



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baldwin Public Library now offers all area students Library Cards

BIRMINGHAM, MI (March 18, 2021) As of March 15, the Board, staff and administration of the Baldwin Public Library are pleased to announce that any student attending school in Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms or the City of Bloomfield Hills will now qualify to receive a Library Card at the Baldwin Public Library. With this step, any student in the Library's service communities will have the same opportunity to access Library resources to assist with classroom learning inside and outside of school.

Digital resources include research databases, newspapers, Mango Language learning, BrainFuse Tutoring, Tumblebooks, and Scholastic Teachables, among others. These will act as an extension of the resources available from Birmingham Public Schools. Previously, students who attend Birmingham Public Schools, but who do not live in the Baldwin Public Library service area needed a card from their home community library, which meant varied access to an assortment of electronic resources. By offering all students a Baldwin Public Library card, the question of whether a student can access a specific resource is eliminated.

Stephanie Klimmek, Head of Youth Services, is proud of this decision. "I'm very excited that all students can now access all of our print and digital resources. BPS students will also be able to place holds on items for district programs like Battle of the Books and Birbery which is wonderful. Libraries are invaluable tools for students of all ages as print and digital literacy helps students academically, emotionally, and socially. There are many resources available from the Library but nothing compares to the joy that children, teens, and adults get when they find a story that speaks to them. Librarians are lucky because we get to form special connections with people through stories and we love reaching out to all people, but Youth Librarians have a special place in their hearts for serving children and teens and now we get to serve them in an even greater capacity."

Baldwin staff members currently work closely with Birmingham Public Schools staff, providing support and materials, as well as programs for students. With these new student cards, the hope is that students will be able to access Library resources individually as needed, and not just during regular school hours.

Library Director Rebekah Craft is excited about this new offering. "A top priority of the Library is ensuring that everyone in our service area has access to our materials, including all students who attend Birmingham Schools. We want to help equip BPS teachers with the many Library resources we have available to students. We also want to make it as easy as possible for teachers and students in every classroom to use Library resources for school work."

To acquire a BPL card, students and their parent or guardian will need to apply for a card at <https://www.baldwinlib.org/get-library-card/> and collect their card from BPL, which is located at 300 W. Merrill St. in downtown Birmingham.

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