Mission

The Brandywine Community Library's Mission is to encourage learning by providing free and equal access to information, technology, resources and services, be a gathering place for the community, and promote the love of reading.

Directions to the library

When driving on Weis Street in Topton, turn south at the stop light onto Home Avenue. The library is located on the campus of the Lutheran Home on the first floor of the Old Main or clock tower building. The entrance is in the back, use the white doors between the two porches.

Staff

Heather Wicke.....Library Director
Amber Hadley...Youth Services Coordinator
Dona .....Circulation Clerk
Kathryn .....Circulation Clerk
Morgan .....Circulation Clerk
Sheila..... .....Circulation Clerk
Sophia .....Circulation Clerk

Library Hours

Monday	10 AM-7 PM
Tuesday	10 AM-7 PM
Wednesday	10 AM-5 PM
Thursday	10 AM-5 PM
Friday	10 AM-4 PM
Saturday	9 AM-4 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

Book drops are located to the left of the entrance and may be used 24 hours a day for return of materials.

Brandywine Community Library is a Gold Level Library in the PA Forward Star Program and supports the five literacies – basic literacy, civic and social literacy, health literacy, information literacy, and financial literacy.

The Brandywine Community Library has been a Gold Star Library since 2020.

PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries

BCL Brandywine Community Library

2025 Annual Report

60 Tower Drive, Topton, PA 19562

Phone: (610)682-7115
Fax: (610)682-7385
Email: bcl@brandywinelibrary.org

Website:
www.berkslibraries.org/branch/brandywine

PA Forward Gold Level Library Star Program

In 2025 we expanded our Home Delivery service to residents in all the municipalities in our service area. We added new programs such as Sensory Hour and Adult Crafting Hour. We also adopted a cow through Discover Dairy and read books about farming and cows. The youth had fun tracking our calf Sprinkles' height and comparing if child or cow is taller.

Our teens participated in their third year of Youth Led Humanities, with a focus on learning about mental health. In addition to reading five books, they utilized the 3D printer to print 600 fidgets for the Topton Ambulance and Topton Fire Company to distribute on calls. Teens also brought the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's Teen Mental Health First Aid Training to the library and we graduated two groups of teens through the program. This training will continue to be offered to teens bi-annually.

Our Summer Reading program continued to grow in 2025. We offered 125 programs provided by staff. Implementing the same reading tracker for all ages resulted in significant growth in adult participation as adults were encouraged to model positive reading habits at home. Participants collectively logged 346,087 minutes read—an increase of 67,500 minutes over last year. Those who met their reading goals received a gift card to Comb Coffee, Geist Sporting Goods, Herman's Drive-In, or Pott's Top Dog. Eighteen participants donated their gift cards back to the library.

Sheldon's 38th birthday was celebrated in August with lawn games, crafts, cupcakes and a plastic tortoise race in the creek. Patrons adopted 531 tortoises to race as a library fundraiser.

This was the fifth consecutive year the library has been recognized as a PA Forward Gold Star Library. The PA Library Association's star program highlights the role libraries play in positively impacting lives through five literacies: basic, information, civic and social, health, and financial.

Sheldon the Greek tortoise, library mascot, encouraging the plastic tortoises to race fast before their creek race.

Board of Trustees

Amy Portzline.....President
Catherine Emenheiser.....Vice President
Douglas Sherry.....Treasurer
Amity Grim.....Secretary
Louise DeMatteo.....Trustee
Melissa Hartman.....Trustee
Colleen Kristula.....Trustee
Debra Kirby.....Trustee

The regular meeting of the BCL Board of Trustees is normally held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. For meeting details, please visit the event section of the library's website.

2025 Statistics

Circulation (physical & electronic).....68,106
Total Collection Size.....31,687
Annual Number of library visits.....30,238
Total Registered borrowers.....2,217
Computer Uses.....2,899
Programs Held.....276
Program Attendance.....5,474
Service Area Population.....12,632
(2020 Census)

2025 Operating Income

State.....$61,171
County.....$39,159
Local Municipalities.....$29,773
Other local sources.....$73,356
Total 2025 Income.....$203,759

2025 Operating Expenses

Salaries & Benefits.....$125,386
Collection Expenses.....$26,813
Operating Expenses.....$24,278
Cost of Fundraising.....$9,617
Rent.....$12,000
Total 2025 Expenses.....$198,094

The Library thanks the following municipalities for pledging their support:

Longswamp Township	$2.69 per capita
District Township	$2.51 per capita
Topton Borough	$2.51 per capita
Rockland Township	$1.70 per capita