Back to school? Yes.
Back to normal? Maybe not.

Whatever kind of teaching style your school has adopted – in school, online or a hybrid – we believe Peoria Public Library has digital resources to make studying easier and your research projects better.

From Brainfuse, which offers live tutoring help, to ProQuest’s SIRS Issues Researcher, which includes thousands of reputable articles on both sides of controversial topics, to Britannica Library, which makes it easy to find anything you need and even offers a pre-research planning guide. These are just a few of our resources available to Peoria Public Library patrons.

Many of them can be accessed online, from your home. Visit www.pearlapubliclibrary.org, then use the Research tab and click on Students. Call us and we can help too.

Inside are some of the highlights of our most popular resources. Many of them will require you to input your Peoria Public Library card number, and some will need special password information, which you can obtain from us.

Visit us on the web at www.pearlapubliclibrary.org
**Brainfuse HelpNow:** Take advantage of free tutoring for all grades and subject areas. More than 2,500 tutors are available 7 days a week from 2 to 11 p.m., Central time. Every tutor has a bachelor’s degree and three or more years of teaching experience, and more than 90 percent of them have graduate degrees.

The SkillSurfer section is a collection of lessons, exercises, videos, practice quizzes and tests. Content is categorized by grade and subject area. There are also categories that cover various kinds of tests, including the SAT, the ACT, AP exams and the GED.

Brainfuse also has an online writing lab. Upload your document, and their tutors will analyze it and provide helpful comments, usually in one business day.

Language Lab connects you to live help with Spanish. (This is currently the only language help offered.)

MEET allows you to create a safe, virtual study room so you can study online with friends.

**FIRSTSEARCH:** You will need to call or come in to obtain the special authorization code and password before you can access the 13 databases provided in this resource.

Among the 13 databases are government publications via the GPO (Government Printing Office); Medline, abstracted articles from medical journals; ECO, a collection of scholarly journals; and WorldCat, a searchable catalog of books and other materials in libraries around the world.

**Britannica Library:** Your parents may remember Britannica as a hardbound encyclopedia they used to consult for research papers. This online version is worlds away from that.

You can rely on this resource to help you quickly research topics and give you trusted articles, primary sources and even videos on practically any topic you choose. Britannica also has a pre-research planner to help guide you with critical thinking. Further, there are how-tos on the differences between book reviews, oral presentations, science papers and research papers.

Britannica also has an online World Atlas. Type in Australia, for instance, and in addition to basic geographic, historical and political information, you can hear the country’s national anthem or watch video of the Great Barrier Reef.

**Tumble Book Library:** This resource, geared to ages 3 to 10, can be found by clicking on Downloads & Streaming on the left side of our website’s front page. Our favorite part about Tumble Books is how the story book illustrations come to life as the narrator reads. Since the books are digital, they can be viewed simultaneously by many at the same time. You’ll also find a wealth of educational videos from National Geographic covering numerous topics. There are also puzzles, games and language learning help in Spanish and French.
GALE OneFile: Updated daily, you can use this resource to access millions of trusted articles. It’s easy to search and filter your results, and, as a bonus, it will suggest related articles and subjects. You can also filter your results so that it only searches the 3,500 peer-reviewed journals. There are also citation tools which make it easy to source your work.

You can search by subject, publication or topic.

GALE Testing & Education Reference Center: The courses and practice tests here were updated in June 2020.

There are more than 300 practice tests and courses and more than 250 online basic skills lessons. In the College Planning Center, you can do test preparation, search for a college that would fit you and seek out financial aid.

Visit the Virtual Career Library to learn about careers you might want to pursue.

STEM Resources includes practice test questions, but also online learning modules to help you refresh your skills.

Take Microsoft tutorials to learn how to use Word, PowerPoint, Access and Excel.

NewsBank: Read or search more than 9,500 publications from around the world – magazines, newspapers and even broadcast news program transcripts.

Year in Review (2004 to 2019) includes top news articles, divided by topic, for that year.

You can also search the Peoria Journal Star from 1991 to the current day in this resource.

ProQuest Newsstand: Search the full text of more than 300 major U.S. and international news sources, including The New York Times, Chicago Tribune and Times of London.

ProQuest SIRS Issues Reasearcher: This database includes thousands of full-text articles exploring opposing sides of controversial social, scientific, historic, business, economic, political and global issues. Trending topics include gun control, police brutality and COVID-19.

In addition to information, this resource includes a research guide for the critical thinker, which will help you write a thoughtful and well-researched paper.
For After School...

For fun, be sure to explore hoopla, which we say is like Netflix on steroids. In addition to recent releases of movies, television and music, hoopla has 280,000 ebooks, including graphic novels, and thousands of audio books too.

There’s a breadth and depth of choices. If you like The Weeknd, Taylor Swift or Hamilton: The Musical, you’ll be happy. With movies, you’ll find newer releases, but also some old favorites you can’t find anywhere else.

You must use your Peoria Public Library card to set up an account at hoopladigital.com

Kanopy is another resource for movies – everything from quirky independent films to documentaries to classic cinema and foreign films. There are more than 30,000 to choose from. Again, you will need your library card to set up your account.

And be sure to check out Peoria Public Library on YouTube!