

# Sherburne Memorial Library

2998 River Road, Killington VT 05751 / 802-422-9765

Dear Parents,

The Sherburne Memorial Library welcomes youth patronage, and strives to preserve an atmosphere of safety and respect among all patrons. Parents should be aware that by allowing their child to get off the bus at the library they are agreeing:

- Their child or children will be respectful and follow the rules set by the library trustees for behavior within the building.
- Children must be at least 9 years of age to be in the library unattended. Children under the age of 9 must have a parent or guardian over the age of 16 with them at all times.
- Any child that is at the library without a parent or guardian is considered "unattended." This means that our staff is not responsible for their safety or behavior while they are on library property.
- Children are expected to follow library rules, and although we provide a safe environment, we are not responsible for supervising the children.

In recent years, we have seen both inside and outside injuries increase, and some children have left the property altogether. For this reason, the Board of Trustees feels that it is important for parents to understand that the parent, not the library staff, are ultimately responsible for their child's safety and behavior. Beginning in the fall, parents who allow their child to get off the bus at the library will need to sign a waiver stating that they understand the "unattended child policy," and provide up to date contact information should an emergency occur. The policy and waiver can be found on our website [www.sherburnelibrary.org](http://www.sherburnelibrary.org) or you can pick up a copy of each at the library.

- If your child will be getting off the bus at the library on a consistent basis, we will need this information no later than September 8.
- If your child will be spending more than one hour here unattended, please consider sending a snack. Please send a snack specifically for your child.
- Please refrain from bringing snacks for a crowd as it can cause disruptions and may be a danger for those with food allergies.
- If your child chooses to spend time outside after school and gets wet, either from weather or from playing in the stream, they will not be allowed to come back inside the library. If, during the winter months, they wear snow gear and can remove it responsibly, they will be allowed to come back inside the building.
- Children who exhibit disruptive behavior at the library will be asked to leave the library immediately. A parent or guardian will be called and the child will be asked to wait outside to be picked up. If the disruptive behavior continues, we may ask that the child take a break from the library for a designated period of time.

We hope to encourage legitimate use of the library as a community resource while maintaining a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all patrons. We thank you in advance for your assistance in this endeavor.

Jane Ramos, Library Director

Melissa Knipes, Children's Librarian

Nancy Sherman, Chair, Board of Trustees