



# Day in the Life

In Helios' middle school, students have one 30-minute library period per week. Students may engage in some or all of the following during that time:

**Quiet Reading:** Students have the option to read quietly to themselves, or to engage in quiet conversations with classmates.

**Chess:** We have a giant chess set conveniently located right outside the library. Students who don't want to read quietly to themselves often head out to the blacktop for a collaborative game of chess.

**Volunteer Work:** Middle School students have the option to volunteer in the library, both during their scheduled library class and during recess periods. In the past, students have added these volunteer hours to their high school applications; some of them also genuinely enjoy reshelving books!

**Open Library:** Students have time to browse library shelves and check out books. This allows kids to follow their curiosity and also to discover new areas of interest. Students are coached on how to find books and how to use the checkout system.

In addition to their classroom library period, all students have open access to the library during **snack and lunch recess** periods on Monday-Wednesday and Friday.

Students are exposed to research skills through **Passion Projects** in their homerooms. The Library supports individual students at their request or at the request of homeroom teachers.



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## Essential Skills

If your student is prepared to successfully participate in their homeroom class, they possess the skills necessary for Library. Because they visit only briefly each week, Library serves to reinforce existing skill sets:

- Basic classroom etiquette
- Digital skills necessary to use the library
- Practical/analog skills:
  - How to locate specific books in the library
  - How to find books on a particular topic
  - Research skills related to their Passion Projects
- Executive functioning skills:
  - Keeping track of checked-out books
  - Returning books in a timely manner



# Parental Involvement

Parent support *at home*:

- Staying aware of your student's check-outs. Please see Libib 101 (coming soon) for information on how to access your student's circulation information.
- Helping your student return books to school.
- Support your student in filling out their birthday book recommendation and participating in other Library events and initiatives.

Unlike many other Helios programs, the Library has several opportunities for parent involvement! Parent volunteers are welcomed in our classrooms for special events! See the opportunities on the next two pages!

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IS A GOOD  
DAY TO  
LEARN.



# Parental Involvement

Parent support opportunities on campus (LiveScan screening required):

***Classroom library volunteers*** come for a specific class' library period, and assist with tasks like these:

- Reading stories to students
- Supporting classroom management
- Helping students locate and check out books
- Leading the body break

***Recess library volunteers*** come for a specific snack or lunch recess period, and assist with tasks like these:

- Helping students locate and check out books
- Reshelving books
- Supervising students in the library

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# Parental Involvement

Parent support opportunities on campus (LiveScan screening required):

***Behind-the-scenes library volunteers*** come while there are no students in the library, and assist with tasks like these:

- Checking in books
- Reshelving books
- Book inventory
- Cataloguing and labeling new books

***Event library volunteers*** assist with one-off items like author visits, winter story time, April's poetry jam, etc. Tasks vary based on the event.

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# Any Questions?

Have a question that's not addressed here?

Please email [librarian@heliosschool.org](mailto:librarian@heliosschool.org) and I'll do my best to get you an answer!



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