The A+ Partners in Education™ initiative between Howard County Library and the Howard County Public School System is designed to promote scholarship, eliminate student achievement gaps, and expand academic opportunities for students.
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Why Book an A+ Class from the Library?

- Assist your PTA/PTSA in communicating with parents.
- Provide classes relevant to parents of elementary, middle, and high school students.
- Increase parental awareness of Howard County Library resources designed to assist students academically.
- Familiarize parents with Library research databases and online homework help resources.
- Strengthen the connection among school, parents, students, and the Library.
- All Library classes are available free of charge.

Special Events
Library staff can provide classes, book displays, library cards, and other relevant resources at your school’s next special event, such as:

- Reading night
- Math night
- Science fair orientation
- Back to school night
- PTA presentations
- College night
**PTA Classes**
available October 2008 - May 2009

Parents: To schedule a class for a PTA-sponsored evening or meeting, or for more information, contact Rita Snyder three weeks in advance at 410.880.5910 or rita.snyder@hclibrary.org.

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**TEACHING NEW READERS**
The Library can assist beginning readers with numerous levels of “easy reader” and multimedia aids designed to foster reading skills in children. 30-45 minutes; grades K-2, ESL students.

**MULTICULTURAL MEDLEY**
Students will sample cultures of the world through stories, songs, and activities. Alternatively, choose one of the following topics: Africa, North America or Native America, South America, Asia, Australia, Europe. 45 minutes; grades 1-5.

**BOOKS GALORE**
Give your students a shot of reading inspiration with tempting talks on books, authors, and series. Emphasis placed on newly published books. 30 minutes; grades 3-5.

**ONLINE TOOLS: HOMEWORK & SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS (TECHNOLOGY)**
Staff introduce tools for homework and science fair projects. Topics include accessing the Library’s e-resources, searching the Library’s catalog, and choosing credible web sites. Staff address AskUsNow, Learning Express, and Live Homework Help information, as well as history day resources. 45 minutes; grades 4-5.

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**WHEN SCHEDULING A CLASS...**

Please provide the following information:

1. Title (e.g., Recommended Reads)
2. School name
3. Grade and number of students
4. Location (class, media center, other)
5. Preferred dates (1st, 2nd, 3rd choices)
6. Preferred times (e.g., 10 am or 1:30 pm)
7. Your name and title
8. Preferred method of communication (phone number or email address) and best times to reach you.
9. Any special considerations or requests

*Please call with the above information or use the online form available at hclibrary.org on the teachers’ page.*

Request all classes at least three weeks in advance. Please have several date/time options available. A faculty member must be present during the class. Classes may be adapted for the needs of ESOL and special education students and groups. Programs are intended for one pod-sized or classroom group. See page 5 for elementary schools and page 8 for middle and schools for whom to contact for planning.
CONTESTS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
GRADES 6 - 12
more information at hclibrary.org

DEBATE TOURNAMENT
Students who complete Debate Class are invited to demonstrate their critical thinking skills at a competitive speech tournament.

LAW DAY: MOCK TRIALS
Classes are invited to demonstrate their critical thinking skills by participating in a mock trial during Law Day.

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY TEEN IDOL
Sponsored by Friends of Howard County Library
Students develop vocal talent, compose an oral presentation that expresses personal ideas, and learn to communicate creatively and effectively as they compete to become the next countywide singing sensation.

SHERLOCK HOLMES ESSAY CONTEST
Sponsored by Watson’s Tin Box and Barnes and Noble of Ellicott City
Seventh grade students increase their understanding of the literary forms of mystery and suspense as they read and respond to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s “The Speckled Band.”

PTA CLASSES
available October 2008 - May 2009

HOMWORK AND RESEARCH REMEDIES
Is your student about to start a research project or in need of homework help? Discover the Library’s free electronic resources. Topic demonstrations (see below) can be combined.
Grades 6-8, 9-12.

LIVE HOMEWORK HELP
Free, qualified tutors work with students in real time for assistance with math, English, science, and social studies, seven days a week via hclibrary.org. Also available in Spanish. Joint partnership initiative of Howard County Public School System and Howard County Library. 15 minutes.

SCIENCE FAIR STARTERS
Students identify information from various media that can generate meaningful scientific questions, design experimental approaches, and compare new data with previously discovered results. 45 minutes.

HISTORY DAY: HOW TO BEGIN
Students identify resources to formulate historical questions; access historical data including primary source material, secondary source material, and graphic organizers; and learn to identify the author or source of an historical document or narrative. 45 minutes.
PTA Classes
available October 2008 - May 2009

Homework and Research Remedies (continued)

AskUsNow
Get answers from a librarian 24 hours a day, seven
days a week. Also available in Spanish. 15 minutes.

Research Databases
Learn how to access reliable, accurate information from
electronically published reference books, magazines,
and newspaper articles through the Library’s online
subscription information databases. 15 minutes.

Standardized Test Preparation
Students identify resources for strengthening academic and
test-taking skills needed to improve scores on familiar
standardized tests such as the MSA, SAT, AP, and
ASVAB. Includes sample tests. 45 minutes.

Recommended Reads
Students develop a positive reading attitude and cultivate a
personal interest in a variety of genres. Library staff can promote
a specific subject area, especially great summer reads.
Length determined by need; grades 6-8, 9-12.

Cyber Safety and Civility
Students develop an awareness of how online behavior affects
the lives of their peers and their own personal safety. Students
also identify responsible online behaviors and the skills to address
potentially unhealthy online situations. 45 minutes; grades 6-8,

Contest and Educational Opportunities
Grades K - 8
more information at hclibrary.org

Howard County Library Spelling Bee
Classroom and school bees for students in grades 4 though 8
are to be held November through January. Winners advance to
the Library’s regional bee on March 14, 2009. The winner of
the regional bee will compete in the National Spelling Bee in
Washington, DC. The Howard County Spelling Bee is organized
under the rules of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

BumbleBee
The BumbleBee prepares first, second, and third graders for the
Howard County Library Spelling Bee. The Library provides
suggested guidelines, lists of suggested words, and book lists.
The winners will be recognized at the Howard County Library
Spelling Bee.

Battle of the Books
Coordinated by Howard County Library and the Howard County
Public School System
Battle of the Books, a reading competition for fifth graders,
engages students who love to read. Teams read a total of 16 books
each. During the competition, the moderator asks questions
about the books. Each member of the winning team, as well as the
second and third place teams, will receive a prize.
The Game is Afoot!
Students become familiar with the literary forms of mystery and suspense as they explore a Sherlock Homes mystery. Students also receive an introduction to the Sherlock Holmes Essay Contest. 45 minutes; grade 7.

Recommended Reads
Students develop a positive reading attitude and cultivate a personal interest in a variety of genres. Library staff can promote the subject area of your choice, especially great summer reads. Length determined by need.

Standardized Test Preparation
Students identify resources for strengthening academic and test-taking skills needed to improve scores on familiar standardized tests such as the MSA, SAT, AP, and ASVAB. Includes sample tests. 45 minutes.

Stories 101: More Than Just Reading the Words
Students learn the value of reading aloud to preschoolers and how to motivate emerging readers through the use of books, props, and music. Students also learn about Library resources that support emerging readers and their educators. 50 minutes; grades 9-12.
STORIES GALORE/GUEST READERS
Students learn that reading is fun as Library instructors read new tales and old favorites. Teachers may request a particular theme. 30 minutes; grades pre-K-3.

MULTICULTURAL MEDLEY
Students sample cultures of the world through stories, songs, and activities. Alternatively, choose one of the following topics: Africa, North America or Native America, South America, Asia, Australia, Europe. 45 minutes; grades 1-5.

KINDNESS COUNTS (Choose Civility)
Character education is enhanced through a variety of stories and activities. 30 minutes; grade 2.

ONCE UPON A FAIRY TALE (LANGUAGE ARTS)
Students identify and discuss characteristics of both traditional and fractured fairy tales, through stories and activities. 45-60 minutes; grades 2-3.

BOOKS GALORE
Give your students a shot of reading inspiration with tempting talks on books, authors, and series. Emphasis placed on newly published books. 30 minutes; grades 3-5.

CYBER SAFETY AND CIVILITY
Students develop an awareness of how their online behaviors affect the lives of their peers and their own personal safety. Students also identify responsible online behaviors and the skills to address potentially unhealthy online situations. 45 minutes. Prepared in cooperation with Netsmartz.org.

DEBATE
Students develop and practice critical thinking techniques, such as logic, analysis, questioning, evaluation, and summarization, to argue a point of view. Students who complete this class are invited to compete in a Debate Tournament (page 14). 45 minutes.

ESOL EXPERIENCE
Students develop language learning strategies and listening, speaking, language, and literacy skills through high interest, English language Library materials. Students practice existing skills using Library materials in their home languages. Materials can be checked out from your classroom, or arrange a tour of your designated Library branch. Length determined by need.

EVERYDAY ENGINEERING
Students investigate and explore STEM concepts such as force, tension, and compression as they construct scale model structures from household materials. 45 minutes; grades 6-8.

FOLKLORE AND MYTHOLOGY: TRIVIA TRIALS
Students demonstrate knowledge of world folklore and mythology by competing in a themed trivia competition. 45 minutes; grades 6-8.
For Middle & High Schools
available October 2008 - April 2009
for grades 6-8; 9-12 unless otherwise noted

Research Remedies (continued)

Introducing the Big6
Library staff introduce students to the Big6™ research
process model, with particular emphasis on Information
Seeking Strategies and Location and Access. 45 minutes

Literature Criticism: Supporting your Argument
Students learn to locate and collect information related
to the critical study of published authors and their work.
45 minutes.

Science Fair Starters
Students identify information in books, periodicals, and
subscription databases that can be used to generate meaningful
scientific questions, design experimental approaches, and com-
pare new data with previously discovered results. 45 minutes.

Special Request
Collaborate with Library staff to assist students in locating and
collecting information related to specific class assignments.
45 minutes.

Book Clubs
Students demonstrate the ability to identify and explain an author’s
use of literary devices such as plot, setting, and characterization,
as they determine the critical or central ideas of a text. Length
determined by need.

For Elementary Schools
available October 2008 - April 2009

Chesapeake Choices (Life and Environmental Science)
Students are encouraged to “Think Green” as they play the
Chesapeake Choices Jeopardy game. Students will learn new
vocabulary, explore the Library’s science resources, and discover
how to make good environmental choices. A perfect Earth Day or
green classroom activity. 60 minutes; grades 3-5.

Online Tools: Homework & Science Fair Projects
(technology)
Students introduced to online tools for homework and science
fair projects. Topics may include accessing the Library’s online
resources, searching the Library’s catalog, and choosing credible
web sites. Teachers may request AskUsNow, Learning Express,
and Live Homework Help information, as well as science fair
projects and history day resources. 45 minutes; grades 4-5.

Spirit of America (Social Studies)
Students test their knowledge of people, places, and events as
they play a game. Students also inspired by short talks on related
fiction and nonfiction books. Teachers may choose Maryland,
Colonial America, or the American Revolution. 60 minutes; grade
4-5.
Teachers: If you have questions or want to schedule a class, please call or email the appropriate person listed below.

CENTRAL LIBRARY
Maggie Smith  410.313.7870  margaret.smith@hclibrary.org
Clarksville MS  Lime Kiln MS  Harpers Choice MS
Wilde Lake MS  Atholton HS  River Hill HS
Wilde Lake HS

EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH
Rachel Reznick  410.313.7711  rachel.reznick@hclibrary.org
Cradlerock School  Oakland Mills MS  App. & Research Lab
Homewood Center  Oakland Mills HS

ELKRIDGE BRANCH
Annie Dash  410.313.5087  annie.dash@hclibrary.org
Bonnie Branch MS  Elkridge Landing MS  Mayfield Woods MS
Howard HS  Long Reach HS

GLENSWOOD BRANCH
Lee Farrell  410.313.5583  lee.farrell@hclibrary.org
Folly Quarter MS  Glenwood MS  Mount View MS
Glenelg HS  Marriotts Ridge HS

MILLER BRANCH
Courtney Gardinier  410.313.1964  courtney.gardinier@hclibrary.org
Burleigh Manor MS  Dunklin MS  Ellicott Mills MS
Patapsco MS  Centennial HS  Mt. Hebron HS

SAVAGE BRANCH
John Jewitt  410.880.5983  john.jewitt@hclibrary.org
Hammond MS  Murray Hill MS  Patuxent Valley MS
Hammond HS  Reservoir HS

FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS
available October 2008 - April 2009
for grades 6-8; 9-12 unless otherwise noted

RESEARCH REMEDIES
Students learn to locate and collect information to meet an identified need; generate search terms and strategies; and identify the author or source of information. Choose one or more of the following prepared presentations, or work with Library instructors to meet the specific needs of your students.

Career Explorations
Students learn to locate and collect career information, including job descriptions, salary expectations, and required educational achievement or training. 45 minutes.

Live Homework Help
Students learn to access free homework support from trained educators via Howard County Library’s web site. 15 minutes.

History Day: How to Begin
Students identify resources to formulate historical questions; access historical data including primary source material, secondary source material, and graphic organizers; and learn to identify the author or source of an historical document or narrative. 45 minutes.

Information Literacy
Students develop skills to evaluate the quality and authority of information, and to determine the most appropriate resources to meet an identified need. Students become familiar with the methods for locating reliable information. 45 minutes.