

Ideas for Encouraging the Return of Overdue Books and Library/Media Center Materials



Sometimes verbal reminders, notes home and even overdue notices with listed fines/replacement costs are not enough to prompt students and parents to return overdue materials. Here are some additional ideas for getting materials back.

1. Phone Home!

Ask your student if they have an answering machine at home. If so, have them use the media center telephone, call themselves, and leave themselves a message. "Susie, this is Susie. Find your library book and bring it back tomorrow!"

2. Amnesty Day

If you charge fines for overdue materials, you may want to have an occasional "Amnesty Day". Students can return materials with no questions asked.

3. A note for students who are graduating from High School:

A senior! Wow! Graduation! If you want to walk at graduation, you need to return the books/materials listed below. Can't find the book? The replacement cost is _____.

Thanks and Congratulations!

4. Wanted! Posters

Create a "Wanted! Fugitive Books" poster that lists the titles of overdue and missing books and other media center materials. The "reward" can be reinstatement of borrowing privileges, waiver of overdue fines, etc. A "bounty" of a small treat can be given to siblings who find and return missing or overdue materials.