

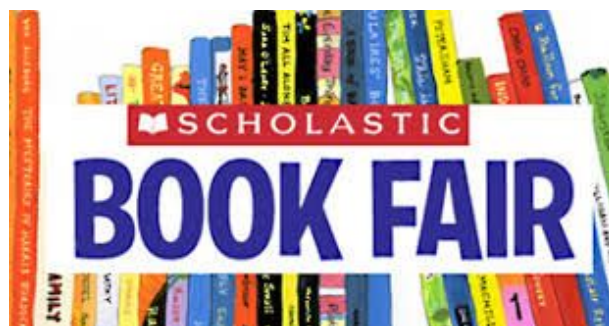
## WHAT IS THE BLUESTEM PROGRAM?



The Bluestem Program is a voluntary reading program sponsored by the Monroe Center Library. It is an Illinois "Children's Choice Award" list of 20 books by 20 different authors nominated by students in grades 3-5. The list always includes a variety of genres. In March, students will vote for their favorite Bluestem title. The author with the most votes statewide wins the Bluestem award for the year.

At Monroe Center Library, students who chose to participate in this reading program can earn **PRIZES** by reading books from the list. *(See your student's separate Bluestem handout for this year's list and prize details.)*

- Students can acquire copies at MC Library, Julia Hull public library, Byron Public library, or ERead digital copies.
- Students must pass an AR quiz on each title to receive the prize for reading it.
- Prizes are distributed during class library time



**The library will be  
hosting a Scholastic  
Book Fair during  
parent/teacher  
conferences. Please  
mark your calendars  
for the following dates:**

**WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 3RD  
and  
WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 10TH**

**Give the gift of  
reading to your  
student!**



## **Monroe Center Library**

**Meridian CUSD#223**



**Mrs. Brooks - District Librarian**  
[dbrooks@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:dbrooks@mail.meridian223.org)

**Ext. 3330**

**Ms. Mahoney - MC Library Assistant**  
[pmahoney@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:pmahoney@mail.meridian223.org)

**Ext. 3331**

### **HOURS**



**8:00am - 3:00pm**

**Students will visit the library weekly  
with their class, but they can also  
visit during open time slots**

*"You can find magic wherever you  
look. Sit back and relax, all you  
need is a book."*

*~ Dr. Suess*

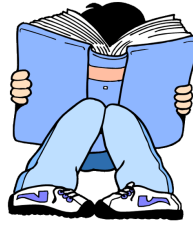
## Welcome to the MC Library

1. Please sit in the designated story area while the librarian is reading a story. .
2. Use shelf markers while selecting books so books are returned to their proper spots.
3. Books can be checked out for **two weeks**.
4. Each student may have **up to two books** checked out at a time. *(Three if you also need a Spanish title)*
5. Students may **renew** a book **twice**. (Bluestems can not be renewed unless there is a another copy available at the time)
6. There is a **three day grace period** on late books, after that there is a **5-cent per day fine** for overdue books. If a student renews a book that is overdue, the student will still owe a fine.
7. **Bluestem** program: 20 books – read for prizes. **Read all 20 for pizza party in the library!**
8. Books checked out to students are assumed to be in good condition. If a book is returned **damaged**, the student will be **charged accordingly**. (See Student Handbook)
9. If a book is lost or damaged, please **do not purchase a replacement**. We order from companies that have special library binding. We will notify you of the replacement cost.
11. **Computers** are for **school related** work or activities only.
12. **No, GUM, CANDY, FOOD OR DRINKS** in the library.
13. Please **be considerate and respectful** of others while in the library.

HAPPY READING!  
READERS ARE LEADERS!



## WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO AT THE LIBRARY??



- Enjoy weekly storytime
- Find **AWESOME** stories to read independently!
- Discover a favorite author
- Learn more about a topic of interest
- Self-teach a new skill like drawing or sign language
  - Take AR quizzes
  - Use computers for school-related work
  - Research for projects
  - Collect Bluestem prizes
  - Recommend new titles

***\*We are here to help you in any way possible!!***

## 10 Benefits of Reading

1. Kids who read often and widely get better at it.
2. Reading exercises our brains
3. Reading improves concentration
4. Reading teaches us about the world around us.
5. Reading improves vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills
6. Reading develops imagination
7. Reading helps us develop empathy
8. Those who read do better at school
9. Reading is a great form of entertainment
10. Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind

