

August 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Worth Public Library wants to welcome you back for the 2020-2021 school year. We know these are difficult times, and that you had a difficult decision to make regarding sending your children back to school. We want to wish you the very best this year.

At this time, due to COVID-19, the library is offering limited services. The Youth Services Department looks very different, and for now there will be changes to what has been available to youth and their families in the past. Listed below are some of these changes, as well as what we are able to offer you at this time. We want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Changes to the department:

- There is no seating available at this time. Study tables will not be in use. The library has a capacity limit, so patrons will be limited in the amount of time they are able to spend at the library. In order to accommodate the most people as possible, patrons are encouraged to spend only a short amount of time looking for materials, picking up crafts, etc.
- Computers will be available for youth after the school year begins. Computer time will be limited to 45 minutes. More information on how to reserve a computer, and the date they will become available will be forthcoming. Please do not send your child to use a computer at the library until you receive information on how the reservation system will work.
- There are no toys or tablets available at this time.
- There will be no in-person programs at this time.

Youth Services Available:

- Patrons are able to come inside the library to look for and check out books and DVDs.
- There will be virtual programs for youth posted on our website and Facebook page each month.
- At times, crafts will be available for pickup.
- Youth will be able to participate in a fall reading program online.
- Many online resources are available on our website.
- Computers will become available for youth soon after the school year begins. Again, please wait for more information about the reservation system before sending your child to the library.

We are keeping the youth department as safe and sanitized as possible at all times, but we cannot guarantee any child's safety or health, as we are a public building. Please take time to carefully consider if you want to send your older child to the library without an adult. Any child under the age of 9, must be accompanied by someone age 17 or older. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 2.

For safety reasons, and as seating is not available and time is limited, children will not be able to remain inside or outside the library while waiting to be picked up after school or otherwise. Any child entering the library should be there for library activities only (checking out books or DVDs, picking up crafts, using a computer after a reservation is made, etc.). As noted in our

Unattended Child Policy, “the library should not be used as a daycare center for children of any age, nor should it be used as an alternative shelter for children”.

We will do our very best to stay in communication with the Worth School District and the individual schools to keep you updated on information regarding the library. Our policies and details about our services are always available for you to view on our website at [www.worthlibrary.com](http://www.worthlibrary.com). Patrons are encouraged to attend library board meetings if they have any concerns over library policies. If you have any questions about youth services or programs, please feel free to contact us by email at [ysreg@worthlibrary.com](mailto:ysreg@worthlibrary.com), or by phone at 708-448-2855 x3.

Stay safe and healthy, and have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Pawlarczyk

Head of Youth Services

Worth Public Library