

The School District of Hernando County, Florida

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Learn it. Love it. Live it.

July 22, 2022

Parents,

You may be aware that, throughout the state, public school districts are receiving questions about certain books that may be available in school media centers. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to this concern and to invite parents to find out more about their student's school media center.

Let me begin by acknowledging that several books containing mature content were found in a few of our schools. School administrators followed the district's current book reconsideration process and the recommendations of their school-based media committee regarding those books. In most of the cases, media records indicated the books had never been checked out by students.

Our media center staff are vital advocates in promoting literacy and encouraging students to be lifelong readers and they do that by creating welcoming, print-rich centers that offer a wide array of books from which to choose. To help ensure media staff have the resources to appropriately maintain, update and remove outdated materials, we have committed to hiring five district media specialists to assist in regular media reviews throughout the year.

In addition, it is important to share with parents that each of our schools makes their library easily searchable online. The search tool is called Alexandria and it can be found on the school's media center webpage located under the Information tab. Parents can also submit a form if they wish to bring a book to the attention of the school principal. A school committee will review each form and make an appropriate determination about the book.

I would like to thank you for your attention and if you have further questions, please share those with us using our Let's Talk! option under "Contact Us" on the website. We appreciate your feedback.

John Stratton
Superintendent