



MEDIA RELEASE

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IT'S LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP TIME @ YOUR BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

There's one essential school supply you might not find on most back-to-school lists, and it's completely free: a library card! September and October are **Library Card Sign-Up Months**, making this the perfect time to take the small step to set your child on the right path to academic achievement and lifelong learning. Libraries offer free access to a world of discovery for everyone. This year, Tony Award-winning performer, actress and singer-songwriter Idina Menzel and her sister, author and educator Cara Mentzel are the national honorary chairs of library card sign-up month, reminding the public that "the library is where your imagination sings."

"Your local libraries are proud to offer a variety of resources to encourage children and teens to read, learn, create and explore," said Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director John Spears. "Storytimes foster a love of reading from a young age, MakerSpace and Do It Yourself programs spark creativity and STEM/teen learning activities inspire young adults to find community and build leadership skills. Your 37 local libraries also offer Chromebook and hotspot lending and electronic resources like popular databases, learning guides, practice tests, educational digital books and 24/7 streaming services."

In addition to the outstanding access to a wide range of educational and fun resources, your Buffalo & Erie County Public Library card offers a brand new benefit: the V.I.P./Very Important Perks Program! Just by showing your library card at participating locations, you unlock free or discounted admission and discounts on merchandise. Participating locations include local museums, galleries, attractions and theaters. Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/VIPBflo> for more V.I.P. Program information and offers!

Library cards are free to everyone, of any age, who lives, works or goes to school in Erie County. Apply online at: <https://www.buffalolib.org/library-cards> or in person at any library. Applicants under the age of 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with valid ID when applying for a library card. There are over 400,000 library cardholders in Erie County. For more information, call the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System at 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org. To view upcoming free programs in all libraries click here: <https://tinyurl.com/v27f85hw>.

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