

Home School User Guide North Tonawanda Public Library Resources

How to use this guide: Listed below are subjects that need to be covered according to the home school guidelines for NYS. If you have any questions, please refer to your local Home School organization.

At the North Tonawanda Public Library and throughout the NIOGA system, we have many free resources for your children. We have organized them according to subject. Each subject shows where to look on the shelves for books, a short list of few books (there are many more), some free databases that the library provides for citizens of Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee Counties, websites that have free things to help your kids learn, and some ideas for activities. Because middle schoolers are moving from children's books to adult resources, they are likely to find information that's useful to them in both the children's room and the regular nonfiction section. For easier material in the adult section, look for books with a 'YA' label.

Here are some great databases provided by NIOGA for your kids to use (Please access these databases by visiting nioga.org and then clicking on the [databases link](#) on the left-hand side). **Britannica School and Gale in Context: Middle School have information for all parts of the curriculum**, even though we haven't included them in every list:

[Britannica School](#): Has separate sections for elementary, middle, and high school kids with games, art projects, and more to make learning fun. It also has lesson plans for adults to use with kids!

[Britannica Escolar](#): Tiene secciones distintas para niños de primaria, secundaria, y preparatoria con juegos, proyectos de arte, y más para hacer divertido el aprender. También tiene planes de lecciones que los adultos pueden usar con los niños.

[Gale in Context: Middle School](#): Created specifically for middle-schoolers, it contains age-appropriate videos, newspapers, magazines, primary sources, and much more. Students will find outstanding support to complete assignments in core subjects including literature, science, social studies, and history.

[Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints](#): Perfect for reports and looking into current hot topics, it contains contextual information and opinions on hundreds of social issues. It features continuously updated viewpoint articles, topic overviews, full-text magazines, academic journals, news articles, primary source documents, statistics, images, videos, audio files and links to vetted websites organized into a user-friendly portal experience.

[Novelist Plus](#): Find book recommendations here. You can search by a variety of factors, including age level, lexile level, things you like in books (plot, characters, tone, etc), and author/title read-alikes.

7 th and 8 th Grade	
Patriotism and Citizenship	
Library Area	Non-fiction: J320-J324.973; 320-325.73
Books	<p><i>Drawing the Vote: An Illustrated Guide to Voting in America</i> by Tommy Jenkins—AGN 324.6097 Jenk (found in the graphic novel section)</p> <p><i>Give Us the Vote: Over 200 Years of Fighting for the Ballot</i> by Susan Goldman Rubin—J324.6209 Rubi</p> <p><i>The Handy American Government Answer Book</i> by Gina Misiroglu—320.473 Misi</p> <p><i>Open Borders: The Science and Ethics of Immigration</i> by Bryan Caplan and Zach Weinersmith—AGN 320 Caplan (found in the graphic novel section)</p> <p><i>The Politics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained</i> by DK—320.01 Poli</p>

	<p><i>Suffragette: The Battle for Equality</i> by David Roberts—J324.623 Robe</p> <p><i>Votes of Confidence: A Young Person’s Guide to American Elections</i> by Jeff Fleischer—324.6097 Flei</p> <p><i>When You Grow Up To Vote: How Our Government Works For You</i> by Eleanor Roosevelt – J324.973 Roos</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Gale in Context: Middle School –Topics-American Government</p> <p>Kids.gov : https://kids.usa.gov/teens/index.html</p> <p>National Archives-America’s Founding Documents: https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs</p> <p>National Archives Docs Teach-Rights in America: https://www.docsteach.org/topics/rights</p>
Activities	<p>Most towns have a night court OR scheduled Board of Education meetings - try to go for a visit.</p> <p>Pick an issue of interest and then write one of your elected officials with your view. You usually get a letter back.</p> <p>Watch a State of the Union address and then talk about what it was about.</p>
Health and Substance Abuse	
Library Area	Non-fiction: J610-J618, J641.5-J641.8653; 610-618, 641.-641.8654
Books	<p><i>Alcohol</i> by Andrea C. Nakaya—362.292 Naka</p> <p><i>The Boy’s Body Book: Everything You Need to Know for a Healthy, Happy YOU!</i> By Kelli Dunham—J613.0423 Dunh</p> <p><i>The Care & Keeping of You: The Body Book for Girls</i> by Valorie Lee Schaefer—J613.0424 Schae</p> <p><i>The Complete Baking Book for Young Chefs</i> by America’s Test Kitchen—J641.71 Comp</p> <p><i>Understanding Drugs</i> by Renae Gilles—J613.8 Gill</p> <p><i>United Tastes of America: An Atlas of Food Facts & Recipes From Every State!</i> by Gabrielle Langholtz—J641.5973 Lang</p> <p><i>Yoga For Your Mind and Body: A Teenage Practice For a Healthy, Balanced Life</i> by Rebecca Rissman—613.7046 Riss</p> <p><i>You Are Enough: Your Guide to Body Image and Eating Disorder Recovery</i> by Jen Petro-Roy—616.8526 Petr</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Gale in Context-Opposing Viewpoints: Through the NIOGA databases pages</p> <p>Kids health: kidshealth.org</p> <p>NIDA For Teens - National Institute on Drug Abuse: teens.drugabuse.gov/teachers</p>
Activities	<p>There are many science experiments that showcase the negative effects of smoking – here is one: https://www.csun.edu/science/activities/pressure/breathing/Smoking%20Bottle.pdf</p> <p>Make an anti-drug skit or play</p> <p>Encourage your child to ask their pediatrician honest questions about drugs, alcohol, vaping, and cigarettes</p>
Highway Safety and Traffic Regulations (Including Bike Safety)	
Library Area	Non-fiction: J613.6, J796.6, 796.6
Books	<p><i>Goodbye Days</i> by Jeff Zentner—YA Fic Zentner</p> <p><i>Whirligig</i> by Paul Fleischman—YA Fic Fleischman</p>

Databases & Websites	NHTSA (Kids and Bicycle Safety): http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/bike/kidsandbikesafetyweb CDC BAM! Body and Mind: http://www.cdc.gov/bam/activity/cards/bicycling.html
Activities	Create a poster/video to teach younger children about bicycle safety.
Fire and Arson Prevention and Safety	
Library Area	Non-fiction: J628.92-J628.9259; individual fires in 900s
Books	<i>Big Top Burning: The Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and the Greatest Show on Earth</i> by Laura Woollett—J974.6304 Wool <i>Fighting Fire! Ten of the Deadliest Fires in American History and How We Fought Them</i> by Michael Cooper—J628.925 <i>The Great Chicago Fire: All is Not Lost</i> by Steven Otfinoski—J977.311 Otfi <i>I Survived the Great Chicago Fire</i> by Lauren Tarshis—J Fic Tarshis
Databases & Websites	(Guide to Fire Safety – Grades 6 to 8) http://kidshealth.org/classroom/6to8/personal/safety/fire_safety.pdf
Activities	Create a poster/video to teach younger children about fire safety. Fire episode of Bill Nye the Science Guy
English	
Library Area	Non-fiction: J800s, 800s, 011-016
Books	Writing: <i>Barron's Painless Writing</i> by Jeffrey Strausser—808.042 Stra <i>Dear Ally, How Do You Write a Book?</i> By Ally Carter—808.02 Cart <i>Image & Imagination: Ideas and Inspiration for Teen Writers</i> by Nick Healy and Kristen McCurry—808 Heal <i>The Infographic Guide to Grammar</i> by Jara Kern—425 Kern <i>MLA Handbook</i> by Modern Language Association of America—808.027 Mla <i>Neon Words: 10 Brilliant Ways to Light Up Your Writing</i> by Marge Pellegrino and Kay Sather—J808.02 Pell Reading: <i>101 Outstanding Graphic Novels</i> by Stephen Weiner—016.7414 Wein <i>1,000 Books to Read Before You Die</i> by James Mustich—011.73 Must <i>Book Crush</i> by Nancy Pearl—Parenting Collection, J028.55 Pear <i>Book of Books</i> by Jessica Allen—016.8088 Book
Databases & Websites	BBC Learning English – https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/basic-grammar NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/ Teen Ink: www.teenink.com/ Libby and Hoopla (both apps available free with your library card) Novelist
Activities	Participate in a teen poetry slam

	<p>Create a small writer's circle where you exchange works and comment on each other's writing</p> <p>Volunteer to read aloud to seniors at a local nursing home</p> <p>Create a book club</p>
History and Geography	
Library Area	World History: 900s, J900s US History: J973, 973 NYS History: J974.7, 974.7
Books	<p>USA history (at least once during grades 1-8)</p> <p><i>Don't Know Much About History</i> by Kenneth Davis—973 Davi</p> <p><i>A History of US: War, Peace, and All That Jazz</i> by Joy Hakim—J973.91 Haki</p> <p><i>Lies My Teacher Told Me</i> by James W. Loewen —973 Loew</p> <p><i>Smithsonian American Women: Women's history from the National Collection</i> by Victoria Pope—305.4097</p> <p><i>We Are Americans: Voices of the Immigrant Experience</i> by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler—J304.873 Hoob</p> <p>*We also have books on specific significant events like the Civil War, Great Depression, and more.</p> <p>NYS history (at least once during grades 1-8)</p> <p><i>New York</i> by Craig Doherty—J974.702 Dohe</p> <p><i>New York State: Gateway to America: An Illustrated History</i> by David Ellis and Sherri Goldstein Cash—974.7 Elli</p> <p>Constitution (at least once during grades 1-8)</p> <p><i>CQ's Guide to the U.S. Constitution</i> by Ralph Mitchell—Reference 342.73 Mitch</p> <p><i>What is the Constitution?</i> by Patricia Brennan Demuth—J342.7302 Demu</p> <p><i>Words That Built a Nation: A Young Person's Collection of Historic American Documents</i> by Marilyn Miller—J973 Mill</p> <p>World History</p> <p><i>Hark! A Vagrant</i> by Kate Beaton—Adult Graphic Novels 741.5971 Beat</p> <p><i>History at a Glance: Illustrated Time Lines From Prehistory to the Present Day</i> by National Geographic—909 Nati</p> <p><i>Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History</i> by Vashti Harrison—J920 Harr</p> <p><i>Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "the Children's Ship"</i> by Deborah Heiligman—940.5429 Heil</p>

Databases & Websites	NYS History http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/new-york NYS History Museum Online Portal for Educational Resources and Activities- http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/resources Congress for Kids https://kids-clerk.house.gov/middle-school/ Docs Teach: The Constitution: https://www.docsteach.org/topics/constitution
Activities	Pretend you are a revolutionary that just won independence and create your constitution Visit Old Fort Niagara Create a timeline of American history complete with drawings and pictures
Science	
Library Area	Nonfiction: J500-509, J520-599, 500-509, 520-599
Books	<p>Biology and Earth Science</p> <p><i>All in a Drop: How Antony Van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World</i> by Lori Alexander—JB Leeuwenhoek</p> <p><i>The Atlas of Climate Change</i> by Kristin Dow and Thomas Downing—551.6 Dow</p> <p><i>Backyard biology: Discover the Life Cycles and Adaptations Outside Your Door With Hands-On Science Activities</i> by Donna Latham—J574 Lath</p> <p><i>Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species (Young Reader's Edition)</i> by Rebecca Stefoff—576.82 Steff</p> <p><i>Earth Shattering Events</i> by Robin Jacobs—J551 Jaco</p> <p><i>Human Body!</i> by Anna Claybourne—J612 Huma</p> <p><i>Scholastic Atlas of Weather</i> by Scholastic Reference—J551.6 Scho</p> <p>Chemistry</p> <p><i>The Disappearing Spoon: and Other True Tale of Rivalry, Adventure, and the History of the World From the Periodic Table of the Elements (young reader's ed.)</i> by Sam Kean—546 Kean</p> <p><i>The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe</i> by Theodore Gray—546 Gray</p> <p><i>Kitchen Chemistry: Cool Crystals, Rockin' Reactions, and Magical Mixtures</i> by Cynthia Light Brown—J540.78 Brow</p> <p><i>Science Project Ideas About Kitchen Chemistry</i> by Robert Gardner—540.78 Gard</p> <p>Physics</p> <p><i>Particle Physics Brick by Brick: Atomic and Subatomic Physics Explained...in Lego</i> by Ben Still—539.72 Stil</p> <p><i>The Physics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained</i> by DK—520 Phys</p> <p><i>Ride That Roller Coaster! Forces at an Amusement Park</i> by Richard and Louise Spilsbury—J531.6 Spil</p>

	<p><i>Science Stunts: Fun Feats of Physics</i> by Jordan D. Brown—J530.078 Brow</p> <p>Interdisciplinary:</p> <p><i>A Really Short History of Nearly Everything</i> by Bill Bryson—500 Brys</p> <p><i>What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions</i> by Randall Monroe—500 Monr</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Encyclopedia of Life: https://eol.org/</p> <p>ASU School of Life Sciences: http://askabiologist.asu.edu/</p> <p>Britannica School sections on sciences</p>
Activities	<p>Science experiments help illustrate facts and there are millions of experiments to conduct--Grab a book of experiments from our shelves or find one online!</p> <p>Create a chart of the scientific method</p> <p>Take a topic-specific guided tour at the science museum</p>
Mathematics	
Library Area	Non-fiction: J510s, 510s
Books	<p><i>Junk Drawer Geometry: 50 Awesome Activities That Don't Cost a Thing</i> by Bobby Mercer—516.0078 Merc</p> <p><i>Math Doesn't Suck: How to Survive Middle School Math Without Losing Your Mind or Breaking a Nail</i> by Danica McKellar—510.7 Mcke</p> <p><i>Middle School Math for Parents</i> by Scott Meltzer—510.76 Melt</p> <p><i>Pre-Algebra Demystified</i> by Allan Bluman—512 Blum</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>PBS Math Core: https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/mathcore/</p> <p>The Mint: http://www.themint.org/</p>
Activities	<p>Go to a store having a percent off sale and calculate the new price</p> <p>Open a student checking account at the local bank and talk about different kinds of interest</p> <p>Create a blueprint</p> <p>Design a piece of furniture and figure out the dimensions</p>
Physical Education	
Library Area	Nonfiction: J796, 613.7 796-798
Books	<p><i>Sports</i> by Dan Gutman—J796 Gutm</p> <p><i>The Sports Book</i> by DK—796 Spor</p> <p><i>Scholastic Year in Sports 2020</i> by James Buckley Jr.—J796021.Buck</p>
Databases & Websites	PE Central: http://www.pecentral.org/index.html
Activities	Please see website listed above for suggested games/activities.
Art	
Library Area	Non-fiction: J700s, 700s
Books	<i>Art: A Visual History</i> by Robert Cumming—700 Cumm

	<p>Taschen Art Book Series (includes Van Gogh, Rivera, Modigliani, Warhol, Manet, Raphael, and more) – 700s</p> <p><i>Why is Art Full of Naked People? & Other Vital Questions About Art</i> by Susie Hodge-J7101.1 Hod</p> <p><i>You can Draw!: From Pencils to Pastels in 15 Easy Lessons</i> by Sheila Coulson—741.2 Coul</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Google Art Project : https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/project/art-project</p> <p>National Gallery of Art: http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb.html</p> <p>NYS Museum Architecture Resources & Activities: http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/education/home-work/architecture</p>
Activities	<p>Explore different art mediums—try out different ways to make art (watercolor, clay, markers, etc.) to find out which is your favorite</p> <p>Learn what all the filters and settings on your phone’s camera do and how to edit your favorite pictures</p> <p>Visit the Albright Knox Art Museum (they have classes, too!)</p> <p>Visit the Carnegie Art Center or Project 308 in North Tonawanda; attend the Oliver St Art Festival</p> <p>Create a doodle journal</p>
Music	
Library Area	Nonfiction: J780s, 780s
Books	<p>First 50 Songs You Should Play on Drums by Hal Leonard—786.9 Fir</p> <p><i>Play it! Level 1, Classical Music</i> by Jennifer Kemmeter and Antimo Marrone [piano music]—J786.193 Kemm</p> <p><i>Raggin’, Jazzin’, Rockin’: A History of American Musical Instrument Makers</i> by Susan VanHecke—J784.1909 Vanh</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Buffalo Philharmonic Kids page: https://bpo.org/for-kids/</p> <p>Music Teachers National Association- Websites for Kids: https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Parent_and_Student_Resources/Websites_for_Kids/MTNA/Learn/Parent_and_Student_Resources/Websites_for_Kids.aspx?hkey=bd35c299-1551-4bea-91c4-a0cc35e96e95 This comprehensive site lists Performer-Based websites, Symphony-Based websites, and Music Game/Theory/History/Listening Websites.</p>
Activities	<p>Learn to play an instrument</p> <p>Sing in a local choir</p> <p>Visit the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra or watch one of their streamed concerts</p>
Practical Arts (regular Basis)	
Library Area	Varied, includes topics such as Personal Finance, Babysitting, Pet Care, Meal Planning, Resume Writing, Computer Skills
Books	<p><i>Babysitting: The Care and Keeping of Kids</i> by Harriet Brown—J649.1024 Brow</p> <p><i>Computer Game & App Developers</i> by Andrew Morkes—794.8152 Mork</p> <p><i>Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance</i>—Reference section, 331.702 Ency</p> <p><i>Nursing Professionals: A Practical Career Guide</i> by Kezia Endsley—610.73 Ends</p>
Databases & Websites	American Red Cross Babysitter Training: https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/babysitting/babysitting-child-care-training/babysitting-classes

	National Educational Association – Resources for Teaching Financial Literacy: http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/resources-for-teaching-financial-literacy.html Microsoft Virtual Academy: https://mva.microsoft.com/ O*Net Online: https://www.onetonline.org/
Activities	Ask your child to participate in general household maintenance, such as changing a lightbulb or mowing the lawn. Create a mock resume Research careers that interest you
Library Skills	
Library Area	Nonfiction: J070.4, 070.4
Books	<i>Digital World: How to Connect, Share, Play, and Keep Yourself Safe</i> by Carrie Anton—J004.678 Anto <i>Fake News: Separating Truth From Fiction</i> by Michael Miller—070.43 Mill <i>Smart Internet Surfing: Evaluating Websites and Advertising</i> by Mary Lindeen—J025.0425
Databases & Websites	Research Helper! : http://www3.sympatico.ca/sandra.hughes/sandra.hughes/research/default.html Misinformation Misadventures Game https://juliaboyerreinsteinlib.itch.io/misinformation-misadventures Start Your Own Research http://www.library.ucla.edu/support/research-help/start-your-own-research-guide-or-tutorial Teach Information Literacy and Critical Thinking https://sites.google.com/site/teachinfolit/
Activities	Look up a topic in the library catalog and compare it to a Google search. Practice using the library catalog (eg., search for your favorite book).

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