School Libraries in the Digital Age

Memories of sitting in the school library probably conjure up hushed and revered settings of students earnestly looking for just the right book and then sitting quietly reading. But in today’s world, where some students read readily on digital devices, the role of the school library may need some well….upgrading.

As schools adjust to the ever-increasing digital nature of life, one surprising place to look as a hub for digital innovation might just be in one of the least likely of spots-the school library. Kathleen Ebbitt in “Five Ways Libraries Are Changing in the Digital Age,” asserts that there is romanticism to the imagery of libraries as hallowed temples of learning, protected from the ephemeral nature of the digital age,” but that notion is changing. https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/five-ways-libraries-are-changing-in-the-digital-ag/ School libraries are, of course, still focused on cultivating a love of reading, but they have also taken on new roles as hubs of collaboration, community and innovation, becoming the key to access and equity of information in both the school and greater community. This shift can be a force to revitalize learning and engage both students and their families. How to begin? Here are some great ideas to begin implementing today:

1. Shift the role of the librarian to one who is the information guide-one who assists students in locating and evaluating credible information
2. Partner librarians with classroom teachers for more than book check out-teachers can link instruction with research and resources in the library setting
3. Change library hours and access-students will be more likely to use it if it is open when convenient for them
4. Forget the silence-designate quiet areas and areas for collaboration and project work
5. Offer digital tool support and tutoring-students should be able to get assistance with digital devices and tools in order to better complete class projects and assignments
6. Offer parent access and support-if parents are digitally savvy, they are more likely to support the digital work of the classroom
7. Offer short workshops on weeding through vast amounts of information and evaluating credible sources

The bottom line is that the more user-friendly and current the school library is, the more students and families will look to it as a place to go for all kinds of literacy support. What was once a hushed hallowed hall can become a vibrant and exciting place for all kinds of learning! Let us know how we can support you in this! Cheers,

Leslie and Della

Check out our Reading/Language Arts Facebook page for news, photos of events and more! https://www.facebook.com/LAreadinglanguagearts/
For more on how libraries are changing in the digital age:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/bookmarks/2016/04/how_are_school_libraries_adapting_in_a_digital_age.html


http://www.nalis.gov.tt/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zzxQsi463s0%3D&tabid=64

https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2013/05/31/in-the-digital-age-what-becomes-of-the-library/

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 16: ELA/ELD Adoption Toolkit Training
Get tools to run the materials adoption process in your school/district!
http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113463

Sept. 21, 22 & Oct. 12: The Role of Foundational Skills in Literacy Development
Learn how the foundational skills impact students’ literacy development!
http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-118021

Sept. 30: ELA/ELD Instructional Materials Fair
Check out the new SBE approved K-8 programs and K-12 supplemental programs!
http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113205

Oct. 5 & 18: Common Core Writing K-5, Trainer of Trainers
Everything you need to help teachers and colleagues with elementary writing instruction!
http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113489

Oct. 19 & Nov. 2: Argument Writing Without the Fight, 6-12
Learn easy tips for getting students to write clear arguments with evidence.
http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113490

Oct. 21: Literacy Leaders’ Collaborative Network Meeting
Join us to stay informed of all the latest in language arts!
http://lacoe.k12oms.org/1540-113198

Do you know about the Literacy Empowerment Foundation’s matching book grant? Double the amount of books you get for the same money! Check it out at: http://www.lefbooks.org/all-new-matching-book-grant/

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our first annual Literacy Lifts conference will be held on April 13, 2017. Don’t miss our featured keynote speaker, 2015 Newberry Award winning author, Kwame Alexander! Several amazing student speakers will share their stories of success and breakout sessions will be filled with ideas you can implement next day. More info to come next month!!