial issues
- Provide a global perspective and promote diversity by including materials by authors and illustrators of all cultures

School libraries have the responsibility to assemble collections that represent all students. According to the American Library Association interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights², "a diverse collection should contain content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences". A diverse collection allows students to learn about themselves, the world around them and develop empathy for others. In providing access to diverse materials, some materials may be considered offensive and or/ controversial to some patrons. If a parent or guardian has a specific title(s) that they would not like their child to check out, they must follow the instructions and fill out a Google Form on their building library's website. After the building librarian has received the form, a note will be made in the student's account prohibiting access to the listed title(s). The note will follow the students through their school career, even if a building change is made. If a parent wishes to add more titles over time a new form can be filled out at any time. If a parent or guardian has questions, they are encouraged to contact a building administrator.

¹ "Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School"

<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>. Accessed 30 Nov. 2022.

² "Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights | Advocacy, Legislation"

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations>. Accessed 30 Nov. 2022.