



Oradell Public School District

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*Our children,
our hope,
our future*

September 2026

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

Welcome back to another great year in the library! This year, fifth graders again have the opportunity to participate in a voluntary reading enrichment program called Newbery Scholars Program. The Newbery Medal is an award given annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. Students will be reading books chosen from a selected list of Newbery Award winner and Honor books. They must then successfully complete a short quiz about the book on their computer in the OPS Library.

Each book is worth a different number of points, as indicated on the 5th grade book list. In order to become a fifth grade Newbery Scholar, the student must earn 75 points. Once a student becomes a Newbery Scholar, they will receive a certificate of achievement and their name will be added to the Newbery plaque, which is on display outside of the library. The students who become Newbery Scholars in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade will receive an award in June of their graduation year.

The Newbery Scholars Program is intended to introduce students to a wide variety of children's literature and to develop literature skills and understanding. Although participation in the program is voluntary, I hope that you will encourage your child to take part. In order to reach 75 points, students are encouraged to work steadily over the school year, rather than try to catch up with points during the last month of school. The program will begin on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 and will end on Friday, May 28, 2027.

A list of Newbery Award and Honor books that are included in this year's program can be found on the OPS library website. Please note that we are using a new company to conduct our quizzes this year, so our fifth grade Newbery reading list has been updated accordingly. The books that are included in the Newbery Scholars program are available in the school library and the Oradell Public Library.

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

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