



What's New in the Media Center?

Electronic Materials Galore!

Dear Parents,

Now more than ever, electronic materials are of the utmost importance in our school. The media center at MBMS is striving to incorporate new electronic materials into our available resources to better serve our students.

Electronic materials include a wide variety of formats and differ from traditional library materials in that they are not physical, concrete resources such as books, maps, magazines or pamphlets. With electronic materials, the information is stored electronically and requires a device to display or communicate the information (Lamb). Examples of popular electronic materials in libraries include CDs, DVDs, CD-ROMs, the internet, E-books, content rich websites, electronic databases, webquests, virtual field trips and interactive websites.

Electronic devices have become an integral way of life

for young adults. They rely heavily on their cell phones, iPods, computers, etc. to socialize AND gather information. Offering electronic materials provides the information students are looking for in a format they are excited about and familiar with.

While many think students are simply “messing around” on the web, a study at Duke University found otherwise. According to the study, college freshman ranked using library web guides and databases in the top 3 of things they do online (Lubans).

Children and adults both agree that electronic materials allow them to find sources that are more reliable and saves them time. By offering more electronic materials, our media center strives to support our students by helping them navigate through the wealth of information available.

I can not live without books
- Thomas Jefferson

*Here is where people,
One frequently finds,
Lower their voices
And raise their minds
— Richard Armour*

Take a Closer Look at the New Electronic Materials MBMS's Media Center had added:

Electronic Databases:

An electronic database is similar to what most adults remember as an encyclopedia. However, the information in an electronic database can be easily accessed because the computer can retrieve the information quickly by pulling information from magazines, newspapers, reference books, websites, images, maps and primary documents based on a key word search. In addition, there are a wide variety of databases for various grade levels, so students at MBMS can read information that is

written at the appropriate reading level for their age group. Another tremendous benefit of utilizing electronic databases is that students have access to general information as well as specific information related to school subject areas.



Student Favorites

Database - [CultureGrams](#)

7th graders have been exploring the cultures of the world in social studies class. The students have enjoyed using *CultureGrams*, a database full of information about countries and cultures of the world. Students have been reading information written by natives from a variety of countries, have viewed slide-shows, created graphs and tables, calculated time, distance and currency for each country and have even tried recipes from all over the world by using this database!

Pathfinder - [The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle](#)

8th graders who read the [True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle](#) in Language Arts this year had a blast learning more about the characters, events, and setting by utilizing this pathfinder which was recently added to our collection. Students were intrigued with the [Life of a Sailor](#) section where they explored online videos about climbing the rigging of a ship, and tying nautical knots. Many students found the [Book Help](#), [Research Help](#) and [Project Ideas](#) sections very useful both during reading and when creating final projects for class.

WebQuest - [Washington, D.C. Travel Itinerary](#)

As many 8th grade students prepare for their 3 day trip to Washington, D.C., they have become engrossed in this webquest as they create a travel itinerary outlining attractions they want to visit on their trip. Students have discovered there is a lot more to do in our nation's capital than they ever expected. They are having a difficult time deciding which monuments, memorials and attractions are worthy of making it onto the itinerary and which will have to wait until next time!

Pathfinders

A pathfinder is a resource that is geared towards a classroom unit of study. It compiles a selection of print and non-print sources including books, magazines, websites, videos, even community resources and acts as a starting point for students to learn more about a topic. Pathfinders guide students through the "information highway" and help them understand that information is available in

many forms from many types of sources, including people right here in our community! Pathfinders are created by librarians, teachers, and sometimes even students!



WebQuests

A webquest is an internet activity that encourages problem-solving. During a webquest, students are provided with a task or a problem to solve, a process to follow as they attempt to complete the task, and links to resources that will be helpful in completing their task. In many cases, students work in teams, an increasingly important skill, and are evaluated both dur-

ing at the end of the webquest. Webquests are extremely beneficial because they motivate students, allow students to work with up-to-date resources on the internet, and encourage higher level thinking. Students have enjoyed webquests on many topics so far this year including Democracy, Rock the Vote, Shakespeare, Space, Washington, D.C. and Baseball Predictions.

Works Cited:

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