

“Storytelling is the oldest form of education.”

St. Vincent de Paul School Library FAQ

Dear Parents,

I am thrilled to serve your child as librarian here at St. Vincent’s! My passion is connecting kids with stories that nourish their learning—about themselves, their goals, their purpose, their world, and all people around them.

The objective here in the library is to inspire students to become eager lifelong readers and independent library users, and that students come to nurture a love of books, reading, and information that is uniquely theirs, cultivated by their own personal interests, curiosity and talents.

Our library is open to each student and staff member to support curriculum and learning needs and serves as an enjoyable space for both independent and collaborative work for students and teachers.

[Mrs. Kim Lyngen](#)

How many books can my child check out?

For preschool classes, a handful of books are checked out to the teachers and the books remain in the preschool classroom for students to enjoy.

For grades K-1, students may check out one book at a time.

For grade 2, students may check out one book until midway through the year when the focus becomes finding chapter books in addition to the nonfiction, reference, or *Where’s Waldo* type game books young children find so appealing.

For grades 3 and above, students may check out as many books as they can reasonably read within a 2-week period. Books can be renewed 3 times. Materials checked out for projects or reports do not count toward their book limit.

Should you ever have a question about what your child is checking out, or would like him/her to find something specific, please don’t hesitate to [contact me](#).

When are books due?

Books are returned upon your child’s next library visit. If students forgets to bring their book back, they may find a book to put “on hold”. They’ll receive a reminder notice and if they bring back the forgotten materials the next day, he/she can check out the book they put on hold. Hold books not picked up are returned to the shelves after two days.

Overdue notices are sent home once a month. If after six weeks an item hasn’t been returned, it will be declared as lost and require payment for replacing it in the library collection.

Do you have an online catalog?

You can access our [online catalog](#) from any Internet-connected computer. It is also available on our school’s website [school day/specialists/library](#). Here you can search for books in our library and help your child if they need certain books!

“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”

—Albert Einstein

What do students do when they visit the library?

During the first 15-20 minutes of the visit, there are a variety of activities I’ll do: **read a story aloud, lead an activity, book talk new or especially noteworthy books, and demonstrate how to find and use resources.**

During the second half of the period, **students browse for books, check out their materials and spend quiet time reading their books.**

I encourage students to engage in their curiosity, imagination, and a “give it a try” approach to discover books that they’ll enjoy. We focus on reading for enjoyment rather than “learning to read”, and allow students to choose books based on their interests, but within a reasonable age level. Particularly for the younger kids, if they check out books that are beyond their reading level, I’ll assume someone older will read the stories to them—a wonderful experience no matter how old the child!

When does my child visit the library?

Grades K-5 visit the library once a cycle for 30 minutes.

All students are welcomed and encouraged to visit the library whenever it is okay with their teacher.

K McCaffrey	Day 4
K Burke	Day 1
1 Dawson	Day 1
1 Ruzynski	Day 1
2 Folger	Day 1
2 McDowell	Day 2
3 Capistrant	Day 1
3 Schlicksup	Day 5
4 Hare	Day 5
4 Kain	Day 1
5 Englund	Most Tuesdays
5 Hausmann	Most Tuesdays
Grades 6-8	During any free time, as directed by teacher and/or for class projects and research.
Preschool	Thursdays and Fridays

What about lost or damaged books?

It happens to all of us at some point! For lost or damaged books, we ask that you pay to replace the item. Please note that the payment covers not only the lost/damaged book, but also the cataloging records and processing materials needed for library items.

Does the school library accept book donations?

Yes, we’d love to accept gently used items!! If, however, the library already has copies of the donated titles we will offer the books to classroom teachers and/or donate the items to another school or Goodwill. If you would like a letter/receipt for tax purposes, [let me know](#) and I can provide that.

Are there any reading programs that can encourage my child to read?

We participate in the state-wide [Maud Hart Lovelace](#) program for students in grades 3-8. Every year 12 books are nominated and students who read at least 3 of these by April are able to vote for their favorite book and are invited to a donut breakfast in the library when the winning title is revealed!

A similar program for K-2 students, the [Star of the North](#) award, nominates 10 picture books. I read these books to students throughout the year and they too get to vote for their favorite story. In April, chocolate chip cookies are served to celebrate the winning title!

Please encourage your child to enjoy and take care of our library materials and return them for more. And whenever possible, please enjoy the library books WITH your children. As author and publisher Emilie Buchwald reminds us,

“Children are made readers in the laps of their parents”.

I look forward to helping your child become a critical thinker, enthusiastic reader, and skillful researcher!