

St. Bartholomew School Library
The Basic Menu
Served for 2017-2018

The school library opened for business on September 26, 2017 and closed for the year on May 30, 2018. Except for a two and one-half week period during the time of standardized testing, the library was open to students and teachers at least two days each week.

My sincere thanks are extended to Patricia Whipkey and Kathleen Palmer, who were instrumental in helping me provide services to the students in the school library.

This year, students visited the library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Classes came every week except for grade 8 and the pre-k classes, which were scheduled alternating weeks. Toward the end of the 2016-2017 school year, we had begun to check two books out to each student. This year, we made that practice official. Students were read a story, a chapter or a poem each week, then had an opportunity to check out books.

In order to promote books in the collection, we created topical displays each month. Some of the topics highlighted were: Black history, women's history, poetry, holidays, etc. We now have a separate cart to spotlight these displays.

During the time the library was closed for testing, I was able to visit the classrooms of the pre-k through fourth grade classes and bring poetry to them. My 'twin' sister also came to school in the beginning of June to introduce the students in the lower grades to this year's summer reading challenge, "Reading Takes You Everywhere." Again, we are encouraging students to keep up 'the reading habit' and continue to read (or be read to) for at least 20 minutes a day for 40 days over the summer. In September, there will be prizes and surprises for the students that do this.

133 students participated in the 2017 reading challenge. We hope to have more participation this summer!

In order to remain current in the library field, I attended meetings of the New Jersey Library Association, the New Jersey Association of School Librarians, the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children. I also reviewed children's and teen books for the Catholic Library Association's journal, *Catholic Library World*.

On an educational level, I received my recertification in the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training program.

During the school year, as I continued to learn more about particular students' reading interests, I was able to recommend specific titles to them. I am often sent advance reading copies (ARCs) of books soon to be published. I shared an ARC of a science fiction title with a seventh grader who really enjoyed it. I passed on the information to the publisher and she sent me an autographed copy of the finished book to give to our student!

One fun note I received from a student, to whom I had recommended a title, read this way: "Dear Mrs. Phillips, I didn't like the book. I LOVED it. It was AMAZING. It was a little sad." Another note I received from a parent thanked me and mentioned how the books her daughter had checked out really helped her child's reading confidence to grow. How nice to hear!

Additional Library Tasty Tidbits:

573 new items were added to the collection during the school year.
755 more items circulated this year than last year.
316 titles were reserved.
501 items were renewed.

72 items were deleted from the collection.
3,657 searches were made from the desk computer.
An additional 11,426 searches were initiated on the student search computer in the library or from mobile devices outside of the library.

"Pokemon" was the most frequently searched subject in the library catalog.
"Minecraft" was a close second.
"Wonder," "Captain Underpants," and "The Book That Eats People" were other hot items!

Here is the library's four-year overview:

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
Holdings	3281 items	4001 items	4675 items	5248 items
Circulation of Items	3936 circs.	6065 circs.	5832 circs.	6587 circs.
Reading Incentive Participation	119 students	106 students	130 students	133 students

I am looking forward to another exciting year coming up!!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol K. Phillips, Librarian
July 4, 2018