



THE STEWARD SCHOOL

The Steward Lower School Library Fun Facts & Read and Learn

Fun Facts about the Lower School Library:

- We have close to 12,000 books and magazines available to check out! The actual number changes all the time, as new books are added and old ones are deleted.
- New books go on a special display until they are checked out. All books are checked out for 2 weeks, but may be renewed.
- Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten check out one book each time they visit the library. They must return their previous book to check out a new one. Grades 1-5 check out 3 books, *in addition to* any books they need for research or assignments.
- Time is built in to each weekly library visit for browsing and checkout, so I encourage the students to return their books on their library day. I have at least two Open Checkout periods each day for students to return or checkout books.
- Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten need repetition, so they check out only one book, and will hopefully hear it several times during the week, at home.
- First grade through Fifth grade are allowed more books, so they will always have a book to read. The classrooms have incredible libraries as well, so the students are never without reading options! In their library period, they have a lesson, hear stories or may have independent reading time. Students enjoy several reading areas: Charlotte's Corner, sofas, tables, floor pillows and comfy chairs.

Junior Kindergarten hears easy picture books each week. They hear different genres, and they enjoy talking about the stories. We stop and try to anticipate the next action in the story, so they are learning to forecast the action. We learn about literary medals, authors, and the jobs of the author and illustrator.

Kindergarten hears easy picture books, and we talk about the jobs of the author, illustrator, and the publisher. We read several books a week. We work on listening and answering thoughtful questions about the story. The children learn to speak in turn and listen politely to the comments of their fellow students.

First Graders hear picture books and chapter books. They learn to identify the title page, and other parts of a book. We talk about authors, illustrators, and publishers. Students will use all parts of the library this year, and learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction.

Second Graders hear chapter books, and some easy picture books. We will talk about the author's life, and how that can influence their writing. We will compare an illustrator's work in several different books, and learn to recognize different styles of art. We will talk about the different areas of the library: fiction, easy, non-fiction, and biography. We will talk about using the Table of Contents, Index, and Glossary.

Third Graders hear chapter books and short stories. They learn the different areas of the library (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Easy), and why a book belongs in a certain section. They learn what spine labels tell you about the book, and how they help you locate a book. They learn to do catalog searches by

author, subject, or title. When they are confident about locating books by their spine labels, we play a game where they are given a spine label and title, and they race their classmates to locate the book. Third graders learn online research skills that will help them to complete their Expert Project Reports.

Fourth Graders learn about the parts of the book that can save them time when doing research: the Glossary, Index, and Table of Contents. They learn about different reference sources and how to use them. As research becomes more central to their studies, we read more Non-Fiction and Biographies. The emphasis in the fourth grade is how to use the library to do research. They learn to use online sources, and how to cite the works they use. They spend several months researching the Colonial period and the American Revolution.

Fifth Graders review many of the lessons from the third and fourth grades, so that they will leave elementary school confident in their ability to find information they want in any library. They learn the social and historical background of Shakespearean times during their library visits. They have free reading, and they hear short stories, or excerpts from books.

The purpose of the Lower Library's program is to familiarize your child with the organizational systems of libraries and online sources, so upon graduation from elementary school they may walk into any Dewey Decimal System library and locate the books they need. The readings we do in each grade help foster an appreciation of different types of literature, and instill a love for reading. The research skills they learn in grades 2-5 will help them in completing reports as they transition into Middle School.