

LIVING LIBRARY

2026 OVERVIEW

Real Stories. Real People. Real Impact.



WHAT IS THE LIVING LIBRARY?

An immersive learning experience where students connect with community professionals, leaders, advocates, entrepreneurs, and changemakers who serve as “Living Books.” Through authentic conversation, students investigate community issues, leadership, service, innovation, and civic engagement while gathering primary research for their 8th Grade Capstone Projects.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

1

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

MODERATED PANEL

Partners share multiple perspectives on a community issue, why it matters, how people are responding, and what work still remains.

2

LIVING LIBRARY CONVERSATIONS

SMALL GROUPS OF 6-8 STUDENTS

Students ask questions, hear authentic stories, take notes, explore challenges, and identify ideas they may want to investigate further.

WHY IT MATTERS

Students explore three essential questions:

What challenges and opportunities exist in my community?

Who is working to address them?

How can I make a positive impact?

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS PANELIST

Join a facilitated discussion centered on a community issue. Help students understand the challenge, progress being made, and opportunities for action.

LIVING BOOK · SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR

Share your journey and community impact through conversation, respond to student questions, and encourage curiosity. No formal presentation is required.

2026 EVENT INFORMATION

DATES

October 5-8, 2026

SESSIONS

9:30-11:00 AM
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

PARTNER CHECK-IN

30 minutes before
your assigned session

HOST PARTNERS

Hampton Public Library
Hampton University Library

THE GOAL

Students leave with greater awareness of their community, meaningful connections with people working within it, stronger questions about issues that matter, and a clearer understanding that they can contribute to positive change.