

PEMBROKE PINES CHARTER SCHOOLS
ACADEMIC VILLAGE CAMPUS
MEDIA CENTER
2014-2015 School Year

Dear Parents:

Pembroke Pines Charter Schools Academic Village Campus entered into a partnership with the Broward County Library system to provide library services to the students. What makes this unique is the Southwest Regional Library, located on the Academic Village Campus, is also your child's media center while they are in school. We are very pleased to offer better access to information; we would like to point out that there are differences in the types and variety of materials available to your child in a public library compared to what is available in a traditional school media center. Your child may use the public library to select materials for classroom assignments along with materials for pleasure reading and entertainment. Books, eBooks, DVDs and CDs are some of the types of resources available to them for loan. They also have access to the Internet through computers located in the library. Your child must have a library card in order to check out materials and to use the computers.

When your child applied for a library card to check out materials, a parent's signature was required on the application agreeing to the following terms: "I agree to pay any fines or other charges imposed for late return, loss, damage or mutilation of library material. As all library materials will be available to this child, I assume the responsibility of monitoring the child's library and Internet use." As stated in the last sentence, you as a parent are responsible for what your child checks out and accesses from the library. The materials at this library were selected for the entire Broward County population based on established collection development criteria. It is possible that your child may check out materials that you feel are inappropriate for him or her.

It is not the responsibility of the public library staff to decide what a child may or may not check out from the library. The staff works from the Library Bill of Rights which states that a person's right to use the library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views and a library should provide books and other resources for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. It further states a library's responsibility is to provide information and enlightenment. The Broward County Public Library staff fully believes in the Library Bill of Rights and its ideas.

As a parent you may have concerns about which materials your child can check out. If you would like to restrict the materials your child may check out, you do have an option of placing a "soft block" on your child's library card. The form is available at the circulation desk in the library. Please talk to your child about what materials you feel comfortable in letting them check out. You may want to take this time to speak with your child concerning what they read, watch, and listen to, including Internet sites.

When your child comes to the library with a class assignment to check out reading material, I as the school's media specialist will suggest appropriate books and Internet sites. A library orientation for incoming students will be conducted at the beginning of the school year. The rules for Internet and library use will be reviewed. During the school day students are under the jurisdiction of the Acceptable Use Policy from the School Board of Broward County, which prohibits students from going to inappropriate web sites. They are also under the jurisdiction of the Broward County Libraries Division Customer Code of Conduct, a copy is of which is provided to students during library orientation. If I see a student on an inappropriate web site or exhibiting disruptive behavior, the student will be referred for disciplinary action.

Thank you for your time and interest in reading this letter. Should you have any comments or need to speak to me, please call during school time at (954) 538-3700, ext. 2262 or e-mail me at joltmans@pinescharter.net.

Respectfully,

Judi Oltmans
Media Specialist