

Mountain View Public Library Summer Learning Programs

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The City of Mountain View Public Library's mission is to be *"the information center for our diverse community providing a dynamic place to share resources and ideas, to find joy in reading and to experience the power of lifelong learning."* We offer free access to a wide range of materials including books, DVDs, CD and , magazines., We can also borrow materials from other libraries for you. About 2,500 to 3,000 of you visit us each day and check out nearly 5,000 items per day, so we are a busy community resource!

In addition to our physical collections, we provide 24/7 virtual access to ebooks, research databases, language learning tools, homework help, and test preparation materials. We offer a wide range of classes and programs for all ages including baby story times, preschool reading readiness, parenting workshops, an ESL conversation club, and a large variety of educational and creative programs for adults and teens. Our Mobile Library makes weekly visits to schools, senior living complexes, childcare centers and corporate campuses.

Advancing Summer and Year-Long Learning - Collaboration between the School District and the Library on Student Learning Goals

The **City of Mountain View Public Library** contributes in multiple ways to help students retain their academic skills with its summer and year-long programs.

- The Library encourages school leaders and teachers, including from the Middle Schools, to have their classes visit the Library for book recommendation programs and research instruction. Most classes that visit the Library are from the kindergarten-2nd grades.
- Local schools can hold a staff meeting at the Library. In that way, the teachers, many of whom live elsewhere, see what the Library has to offer. A Library leader could use part of the meeting agenda to discuss ways the Library can reinforce their goals for students.
- Middle school students participate as readers and volunteers at the annual **Reading Day**.
- The Library's **Mobile Library** regularly visits Crittenden, Stevenson/Theuerkauf, Monta Loma and Castro. Library Staff on the Mobile and in the main library help students with assignments and in finding books that meet particular reading needs. The Library purchases books to support the curriculum and recreational reading. A trend to monitor is that teachers seem to require fewer research assignments. Students assume wrongly that a Google search is research.
- The School District sends out promotional flyers on Library programs and events.

Library Hosted Summer Reading Motivation Program – [Summer Reading](#)

The Library's largest initiative is to encourage summer reading. If kids read—anything -- their skills will improve in multiple areas, not just in reading. The Library works with the school district to promote the

reading program through flyers that are sent to students' electronically. Teachers are encouraged to help kids sign up and record books beginning May 1. The reading program promotion starts before school lets out, so that kids can get the muscle memory (with the help of teachers) of signing up, logging back in, recording books and even writing reviews if they choose to. The library is really about encouraging a love of reading and learning informally. We want kids to choose what they want to read and learn about and find it enjoyable. Too often they equate reading and learning with work, something they have to do. Learning something new is empowering and joyful and we want them to experience that.

Summer 2015: 2000 Students Participated in Reading Program

Last year over 2000 participants recorded reading almost 20,000 books. Participants included preschoolers through high school students and parents of preschoolers reading aloud to them. The Library captures a participating student's school and grade level and number of books read, but not other information such as demographic or socio-economic status. The Library does not track the level of books read, as we encourage the student to choose the books they want to read, rather than tell them what is good for them. The Library recommends books according to their level based on what they tell us they enjoy; most requests for recommendations come from younger elementary school kids. Anecdotally, kids (with parents in tow) often choose books above their grade level with parent coaching. Teens want to read dystopian novels and their parents want them to read things that are gentler and less edgy!

Reading Goals and Incentives

Independent readers set their own goal and get a brand new paperback chosen from hundreds of titles for reaching/exceeding their goal. This year they will get two books: 1 for signing up and 1 for reaching their goal.

Library-Based Enrichment Sessions and Programs

The Library provides short enrichment sessions and programs, and parents are expected to be at the Library with their children. These sessions are not like a summer school or summer camp. The library does not conduct classes that last all summer.

This summer, the Library will offer two week-long **Money Math sessions**. They are taught and organized by volunteers for students entering grades 2-4 who are struggling with math. Library volunteers teach **coding classes** all year round, including during the summer. These are usually 3-4 Saturday afternoons in a row with online activities for practice in-between.

Thursday Afternoon Educational Events

The Library features educational special events on Thursday afternoons. They feature music, live animals, magic, creative dramatics and more. Parents are expected to be present and enjoy sharing a fun experience with their children. We host weekly special hands-on craft or wellness programs for teens and musical concerts with recording artists for families.

Reading Enrichment Programs

The Library has a reading enrichment program for entering 2-3 graders called **ReadQuest**. It involves reading, writing, speaking and drawing. A **monthly book club** attracts Tweens, who are entering 4th – 6th grades.

Free E-Resources for learning and Tutoring Help

The Library offers free e-resources for kids with Library Cards. Kids can find out what they need help with by taking a skills test on a subject they select through **BrainFuse**. They can then work with a tutor through a computer at the Library or at home to improve their skills. Another resource is called **Learning Express**, and it has practice tests for SAT, PSAT and other standardized tests.

Support for the Mountain View “View” Teen Center

The Library gives new hardcover books to the “View” teen center for teens to check out on an honor charge basis. These books are typically gifts to the Library, and we want to get the books to as many students as possible.

Summer Learning Programs – Include Visits to the Library

The Library encourages summer and rec program providers to schedule visits to the Library for their participants. The Library can offer sessions discussing recommended books or on how to do research.