



Peoria Public Library and Peoria Public Schools join forces to promote Media Literacy

Peoria Public Library and Peoria Public Schools announced a new partnership to teach media literacy to all ages during national Media Literacy Week (Oct. 25-29).

This summer, Illinois became the first state in the nation to require high schools to teach media literacy, beginning in the 2022- '23 school year. But, in advance of that requirement, Peoria Public Library and Peoria Public Schools are announcing year-round programs beginning this month designed to help all ages become wise consumers in our media-saturated world.

“Helping people find accurate, comprehensive information is what librarians have always done,” said Peoria Public Library Executive Director Randall Yelverton. “But, in today’s world, with the lightning spread of fake news, we have to do more than wait for people to come to us. That’s why we are announcing media literacy programming for all ages – from grade schoolers to seniors – which we will offer year-round.”

Beginning this month, Peoria Public Library will work in conjunction with Peoria Public Schools to advance the district’s current media literacy instruction, as well as offer programming that will complement the Media Literacy Act curriculum beginning next year.

“We know media and information literacy skills are more important than ever,” said Peoria Public Schools Superintendent Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat. “Not only is media literacy needed for traditional news outlets, such as newspapers, radio and television, but increasingly in digital mediums, social media platforms and the many video-based medium that our young people encounter on their phones. Checking the veracity of information published to these mediums and verifying each one’s accuracy will be crucial for our students now and in their futures.”

Illinois is the first state to make media literacy education mandatory for high schoolers, beginning next school year. Working together now -- in advance of the new curriculum -- as well as offering programs for younger students will help our community become more discerning digital citizens.

Yelverton noted that the library is working with trusted nonprofits focused on media literacy instruction, including the Center for News Literacy and the Freedom Forum among others. The library will also offer this media literacy programming to local nonprofits. Peoria’s Boys & Girls Club has already expressed interest in partnering.

“It’s one of the greatest ironies of this century that while the amount of information available to us increases exponentially, our ability to discern what is bad information gets worse,” Yelverton said. “We must get better at recognizing misinformation. That’s where we – libraries and librarians – can help.”

For more information on Media Literacy and Peoria Public Library’s programs, visit

<https://peoriapubliclibrary.org/information-literacy/>