

## School Library Color Codes

St. Agnes School enrolls students from age four to fourteen. One thing all the children have in common is the school library! It's a place where every child can come to get lost in the pages of a great book, conduct research or study for classroom assignments.

To meet the needs of every student, our collection includes materials for Kindergarten through eighth grade. Unlike the classrooms, where students are separated by age, the library is a common area.

Similar to the Arlington County public library system, St. Agnes uses color codes to guide children toward books that are a good fit for their reading ability and social development.

The color labels are:

**Red** = kindergarten and first grade;

**Orange** = first and second grades;

**Green** = third, fourth and fifth grades;

**Blue** = sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The color labels are intended to be guidelines for parents, students and teachers to find books that will be interesting, age appropriate, and help our kids do their best in all their school subjects.

In the fiction section, examples of "blue label" books are: the plays of William Shakespeare; books two through seven of the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling; Jules Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth*; and the 2011 Newbery Award winner *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos.

In the non-fiction section, "blue label" science or history books, for example, present factual information in a way that students younger than grade five may find challenging, due to chapter length, sentence structure, vocabulary, text to visuals ratio, and type size.

