



Mary Beth McNally

Library

Mrs. McNally has been the St. Thomas Librarian since 1991. She has a Master's Degree in Library Science.

The library has over 7,000 titles in its collection, which students can search using an automated library catalog program. Circulation is also automated. All library computers have internet access, allowing the students to use the Palatine Public Library catalog and resources, look up Lexile scores, and successfully research classroom assignments.

About the Students

"I think students enjoy sharing a love of good books and reading. They all enjoy having great stories read aloud to them. I strongly encourage the children to read at least 20 minutes each day. Practice makes perfect! No tests in library! Since the children aren't graded on library skills, there is a bit less pressure. They can indulge themselves in the pursuit of whatever interests them."

On St. Thomas of Villanova

"I love the fact that I get to see all the students, pre-school through 8th grade. I can watch their interests and abilities change and grow over the years."

"I try to teach the children how to find what they need, when they need it, whether it is an age-appropriate book or a reliable website."



Grade Level Curriculum Highlights

- **K-2nd:** Students begin the process that leads to independent library use. They learn how to locate, select, check out, and care for borrowed books, as well as basic book terms and concepts. They also transition from picture books to easy readers and beginning chapter books. Students learn the difference between fiction and nonfiction and the basic arrangement of both. First and second grade students expand their reading to include short biography and longer fiction titles, and are eligible to participate in the Monarch Book Award program, an Illinois Children's Choice Award.

- **3rd-5th:** Students continue to enjoy fiction, nonfiction and biographies. They are introduced to Dewey arrangement of nonfiction and the online catalog. Students learn to use the Big 6 information problem-solving process, as well as print and digital reference tools. They explore a wide variety of literature genres and are eligible to participate in the Bluestem Book Award program, an Illinois Children's Choice Award.

- **6th-8th:** Students review and reinforce all library skills as needed to complete classroom assignments and pursue individual interests. Students in 6th grade and above may select titles from the Young Adult collection and participate in the Rebecca Caudill Young Reader Book Award program.

Projects Related to Our Faith

- Students begin each library class with a prayer
- Books are collected and displayed to reflect the seasons of the Church and the Sacraments received by our students.

All School Activities

- Book Fairs
- Summer Reader T-Shirt Day
- Monarch, Bluestem and Caudill Award programs
- Scholastic Bowl