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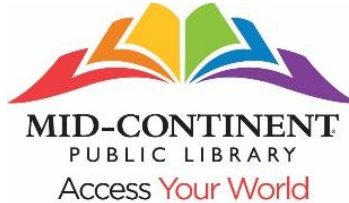
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## Local Students Teach Peers About Digital Media Literacy

### MCPL and Hickman Mills Empower Teens to Educate Peers on AI, Algorithms, and More

Kansas City, MO – For the second year in a row, Mid-Continent Public Library’s Digital Innovation Department has partnered with the Hickman Mills School District’s Real World Learning Center to build students’ digital media literacy skills and empower them to spread that knowledge to their peers. Library staff will help guide students’ exploration of today’s complex information landscape online and share strategies on how to avoid mis- and disinformation, particularly with the rise of AI and targeted social media algorithms. After learning about the topic themselves, students will then prepare and conduct a lesson for classrooms of their peers within the district.

“We’re thrilled to have another opportunity to connect with young people on this important topic, and we can’t wait to see their creativity!” said MCPL Digital Innovation Manager Erin Kennedy. “Our hope is that students walk away feeling more confident as they evaluate information online, which is a skill we all use each and every day. And as technology becomes even more advanced, it will be even more critical to know how and where to turn for credible information.”

The Library’s Digital Innovation Department will speak with students about their proposed lesson plans and advise them on aspects, such as fact-checking and evaluating sources. They will also cover some of the Library’s resources available to help when researching particular topics.

“Our students learned so much during our work with the library last year that we were thrilled to be able to bring them back,” said Dr. Leah La Faver with Hickman Mills Real World Learning Center. “Peer-to-peer learning is a great way to make education more exciting, and with a subject as critical as this one, we want to make sure teens are as engaged as possible.”

Mid-Continent Public Library’s Digital Innovation Department regularly offers programs and resources on topics related to emerging technologies, including programs for adults on media literacy. Learn more about their work and find upcoming events at [mymcpl.org/features/digital-innovation](https://mymcpl.org/features/digital-innovation).

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**Access Your World**

Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](#) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 850,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).