Learning Commons *(formerly known as the Library)*
Questions and Answers

Q: What is a Learning Commons?
A: Learning Commons is really another name for Library. However this is a Library where technology plays an integral part. It is a place to discover, learn and create. A place where students are able to go from being taught to research only with books to learning to research properly online and with the use of the latest technology. This is a transition all schools in Rocky View Schools are beginning. While it will take time for this transition to be complete EAMS is well on the way to making our Learning Commons the best space for our student population.

Q: When can I use the Learning Commons?
A: As we don't have set class Library times teachers and students are now able to come to the Learning Commons almost anytime throughout the day. Teachers are able to book the space for class use or send smaller groups of students to the Learning Commons to work. Also students have access to the Learning Commons during the lunch hour for homework, study time or reading. There are also special groups or clubs which meet regularly during the lunch hour.

Q: Where are all the books?
A: At EAMS we have a unique circulation system for our books. All of our fiction collection is separated into grade levels and put on book carts that stay in each English Language Arts and French Language Arts classroom. At the beginning of each term the carts are rotated within the grade level. This way students have access to new books every 3 months or so. The carts all have a variety of difficulty while still staying grade appropriate. Our non-fiction collection remains in the Learning Commons for use on an as needed basis. If students are doing work in which they require research books they are able to come to the Learning Commons throughout the day to check out books or research in the Learning Commons space. While our collection has diminished we still have many books on topics relevant to curriculum and subjects that interest students. We are also lucky to have access to different devices we are able to use for research, such as Google Chrome Books and Kobo e-readers. These help bridge the gap between old reference books which have information that is outdated quickly to current and accurate information for research purposes.

Q: How do I sign out a book?
A: Signing out books has never been easier. Similar to what you might see at the local public Library students are able to use self-checkout to sign books in and out. With their student ID they can log in to our system (KOHA) to check books from the book cart, in the classroom, in and out. They are also able to renew this way.

Q: How many books am I allowed to sign out?
A: Students in our English program are able to sign out 2 books for the six day cycle off of the book cart. Students in our French program are able to sign out 3 books as they have access to an English book cart and also a French book cart. Exceptions can be made on an individual basis. Textbooks do not count even though they will show up on your account when you log in to self-checkout. Novel study books are also not counted as they are not signed out through our online Library system (KOHA).
As for research, students are allowed to sign out more books from the non-fiction collection. Please see Mrs. McGillivray to sign these books out. Audio visual materials are not available for students to take out.

Q: What happens if my book is overdue?
A: KOHA, our online Library system, tracks all student accounts. When your book is overdue students will get an e-mail through their rvschools gmail account notifying them of the overdue.
You will get a first notification, then a second if your book is still not returned. After those two notifications an e-mail will be sent to parents. If the book is still not returned an invoice will be sent to the student/parent for the amount of the replacement of the book.
If you have overdue books your loan privileges will be suspended until the return or payment of the overdue books.