

Boyne District Library to expand community access with vending machine at BCHS

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The Boyne District Library is expanding how it serves the community with the launch of a new library lending machine, a state-of-the-art service designed to increase engagement, empowerment, education, and entertainment by making library materials more accessible beyond the library building.

As part of the library's commitment to meeting people where they are, the lending machine will be installed at Boyne City High School at the start of the 2026-27 school year next fall. This site was selected to help the library better reach teens, educators, and community members whose schedules may make traditional library visits challenging.

Library Director Monica Peck says the project reflects the library's mission and its focus on the "Four E's" that guide Boyne District Library services.

"This project touches all four of our core values," Peck said. "The lending machine creates new opportunities for engagement with the library, empowers users by offering access when it's most convenient, supports education by making reading and learning more readily available, and adds an element of entertainment by encouraging discovery and enjoyment of books in a new way."

The lending machine will feature a rotating selection of library materials that can be browsed and borrowed quickly and easily. By extending access beyond the library's walls, the library continues its work to remove barriers and ensure library services remain "welcoming, relevant, and easy to use," Peck said.

While book vending machines are sometimes used in schools or community spaces to distribute books that children earn and keep, the Boyne District Library's lending machine will offer a different kind of service. Rather than a one-time giveaway, the lending machine functions as a true extension of the library itself, providing access to shared library materials that are fully integrated with the library's catalog and lending system.

Items borrowed from the machine are checked out just like materials inside the library and returned so they can continue circulating for others to enjoy. Patrons can also place and pick up holds from the lending machine.

The Friends of the Boyne District Library have played a key role in supporting the project, helping the library explore innovative service models that expand access and impact. Thanks to early community support, the library has reached approximately half of its funding goal for the lending machine.

To keep the project moving forward on schedule, the equipment has already been ordered, and the library is continuing to raise funds to complete the project. Donations will help ensure this important improvement is fully funded without impacting other library services. If community members wish to support this project, [they can donate here](#).

According to the manufacturer, this installation represents a significant milestone for the region. It is expected to be the first library lending machine of its kind in Northern Michigan and the first such system ever installed in a school setting.

More information about the lending machine technology [can be found here](#).

For more information about the Boyne District Library and its services, visit www.boynelibrary.org.