



**North Star Academy
Policy: Library Policy
Adopted: June 14, 2012**

Philosophy

The purpose of North Star Academy's (the "School") library media program is to support the School's curriculum, goals and mission.

The School's Board of Directors believes that information literacy skills are the key to success in a competitive world. In accordance with that belief, the School encourages faculty, staff and students to develop and practice their information literacy skills through a variety of resources and an environment that encourages exploration and the open exchange of ideas and information. The School's primary goal for the library media program is to expand the intellectual world of our students through student-centered programs and curriculum that focus on real-world application.

Intellectual Freedom

In order to encourage the open exchange of information and ideas, the School's library media center will provide unrestricted access to developmentally and age appropriate materials that support the School's curricular goals as well as the personal interests of students, faculty and staff.

In addition, the School's media center strongly supports the beliefs identified in the ALA Library Bill of Rights.

Library Objectives

The objectives of the School library are:

- To provide materials that will enrich and support curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, learning styles and maturity levels of the students served;
- To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards;
- To provide a background of information that will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives
- To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking;
- To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our national heritage and the world community;
- To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate to the school community.

Materials Selection and Acquisition

Responsibility

Although the selection and acquisition process involves many members of the school community, administration, faculty, or parents/guardians, the responsibility for coordinating the selection and purchase of all types of school learning tools rests primarily with the professional library staff under the direction of the Principal.

Selection Criteria

Materials selected will be:

- Educationally, emotionally and stylistically appropriate for the recommended level
- Accessible to students of varied abilities
- Appropriate for students with special needs
- Support and be consistent with the curriculum, goals and objectives of the School
- High quality in terms of both factual content and presentation
- Representative of the most current available research on the topic
- Free of bias or stereotype
 - Extra care should be taken to provide materials that deliver a balanced viewpoint free of judgmental language when dealing with material discussing sensitive issues such as religion, social theory or politics.
- Representative of differing viewpoints, especially regarding controversial issues
- Appropriate format, durability and cost for intended use
- Relevant to today's world-reflecting problems, aspirations, attitudes and ideals of a global society
- Reflective of the contribution to our country and our society by many varied groups including (but not limited to) women, minorities and ethnic groups.
- Include works of artistic, historic and literary significance

The Principal and library staff will develop procedures to guide the selection of library materials.

Material Reconsideration

"Despite the care taken to select worthwhile books for student reading and the qualifications of teachers selecting and recommending books, occasional objections to a work will undoubtedly be made. All books are potentially open to criticism in one or more general areas: the treatment of ideologies, of minorities, of love and sex; the use of language not acceptable to some people; the type of illustrations; the private life or political affiliations of the author or, in a few cases, the illustrator." NCTE "The Students Right to Read"

The Principal and library staff will develop procedures to handle situations in which a community member, parent or other library user finds material in the School library objectionable.

Signature:

Trudy Sorenson, Board President

Date