

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Rapid City Area Schools has purchased an online eBook subscription service through Overdrive. This service will allow students to access eBooks at school and at home at no charge, using virtually any eReader or tablet. The students will have a username and password to access Overdrive. Although students will be able to see all titles, they will only have access to titles appropriate for their age range. Elementary will have access to Juvenile titles, Middle school will have access to young adult and high school will have access to all levels, including some adult titles. These book titles have been selected by our Library Media / Information Media Specialists using the same process they use to select books for their physical collections.

High schools have had access to eBooks through our Destiny/Follett library software for the past few years. With the subscription to Overdrive, we are now able to gain access to more titles using more devices. You may be aware that the public library also uses Overdrive to allow eBook checkouts via your public library card. But the school version allows us to categorize and restrict titles by age groups to provide the most appropriate reading material for students.

RCAS Administrators and Librarians are excited about this venture. We believe that many of our digitally savvy students already are familiar with Overdrive and that this implementation will model our commitment to 21st Century learning. In school, librarians and teachers will use instruction to introduce the system. They will also point to age specific books for the different levels. However, we are reminding families who are new to this process, especially families with elementary students, to take a look at this. In the physical library setting, librarians and teachers are there in person to help children. Online, these children often need assistance and guidance. Although grade school students only have access to Juvenile titles, there is a difference between what a 1st grader and a 5th grader should select.

Instructions on installing the Overdrive app on tablets, phones, or computers can be found on our website at <http://public.rcas.org/Pages/LibrarianResources.aspx>.

Again, this is a great opportunity for additional access to literature inside and outside of school for our students. Rapid City Area Schools continues to work to move our libraries into 21st Century. While the bulk of our collections will remain physical books, it is essential that we keep up-to-date with technology and information resources. The more choices we give our students, the better they become at making choices.