



Oradell Public School District

*Our children,
our hope,
our future*

September 2026

Dear First Grade Families,

Welcome back to another great year in the library! We are excited to tell you about our voluntary reading program for first grade students. First grade students have the opportunity to participate in the Caldecott Program, which is a voluntary reading enrichment program that is based on Caldecott award winning books. The Caldecott Medal is awarded annually to the illustrator of the most distinguished American picture book for children. In addition to gold medal books, we also include the Caldecott Honor books in the program. All the books have been placed on a special shelf in the school library.

Students must select a Caldecott book and read it or have it read to them. The children will then illustrate their favorite part of the story, using any medium they choose – crayons, markers, collage, etc. The artwork should have a caption with the title of the book and the child's name. The attached form should be filled out and returned to the library with the artwork completed on a separate sheet of paper. Additional forms are available in the library. Each piece of artwork will be displayed in the library. Students will receive a button for the first piece of artwork completed and will receive certificates for every fifth book after that.

The program's goal is to introduce first graders to a wide variety of children's literature and the wonderful art of children's picture books. They will be reading many Caldecott books in the library, so students may create their artwork at home based on a book read in school as well. The program will begin on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 and will end on Friday, May 28, 2027. We hope you will read and participate in this program with your child!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us. Happy Reading!

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