



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are **very excited** to announce the kick off of our “**Library Cards for All**” initiative. West Allegheny School District, in collaboration with Western Allegheny Community Library, is one of only two school districts in the county (and a handful across the state) to pilot this program. Effective today, *every* student in West A has been issued a free public library card that provides students with access to all of our physical and electronic materials and services. Even if students can’t physically make it to the library, they will always have online access to the research and homework help they need, 24/7!

Included in this letter, we’ve provided answers to some Frequently Asked Questions. Please be sure to take a look and if you have any additional questions, we’d be happy to answer those as well.

Why should my child have a library card?

Educational research supports:

- Children who have library cards and use the library perform better in school;
- Children who use the library are more likely to continue to use the library, setting the stage for lifelong learning;
- Public library staff help students learn how to perform age-appropriate internet searches, online tutoring, and utilize web-based resources for homework help using free, public access computers;
- A library card is the most important school supply of all.

What if my child already had a library card?

If your child already had a library card, that’s okay. This new card has been linked to their previously existing account. Either card will allow access to our collection.

What if my child had fines or fees on their old account?

Western Allegheny Community Library has waived **ALL** previously accrued fines and fees associated with student accounts. However, moving forward, account holders will be responsible for the timely return of all materials. When you visit the library next, please provide a phone number and/or email address, and we will happily provide you with automated reminders regarding upcoming due dates.

What if my child checks out a book but we can't get it to the library right away?

No problem! Simply have your child return the book to the school. Elementary students should return materials to their school library and WAMS and WAHS students should return items to the office.

What if my child loses his/her library card?

We have incorporated student ID numbers into our system, so if a student comes to the library without a card, they may still access materials.

What comes with this library card?

This one card opens up a world of possibilities for your child, providing access to both physical and electronic resources that can be used for school, work, or pleasure. This includes access to:

- Desktop computers with MS Office and other creative software as well as high-speed internet and Wi-Fi;
- Printers (with up to 5 pages of free printing for homework assignments);
- Scan, Copy, Email, & Fax;
- Quiet study/tutor rooms;
- Online resources and research tools;
- Books, magazines, audio books, board games, DVDs, music, and video games;
- Library programs;
- An array of technology or unique items for checkout, including learning manipulatives, snap circuits, PBS Kids tablets, Kindles, Ozobot kits, and so much more.

We encourage you to stop by with your child and explore everything we have to offer! Also, please note, the school district has an afterschool bus that, with a pass, will bring your child from the Middle and High Schools directly to the bottom of our driveway.

We look forward to seeing you. In the meantime, feel free to give us a call at 724-695-8150 or email us at westallegheny@einetnetwork.net with any questions you may have. We're your library too, and we're here to help!

Here's to a happy and healthy 2022!

Sincerely,



Amy McDonald
Library Director