



CHECK IT OUT!

News from the JMS Library & Literacy Corner

Volume 3, Issue 6

February 2024

Scholastic Book Fair

February 26 — March 4

(Closed February 28)

Literacy Night

Let's Glow Read a Book!

Tuesday, February 27

6:00 P.M. — 7:30 P.M.

Read Across America Week

****Monday, March 4****

Wear animal print or camo.

****Tuesday, March 5****

Wear a tie, hair ties, or ribbons.

****Wednesday, March 6****

Wear something that represents a comic book/superhero.

****Thursday, March 7****

Wear something to represent where you have traveled, want to travel, or have read about.

****Friday, March 8****

Dress as favorite book character

January Super Readers

Congratulations to Sawyer Powell, Carolyn Connell, Shayne Todd, Ashanti Ceaser, Tanner Grabill, and Ethan Helmer. Read more about them on the board across from the front office.

Author Spotlight

Varian Johnson



Quick Facts — Personal:

> Born in Florence, South Carolina

> Attended Wilson High School where he was co-valedictorian with his twin brother

> Holds a BS in Civil Engineering and an MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts

> Works as a civil engineer, author, and educator

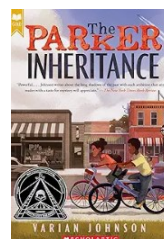
> Resides near Austin, Texas, with his wife, Crystal, and daughters, Savannah and Sydney

Quick Facts — Writing:

> Johnson thinks the hardest part of writing is the first draft and the best part of writing is revising. He encourages future writers to “write big and dream big.” (1,3)

> Johnson’s first middle grade novel, *The Great Greene Heist*, was published 7 years after its inception.

> His book, *Twins*, was inspired by his experiences as a twin and by his daughters’ love of graphic novels.



Sources: (1) Scholastic Teacher, [s. l.], v. 125, n. 6, p. 38–43, 2016. (2) Contemporary Authors, Gale, 2022. (3) “Talking with Varian Johnson.” January 2019. Book Links, p. 32–34. (4) nerdybookclub.wordpress.com varian-johnsons-code-of-conduct (5) varianjohnson.com

Engaging Students with Breakout EDU

These students participated in their very first breakout in the JMS library. Using the 4C's — communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity — they uncovered the correct lock combinations on the boxes and were able to Breakout the Superheroes!

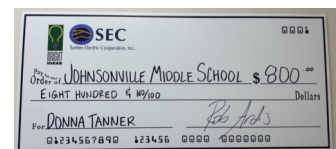


What is Breakout EDU?

Breakout EDU is a learning games platform based on the popular escape room phenomenon. In a breakout, students follow clues to solve puzzles, while also communicating and collaborating with teammates. Basic breakouts include a story, clues and puzzles, locks, a time limit, and reflection.

Breakout EDU Kits

JMS purchased five breakout kits with a grant from Santee Electric. Each kit includes two boxes, several different locks, an invisible ink pen, a UV flashlight, and a red filter.



Breakout EDU Lessons

The JMS Library has access to Breakout EDU lessons for Math, ELA, Social Studies, Science, and the Arts. Keep reading to see what a few JMS teachers shared about the introductory breakouts.

“The breakouts were such a great addition to library day! You could literally see the “lightbulbs” going off as students figured out the clues. I was so impressed with how well my students worked together and listened to each other’s ideas to open the locks and breakout!” — Mrs. Angie McClellan, 5th Grade ELA

“The breakout kits were so much fun!! The students were excited and engaged to figure the clues out and go through each stage of the breakout! It was a great team building activity and by far the best library day of the year!!!” — Mrs. Angie Brigham, ELA & Math

“The 8th grade students had a great time conquering the breakout boxes. They were required to read, problem-solve, and communicate effectively to solve the puzzles. Each group worked diligently to open the locks. We are excited to have another opportunity to participate in this fun and engaging lesson.” — Mrs. Deannie Durant, 8th Grade ELA and English I