

# Hawthorne Library

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*Cultivating students' love of reading  
Developing technology, information and media literacy skills*

In **primary** grades, students build familiarity with a wide variety of authors and genres, with a focus on independently locating good quality, well-matched books for pleasure reading and inquiry. Many lessons in primary grades are built around [Monarch Award](#) (Illinois Children's Choice Award for primary grades) nominees. Students will also be learning computer terminology, locating and using letter and number keys on the keyboard, and internet safety. Second semester will see students using tools to build basic coding skills of problem solving and logic.

**Intermediate** students build skills through an additional focus on nonfiction text types and tools to organize information. They become more adept at navigating digital access, particularly through the use of paid databases. At this stage, students are expected to be able to navigate the Hawthorne Library catalog and locate desired books on the shelf independently, as well as access eBooks in our school's collection. Fourth and Fifth graders complete short research projects such as learning about book awards in an effort to know a variety of sources to get "next book" ideas. Intermediate readers are encouraged to read widely using the state's [Bluestem Readers' Choice Award](#) and [Rebecca Caudill Readers' Choice Award](#) nominees through small incentives. Students will continue to build their keyboarding abilities and Google Suite skills, plus we will cover digital citizenship and internet safety. Coding will be a larger focus in the second semester.

In **middle school**, attention is on refining critical thinking skills to access information efficiently, evaluate it for bias and accuracy, and use it ethically. Students are expected to gather information from the best possible sources, organize it effectively, and use proper citations to give credit to those sources. Library tools are resources for History and Science Fair projects. Special media literacy conversations include media/advertising in Sixth grade; understanding the impact of algorithms and avoiding plagiarism in Seventh grade; and conversations about AI and news literacy – particularly tools to spot and stop

the spread of misinformation – in Eighth grade as students become more responsible community citizens. Middle school students are expected to incorporate advanced google suite features in their work and will continue to advance their coding expertise. They are encouraged to read a variety of genres by enjoying books on the current year's [Rebecca Caudill](#) nominee list.

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Students are graded on assignments (50%) and assessments (including projects/ presentations) (50%). Assignments are generally designed to be completed in class and are achievable by all who are present to learn and demonstrate effort.

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Library units are based on **Illinois Standards-Aligned Instruction for Libraries (I-SAIL)** and The **International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)** Standards for students and incorporate:

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
  - American Association of School Library Standards (AASL)
  - Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
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