August 13, 2019

Dear Parents of Madison Middle School Students,

Madison is blessed with some very nice children who need a safe, supervised place to "hang out" and to "kill time" after school. However, as the 2013-14 school-year experience clearly demonstrated, that place is not the Public Library.

Despite additional staff to supervise the building and a variety of programs to occupy children, their numbers, activity levels and noise in the library after school were severely limiting the ability of others to use the Library as intended. Therefore, in order to maintain the facilities and staff for their intended purposes, the Board of Trustees enacted the following policies:

**Children attending high school are permitted in the Library without adult supervision and are expected to abide by the same behavior guidelines as adults.**

**Children not yet attending high school are not permitted in the Library unless accompanied by a parent or adult caregiver (over 18 years old).**

**Children from the age of 6 to those attending 9th grade may attend a Library program without a parent present in the Library under the following conditions:**

- A permission slip signed by a parent or legal guardian for the specific day and program is submitted when the child arrives for the program.
- The child arrives to attend the program no more than 10 minutes before it begins.
- A parent or responsible adult is present to meet the child at the end of the program.
- A child using inappropriate behavior will be informed of the rules. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be asked to leave the Library.

We recognize that some children are more mature and better behaved than others. We also realize most children are better behaved as individuals than in a group. However, it is apparent that Library staff cannot be responsible for sorting out and overseeing these children while trying to perform their intended duties. Meanwhile other Library patrons, including many parents, have been appalled at the atmosphere created when children are permitted to "hang out" at the Library after school.

Therefore, we respectfully request parents make alternative plans for their children's after school care. If a child needs Library resources for a research project or other assignment, please make arrangements for a responsible adult to accompany him or her during the visit and Library staff will be happy to assist in locating the needed information or materials.

Respectfully,

DeeAnna Culbertson, Director

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