

BUCKNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY

SELECTION OF MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS

2004

TOPICS

STATEMENT

a. Objectives

The primary objective of the school Library Media Center is to implement, enrich, and support the educational program of the school. In the area of materials selection, the Library Media Center should provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with consideration for diversity of appeal and different points of view. These materials should include those found in the virtual library, i.e. via Internet and other online resources. In order to fulfill that mission, the responsibility of the Library Media Center is to:

1. Provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, learning needs, learning styles and maturity levels of the students served.
2. Provide materials for teachers and students that will encourage growth in knowledge, and that will help to develop literary, cultural and aesthetic appreciation and ethical standards.
3. Provide materials which reflect the ideas and beliefs of various religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups and their contribution to the local, national and world heritages and cultures, thereby enabling students to develop intellectual integrity in forming judgments.
4. Provide a variety of electronic formats as well as print materials to support student learning needs. These electronic formats include resources found on the Internet and other online networks.
5. Place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in selection of materials of the highest quality in order to ensure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the Library Media Center.

b. Authority and Responsibility

Selection of Library Media Center materials involves many people: the principal, students, teachers, the librarian/ media specialist, and parents. The final responsibility for selection of materials for the Library Media Center lies with the media specialist.

c. Criteria

In general, media center materials shall be selected for their

strengths, rather than rejected for their weaknesses. The following criteria are used as a guide to provide for informational and recreational needs:

1. Favorable reviews found in standard selection sources;
2. Favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional personnel, adults with special expertise or students;
3. Reputation and significance of the author, producer and publisher;
4. Currency or timeliness of material;
5. Contribution to the breadth and diversity of representative viewpoints on controversial issues;
6. Contribution to multicultural and pluralistic awareness;
7. High degree of potential user appeal;
8. Quality, durability, and variety of format;
9. Suitability of format and appearance for intended use;
10. Value commensurate with cost and/or need; and
11. Freedom from stereotyping (e.g., sexism, racism).

d. Procedures

In selecting materials for purchase, the library media specialist evaluates the existing collection and consults reputable, unbiased, professionally prepared selection aids as well as specialists from all departments and/or all grade levels. In specific areas, the library media specialist follows these procedures:

1. Gift materials are judged by basic selection standards and are accepted or rejected by these standards.
2. Worn or missing standard items are replaced periodically. Out-of-date materials or those no longer useful are withdrawn from the collection in order to maintain the integrity of the collection. The American Library Association recommends that 3 to 5% of materials be weeded annually.