MAHWAH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Building Community. Enriching Lives.

Dear Parent,

On behalf of the Mahwah Public Library, we welcome your child to a new school year! We're excited to support your child's learning and growth, both in and out of the classroom.

The Library offers and a wide range of age-appropriate books, media, programs, homework help, study spaces, and other resources curated to help them succeed. We are proud to be a place where young people can explore, connect, and thrive. With that said, we feel it imperative to remind families that the Library is a community space shared by *everyone*. Please help us by reviewing our Code of Conduct with your child and encouraging appropriate behavior so that all visitors, whether they are studying, working, or relaxing, can feel comfortable and enjoy their time here.

Over the last several years, we have experienced disruptive behavior from unsupervised students after school that negatively impacted other patrons. Inappropriate conduct including loud, disruptive conversation, disrespectful or offensive language, disorderly or violent conduct, inappropriate physical or sexual contact, and misuse of library spaces will not be tolerated. The use of athletic equipment, including sports balls, is not permitted in the Library, or on Library grounds.

We take the following steps in response to violations of the Code of Conduct:

1. We have informal, non-punitive conversations with disruptive children and teens, asking them to find a seat and settle down.
2. We instruct individuals who repeatedly engage in inappropriate or disruptive behavior to leave the Library and grounds for the day. This is also non-punitive, and individuals are free to return the next day.
3. When necessary, we work closely with the Mahwah police and school officials to identify disruptive students so that we may communicate with their parents to resolve ongoing problems.
4. We may temporarily ban individuals who either seriously or repeatedly violate the Code of Conduct.

We also remind you that all minors must be picked up **promptly at closing**, including **5 PM on Fridays**.

We need your help. Please speak with your child about the importance of respecting Library spaces, staff, and fellow visitors. Remind them that different areas—the Children's Room, Teen Room (The Inbetween), and main concourse—are designed for different levels of activity and noise and must be used appropriately. With your assistance, we can ensure the Library remains a safe, welcoming space for everyone.

Sincerely,

Kurt Hadeler
Director

Melanie Bruchet
Assistant Director