

4-1-2020

Georgia Library Spotlight - Winder Elementary School Media Center

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Recommended Citation

Privette, T. (2020). Georgia Library Spotlight - Winder Elementary School Media Center. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 57(2). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol57/iss2/6>

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Winder Elementary School Media Center

Create! Communicate! Collaborate! While these are buzzwords in education, they are also the mantra of the Winder Elementary School (WES) Media Center. The media center is a learning commons where all students learn in a variety of ways. From the MOID classes to gifted classes, all students are included. The media center promotes literacy and learning.

Each school year begins by allowing students to explore and experience learning that is active and not always quiet. Pokémon Go gave the media center the inspiration for themed scavenger hunts to help teach students about the different areas in the library. QR codes and Flipgrid allow students to blend technology and learn media center rules in a fun and interactive way.

The makerspace encourages students to think outside the box and be responsible for their own learning. The media center requires students to use the Design Process and develop a plan before they begin creating. There are also many exploratory STEM-based learning stations. Students often use the Lego Challenge cards to stretch their creative powers as they work to build something new. Card games are a

quiet way to motivate students to read detailed directions and then work with peers to follow them in a fun, engaging way.

While the littles are eager to try new things, the older students sometimes need a bit more motivation. This year, the media center integrated a badging program: WES Ninja

Warrior Challenge. Students choose from a variety of challenges including creating avatars, using YouTube to build something in the makerspace, coding, creating videos in the production room, engineering projects, and trying new genres of reading. Students proudly wear the badges they have earned on their library card lanyards.

Throughout the year, the media center engages students with exciting schoolwide literacy competitions. In October, the media center holds the Trick-or-Treat

Reading Challenge. Classes compete to see who can read the most minutes and books. In January, the media center hosted the Reading Super Bowl with cross-grade leveled teams that earn points while meeting reading requirements. In the spring, the media center sponsored a two week Read-a-thon.

The media center encourages students to write as well as read. The Blog Board (a large whiteboard) displays student's thoughts regarding various topics. The media center also



utilizes a mailbox in the shape of a school bus, hosting a variety of contests to encourage students to write the media center and put their submissions in the mailbox. For example, the media center celebrated Picture Book Month in November by having students read picture books and enter written summaries for prizes.

Student voice is a driving force! In addition to the daily excitement, the media center has many special programs. SPED Pre-K and toddler siblings attend a monthly story time. MOID

classes come weekly for interactive literature experiences. The gifted students published books and created data-driven book orders for the library. To promote language arts and history, classes participate in Escape Room and Living History reenactments.

There is always something new and exciting in the WES Media Center where everyone creates, communicates, and collaborates! To learn more visit the website at <https://www.barrow.k12.ga.us/schools/wes/services/media-center>