

Pleasantdale School District 107

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At the May 2016 Board of Education meeting, the administration proposed making changes to our library staffing allocation, adding a position called innovative teaching coach, and reconfiguring how we deliver library services. The proposal included two basic goals:

- Enhance library services to our students
- Provide additional support to teachers as they implement innovative teaching practices into their classrooms

The current structure has consolidated our librarian services and allowed us to utilize a single librarian to serve both schools' libraries. To ensure that the libraries remain open throughout the day and that our students are always greeted by a friendly face, we hired a library instructional aide at each site. This new plan has also allowed us to hire a staff member to act as a technology resource for classroom teachers.

With the adoption of new technologies in our classrooms and an imperative to infuse innovative teaching practices into our teaching repertoire, we have a responsibility to add coaching services within our schools. The proposed Innovative Teaching Coach (ITC) plans with teachers, works with small groups of students, and co-teaches lessons. The ITC also provides onsite professional development. This individual researches and recommends technologies that should be implemented in our classrooms.

We also benefit from the experience and expertise of our librarian who is able to take on a coaching role as well. Our certified librarian has been able to expand her role in the classroom and work with teachers in new and exciting ways (e.g. co-teaching, technology integration, in-class research techniques, etc.). Additionally, because our school libraries double as public libraries, we have been able to enhance our services to our Pleasantdale Community as well, offering new experiences for students and families during the summer. Additionally, the librarian and the ITC assist the administration in the successful completion of our district technology plan.

The Library Instructional Aides at both schools bring a unique set of skills to their role and are a valuable asset in ensuring the success of our program. These individuals spend their day attending to student library needs, processing and checking out books, locating reading materials for students, assisting teachers with classroom novels sets, labeling and organizing library materials, keeping the library organized and clean, supervising students in library for study hall/noon study, assisting the librarian with specialized projects throughout the library, creating displays, and more. By delegating these tasks to the aides, our librarian is able to engage with teachers and students in new and valuable ways.

Volunteers have always been part of our library program. We are fortunate to enjoy a cadre of parent and community volunteers who help keep our libraries running efficiently. Over the course of this school year, our volunteers have been busy helping to organize and shelve library materials, cover and label books, assist students in finding library materials, check out library materials to students, and

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assist the librarian and library aides in completing small tasks throughout the library. We will continue to solicit help from volunteers and enthusiastically accept their support.

Considering the amount of overlap between the iTC and Librarian positions, the two were asked to work collaboratively to address the district's needs. The Librarian and iTC have worked together to accomplish this goal in a number of ways. First, the Librarian, iTC, and Superintendent have bimonthly meetings to discuss current and upcoming events, topics of interest, and points of concern. The outcome of these meetings determine some of the work the Librarian and iTC will then split, taking into consideration their individual strengths. The iTC and Librarian also created their own individual Google Calendars where teachers from the elementary and middle school can set up appointments to meet with the iTC or Librarian. These Google Calendars help to determine where the iTC and Librarian are working on any given day. During the times when they don't have appointments, the iTC and Librarian attempt to split their time equally between the elementary and middle school buildings.

The below table outlines some of the tasks and projects our librarian and iTC have been able to take on this year.

Librarian	iTC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classroom assistance throughout the day.• Technology assistance with Google and Schoology.• Instructing teachers with Google, Schoology, and social media.• One-on-one teacher assistance. Shared Google calendar created with teachers to request help.• Teaching lessons covering research, book reviews, search tools, nonfiction text features, and more.• Book fair - ES and MS• Battle of the books - MS• Update of library catalog• Reorganization of both libraries• Tech tips to teachers• Developed PLN for librarians in LT feeder schools• Research and promote new literature• Participate in IL Reader's Choice programs (Monarch, Bluestem, Caudill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• iPad roll out (teachers and parents)• iPad training (teachers and students)• Apple Boot Camp (3rd and 6th Grade teachers)• Shared Google calendar created with teachers to request help.• Updated app request procedures• Created Free App Request Form• Review and approve free apps requested• Push out apps via JAMF and Apple Configurator• Individual teacher technology training• Individual and small group lesson/project planning• Research, publish, and promote new technology based resources weekly• Staff Schoology training• Student Schoology training• General staff and student technology troubleshooting (daily)• Promoted and worked with teachers

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- In the process of creating a parent resources library at the middle school.
- Purchases books on recommendations from students and staff.

- and students on coding (Hour of Code and beyond)
- Provide individual, small group, school-wide, and district-wide professional development on new and existing technology

As we look forward to next year, we have some improvements that could be made that would enhance the student experience and better support teachers. These improvements include:

- Using volunteers in new ways
- Implement new experiences for students (e.g. Maker Spaces)
- Provide more small group work time/space
- Fully use our new online card catalog
- Reorganize both libraries to be more student-centered
- Flexible schedule to assist with teachers at both buildings on a regular basis
- Ability to reschedule classes due to program changes, testing, and holidays/days off.

Based on the work that has been done to ensure that our libraries serve as the hub of our schools, and improvements to students and staff, it is our assertion that this new configuration has been successful. We are excited to continue these great services for the remainder of the year and for years to come.

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