

# The Macomb Daily

## Chippewa Valley libraries bring sports spirit to March is Reading Month

Competition between two schools begins for Best Library in MAC trophy



Chippewa Valley High School and Dakota High School are marking March is Reading Month with a competition for a trophy. Students can earn points towards the trophy by checking out books at their respective media centers or by purchasing books at a March 26 Barnes and Noble book fair. Pictured are a group of medical academy students at Chippewa Valley High who participated in the competition by checking out books: Kaiden Lutteke, Sydney Gilcher, Deana Duka, Anita Catic, Jeremy Horbes and Darnell Jordan. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULA GOOSEN)

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Chippewa Valley Schools' high school libraries are taking reading into a sport for March is Reading Month, igniting a trophy competition between two schools.

This year is the first that Dakota High School Librarian Kristen Groppuso and Chippewa Valley High School Media Specialist Paula Goosen have created the Best Library in the MAC trophy competition. Goosen said that the goal is to get more students back into school media centers and reading.

“We wanted to kind of bring in the rivalry between Dakota and Chippewa Valley and apply it to literacy and reading. We are hoping to get that spirit going in the areas of reading and literacy with

students. So we came up with a trophy and decided on a contest for the month of March,” Goosen said.

To participate in the competition, which began March 1, students and staff can go to their respective high school libraries during March and check out books. When they do this, they not only earn points towards the trophy but can receive a free raffle ticket. The tickets are put into weekly drawings to win Barnes and Noble gift cards. Goosen said there are generally two winners at the Chippewa Valley High main building each Monday, and one at the Chippewa Valley High Ninth Grade Center. Raffles are conducted similarly at Dakota, Groppuso said.

The trophy name Best Library in the MAC was chosen by students, Goosen said. Although the MAC references the Macomb Area Conference, a high school sports league that encompasses several school districts, the reading competition is strictly between Dakota and Chippewa Valley high schools.

“We were promoting it through Schoology and Twitter, and the students started putting that in the comments, when they were liking and posting and things like that. One of the students said #bestlibraryinthemac, although it is just Chippewa Valley High and Dakota,” Groppuso said.

Thus far into March, the librarians’ idea of stirring up a school spirit competition for reading has been going well, drawing students who had become used to virtual learning back into media centers. Goosen said on March 10, over 200 books were checked out by students at Chippewa Valley High, more than had been checked out in the month of February alone.



Dakota High School and Chippewa Valley High School are in a competition during March is Reading Month to earn a trophy. Students can earn points towards the trophy by checking out books at their respective media centers or by purchasing books at a March 26 Barnes and Noble book fair. Pictured are Dakota High School students checking out books at their school media center.(PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTEN GROPPUSO)

“It is definitely working. This has been one of the busiest weeks all year,” Goosen said on March 11.

Some students make their own selections, Goosen said, while others follow requirements of teachers. Still others ask for recommendations.

“I am also encouraging book reviews, I’ll start posting them online next week,” Goosen said on March 11.

Groppuso said students are encouraged to participate as each week there are announcements about which school is ahead in the competition.

“Sometimes, like today, Mr. (Ron) Roberts, our superintendent, will announce who won for this week. Dakota won last week, the most circulation for last week. By announcing it every week that will spur kids on to want to come down to participate and check out a book,” Groppuso said on March 14.

Students can also earn points towards the trophy for book sales related to a Barnes and Noble book fair. A book fair will be held on March 26 at Barnes and Noble, located at 14165 Hall Road in Shelby Township, for the two high schools and any district elementary or middle school students that want to participate. The book fair will be open during store hours, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Students from any school in the Chippewa Valley Schools district are encouraged to wear school spirit wear such as T-shirts, hoodies or jackets, which will enter them into a drawing for a gift card. High School students can also earn trophy competition points by wearing their respective school logo clothing, Goosen said.

“We will have students reading stories and a couple of other events going on, hopefully, that day. The whole idea is to get families into the store to encourage the literacy component,” Goosen said.

Groppuso said teachers have been asked to fill out classroom book wish lists, so that parents and students have the option of using their purchases to not only earn school points but to also make a donation to their school.

Those who cannot attend the book fair can shop online from March 25 to about the end of the month at [bn.com/bookfairs](https://bn.com/bookfairs), entering specific book fair ID numbers for each school. Dakota and Chippewa Valley High students can find book fair ID numbers at their respective school websites. A percent of all the Barnes and Noble purchases through the book fair, whether online or in-person, will benefit Dakota or Chippewa Valley High’s library. Goosen anticipated being able to announce the trophy winner in early April.

“Mr. Roberts is our superintendent, he has been tweeting the weekly tallies out, so we will probably have him tweet out the winner,” Groppuso said.

Goosen said she and Groppuso hope to be able to make the competition a tradition to expand upon, and to continue the partnership with Barnes and Noble in the future as well.