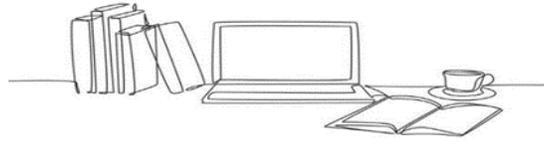


Wilbur Cross High School

The Library Files

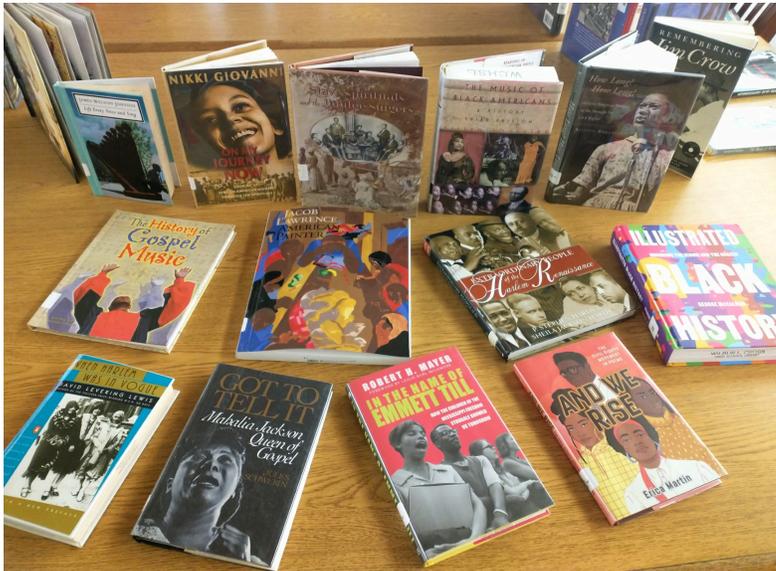


February 2026

Mary M. McMullen, LMS

Cross Library Highlights Black History Month

The Wilbur Cross library is filled with resources to inform students about black history and to honor its rich cultural contribution to the United States. From issues of social injustice, to celebrating music and literature, the library's print collection provides students with the resources to build their knowledge about this important aspect of American history. Anyone wishing to schedule their classes for a library visit please email: mary.mcmullen@new-haven.k12.ct.us



Library Book Circulation on the Rise

This year the Wilbur Cross High School library has seen an exciting increase in students checking out books! Not only are students visiting the library for book check out with their teachers, students are coming to the library on their own to inquire about new books, ask for books to be ordered, and to recommend books to their friends.

While there have been no formal studies to determine the cause for this positive rise in students checking out books, Cross library data is encouraging. So far this academic year there have been 1,415 library books checked out and 315 library books renewed. In the same time frame during the 2023-2024 academic year, there were 723 library books checked out and 67 renewals (Comparable data is not available for 2024-2025.)

WCHS Library Book Club 2026!

The Wilbur Cross library book club is in full swing once again. After receiving a \$500 PTSO mini-grant to buy books, the club's members chose to begin with *Carrie* by Stephen King. They are in the process of choosing a second book, which will be a teen romance. Additionally, they will read copies of *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, donated by the New Haven Festival of Arts & Ideas.

The 12 student members will meet regularly in the library, both for whole group and smaller group discussions. They will also enjoy a private screening of the film adaptation of *Carrie*. In April, the club will gather in the Wilbur Cross library for activities and refreshments to celebrate reading with members of all the district high school book clubs



“I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.”

~ Jorge Luis Borges

Library TAs Create Order Out of Chaos

The Wilbur Cross library is fortunate to have a hard-working group of young people in its corner this year. For the past two years an ambitious “weeding” project has been happening and just when things were starting to fall into place, the library floor was replaced. During that process, the proper arrangement of materials took a big hit. Not to worry though. This ambitious group of young people signed on to not only continue the weeding project, but to restore the library to the best condition it has been in more than 10 years!

The collection is almost thoroughly cleaned out and close to two thirds of the collection is organized as it should be. This may not seem like such an exciting accomplishment to some, but if things aren't where they should be in a library, the library ceases to be useful! With book circulation numbers on the rise, finding materials quickly is especially important. If you come across these young people in your travels, please thank them for their hard work: Mia Figueroa, Brian Leduc, Oscar Marquez, Jailyn Perez, Caritza Rodriguez, and Jamar Williams. (Gratitude is also expressed to Zuilakha Kahn, Cross '25, Lia Arboleda, Jaden Bellanger, Beata Muench-Nasralla, Ninoshka Ruiz, Manny Sampedro, Ren Vazquez and Ms. Sasso for their help with this challenging feat.)



(L) Brian Leduc, Manny Sampedro, and Oscar Marquez sort & shelve books in the 300 section. (R) Caritza Rodriguez, Beata Muench-Nasralla, and Jamar Williams do their fair share of sorting & shelving non-fiction.

The biography & memoir section is just one area that is in tip-top shape since the library TAs have been on the job!

Their work in numbers: So far this year there have been 1,337 items deleted from the library collection and 510 new items added to the library collection!

Visit the Wilbur Cross Library Media Center Website @ crosslmc.webstarts.com

Check out our eBook collection, search the print book catalog, learn about plagiarism & MLA style, access our subscription databases, and MORE!

Your feedback is welcome! Email me at mary.mcmullen@new-haven.k12.ct.us