

My School Library Is...



THE BEST SEARCH ENGINE

- School librarians prevent information overload. A single Google search can return billions of results with contradictory information. School librarians are trained professionals who help find the most trustworthy, accurate information. They can also help identify the difference between fake and real news.
- Google isn't always the best source of information—and it's not the only source. School libraries offer books, e-books, journals, DVDs, online databases, and other materials not easily available online. Even if they are available online, they are usually not free except through the library.



- Today's school libraries are more than just books: they are gathering places for all students and faculty to meet, create, investigate, study, tutor, mentor, and learn.

STAFFED BY INFORMATION EXPERTS

- Studies show that students with regular access to certified school librarians are better prepared to excel in higher education and/or in their career.
- With misinformation and “fake news” so prevalent today, students need to learn how to recognize valid sources of information. Certified school librarians teach critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help students navigate the information world both in and out of the classroom.
- Employers want to hire people who can collaborate, problem solve, evaluate information, and think critically. Through group activities and the use of shared technology, school librarians foster these skills, necessary for both college and the workplace.
- The school librarian helps foster a love of learning and reading that can last a lifetime.
- Students rely on their school librarian for assistance with classroom assignments, technology help, and other advice.



CENTRAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS

- Libraries are the heart of the school, serving students, teachers, administrators, and even parents and younger siblings. Everyone is welcome to use the school library with the school librarian as their guide.
- School libraries level the playing field for all students. They provide equal access to resources and technology and lessen the achievement gap between those who have or don't have those resources at home.



My School Library Is... (continued)

- School librarians are leaders, collaborating with teachers and staff by sharing resources and trends, supporting cross-curricular teaching, and helping to create well-rounded classroom experiences.
- School librarians are trained on copyright issues and basic copyright law, and are valuable assets as schools navigate the correct use of copyrighted material.

HELPING STUDENTS NAVIGATE THE DIGITAL WORLD

- School librarians are technology experts, providing training for both staff and students on the latest tools and trends.
- School libraries prepare students to become good digital citizens. They help students understand how the internet works, how to use social media platforms responsibly, and how to become informed consumers of knowledge.
- School libraries play a strong role in promoting internet safety for students, as well as for teachers and staff.
- School libraries are a social media hub, not only educating, but providing a safe space for students to troubleshoot with librarians about problems, cyberbullying, and other issues.
- School libraries promote and teach information and technological literacy. They show students how to evaluate information and navigate different resources both in and beyond the classroom.



AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT

- Studies show that students with regular access to fully-funded school libraries with certified school librarians have a higher rate of success.
- Research indicates that there is a positive correlation between student achievement and access to school libraries. Students do much better in situations where there is a larger staff, robust collections, increased library instruction, and an overall larger budget for the library.
- Studies show that students with regular access to a well-developed, fully funded school library have better grades and score higher on student tests.



A SAFE PLACE FOR IDEAS

- All students have a right to a diverse, well-balanced selection of resources. The school library is the only place that can meet this need.
- School librarians are trained professionals who select well-balanced materials, representing all points of view on topics.
- School librarians understand censorship issues. They develop policies for material challenges and provide strong support during the challenge process.

