

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library Spaces

A World of Dreams!



March 15, 2016

Jennifer Stoeber

*Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning*

Amy Bendall

*District Library Media Specialist*

Good Evening, tonight I am here with Amy Bendall the District Library Media Specialist. We are here to update you on our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library Spaces.

In the 2015-2016 school year, Antioch School District 34 implemented a new delivery model for our library media centers. The goal for the 2015-2016 school year was to implement a consistent K-8 Library Structure for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning community. The decision to implement this model was based on our analysis of several school library impact studies that helped us imagine ways we could reinvent our current facility to foster a community of learning and literacy, while supporting high academic achievement, independent reading and learning, and collaboration throughout the school. Tonight we would like to present to you what changes have been made, what we are working on this school year and the areas for continuous improvement that we will be addressing in the 2016-2017 school year.

## What is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner?

“Twenty-first century learners are ***always on, always connected.*** They are comfortable ***multitasking.*** They are ***multimedia oriented.*** Their ***world is Web-based.*** They want ***instant gratification.*** They are ***impatient, creative, expressive and social.*** They are ***risk-takers*** who thrive in less structured environments.”

*Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners*

Library Resource Group LLC  
November 6, 2009

What is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner?

A Twenty-first century learners are ***always on, always connected.*** They are comfortable ***multitasking.*** They are ***multimedia oriented.*** Their ***world is Web-based.*** They want ***instant gratification.*** They are ***impatient, creative, expressive and social.*** They are ***risk-takers*** who thrive in less structured environments.”

In order to move forward with our vision, we have to keep this definition in mind when planning our spaces.

## Vision

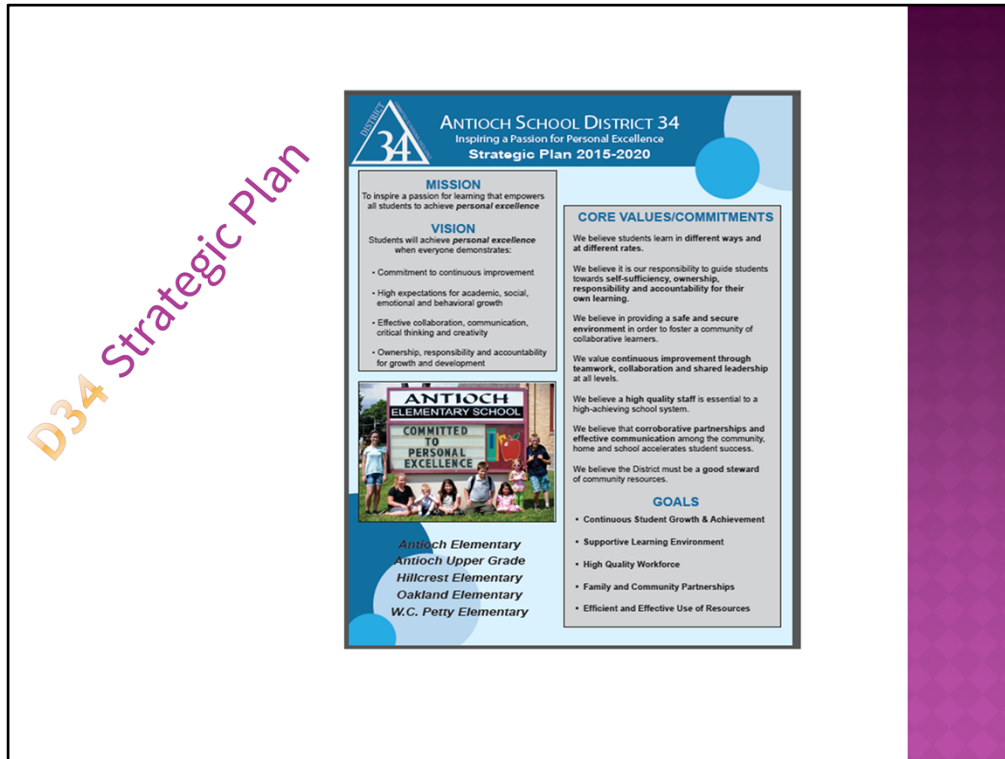
*Educating and inspiring students to reach their full potential in an ever-changing world.*

- In our Learning Centers we strive to make our library a welcoming place where students can learn, explore, and have fun!

Our goals include:

- to foster the love of reading
- to encourage the pursuit of personal interests through reading
- to support student achievement of curricular goals and objectives
- to support teachers in their delivery of curriculum
- to empower students to become discriminating users of information
- to provide up-to-date resources in a variety of formats
- to promote academic excellence and instill academic integrity

Read Slide



#### Strategy 3.2.4

##### Promote Information Literacy

Transform libraries into Media Centers to create an environment that will support the development of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Information, Media and Technology Skills Information Communications, and Technology Literacy

## THREE YEAR LIBRARY/MEDIA PLAN

- Year 1 (2015-2016) – Reconfigure spaces to make them open and inviting
- Year 2 (2016-2017)–Increase technology in learning centers and redesign Oakland space
- Year 3 (2017-2018)- Reorganization to the K-5 libraries



This year we began to reconfigure the library spaces to make them open and inviting. We did this by painting, new furniture, and downsizing some of our collections. In year 2, we want to increase technology in all the learning centers and finalize the Oakland Elementary School Library into a Learning Center. In year 3, we will reorganize our elementary libraries into K-5 Library Spaces.

## TRANSFORMING SCHOOL LIBRARIES INTO LEARNING COMMONS: 5 KEYS TO SUCCESS

### Technology

- Spaces must have the infrastructure to support current technologies and anticipate those of the future

### Collaboration

- Areas for team-based projects, informal group learning, and presentations

### Flexibility

- Movable furniture and temporary wall partitions for work environments, students have the ability to rearrange their work environment

### Sociability

- Social space that engages the students learning

As libraries begin to reinvent themselves into learning commons and as content becomes more accessible online, the role of the library becomes less about housing books and more about connecting learners and constructing knowledge.

The research suggests that successful learning commons focus on the following 4 key principles: technology, collaboration, flexibility, and sociability.

When planning a new space, one should take into consideration the infrastructure to support current and anticipated technologies, they should provide areas for groups of students to gather and learn together, and provide flexibility with movable furniture and temporary walls.

# TECHNOLOGY

## Current

- Mobile, Adjustable Promethean Boards
- 15 laptops
- iPad Cart (Oakland)
- QR code listening centers
- Ebsco Host databases K-8
- Pebble Go K-2 @ HC
- Destiny Universal Search
- ebooks @ AUGS
- Tech TinkerSpaces



## Future Plans

- Laptop Cart for Hillcrest
- QR codes book trailers
- Pebble Go 3-6
- iPads, Kindles
- eBooks @ All Schools
- Additional Tech Tinkerspaces Kits
- Ipad Carts
- Whiteboard Paint
- Augmented Reality



Let's look at the Technology aspect. This year, we were able to add a portable Promethean Board to each library so that teachers could use the library space to continue lessons they may have started in their classrooms. A laptop cart of 15 computers was designated to each library except at Hillcrest. We are hoping to add iPad carts at each building to match Oakland's. This would help with our QR Code Listening Centers that we have implemented into the libraries. Each month, our elementary schools have listening center stories for the teachers to check out or for use in the library. At AUGS, they will be adding QR Codes directly to the books so that students can scan a QR Code and view the books trailer before they check out the book.

As in the past, our libraries offer two databases: Ebscohost for searching primary sources, magazines, and newspapers and PebbleGo databases for students and staff. Hopefully next year we can add PebbleNext which is the 3-6 component that discusses Native American Indians and States. Districtwide we were able to add a Universal Search tool onto our Library Catalog making it easier for students to search for many resources at one time.

As libraries begin to downsize their book collections, many replace those books with ebooks. AUGS currently has over 100 ebooks but we need to add more to the elementary schools and look into devices that students can check out.

At AUGS, Amy Bendall and Amy Guanci won an Antioch Foundation Grant to purchase LittleBits and Ozobots in hopes of fostering a school to home connection between PLTW and the library. Plans include adding more pieces like Google Cardboard glasses, Minecraft Stop Animation Kits, Osmo's Genius Kits and Sphero Robotic Ball.

We have a long way to go in regards to implementing technology and devices that are portable and accessible to all students - We have started researching ideas with the help of the newly formed district technology committee.

# COLLABORATION

## Current

- Small Group Common Spaces
- 5 Day Building Rotation
- Monthly Library Media Newsletter
- Book Baskets
- Weekly Coaches Meetings
- Art Contests and STEM Displays



## Future Plans

- Mini Lessons
- Co-taught Lessons with LMS
- Create EL Focused areas in the learning
- Library Centers
- Little Free Library
- Pinterest Page
- Library Committee



The learning commons model represents a new stage in the changing role of the school library. Books are still very important, but the space is not dominated by row after row of towering bookshelves. There are more common areas that allow students and teachers to do more collaborative work.

In addition to the small group spaces created in the library, it is important that the library media specialist build rapport with colleagues. One way is through a 5 day cycle rotation at each school. Although it does not work 100% of the time, our library media specialist is able to meet and greet staff and connect with curricular needs in the schools. Another new tool this year is a monthly newsletter highlighting library events. Amy also encourages the library media assistants to create book baskets dependent on curriculum needs. Becoming part of the weekly Coaches Meetings has also encouraged the library to be involved in the planning and distribution of ELA and Math curriculum needs.

Future ideas are co-taught mini-lessons, library centers for students, an Antioch Community Little Free Library, a District Library Pinterest Page where teachers can pin classroom resource needs, and a District Library Committee.

## FLEXIBILITY

### Current

- Chairs and tables on wheels
- Open Schedule allowing students to come in on a needs basis



### Future Plans

- All library chairs and tables on wheels
- Portable dividers to make individual spaces



Students and staff come into the school library media centers for a variety of reasons. Therefore, the space should be able to accommodate different activities in a quick, flexible environment with movable furniture and temporary wall partitions that serve both short and long-term function. When students are allowed to reconfigure their work environment, they will find ways to create the most conducive environment for collaboration and optimal learning.

Our 3 2-5 buildings now have chairs and tables with castors and the tables at AES and OAK, fold down and nest together for quick storage. We have no portable dividers. We failed to realize when ordering that when you order smaller chairs for the students that you need to order smaller tables too. Right now it is a bit awkward to sit at the tables at our elementary schools but we are working out a plan to change that. We would also like to look into some portable dividers to create quiet spaces for work.

## SOCIABILITY



### Current

- ☐ AUGS cafe area
- ☐ Tinker spaces
- ☐ 100 Day activities
- ☐ School clubs  
afterschool



### Future Plans

- ☐ Lego story building  
centers
- ☐ Breakfast or lunch  
book clubs...for  
students, staff,  
parents
- ☐ Student book swaps
- ☐ Small group zones

Social space is a critical ingredient to the success of a learning commons. To fully engage students, learning commons should look to the hospitality and retail industries for best practices: the aroma of coffee, the buzz found in cafes, and the service strategies found in retail and hospitality help set a new tone for the library.

While, we would love to smell hot chocolate and have a juice bar, this will probably not happen. What we are doing is creating zones for small groups of students to meet and discuss classroom topics like the AUGS Café Table section with high tables and chairs. We also have begun to set up TinkerSpaces with puzzles, games, and Legos for the students to use during library time. It has been a huge success at AUGS!

We've also encouraged our students to be collaborate and be social together during special events like the 100th Day celebration and Dr. Seuss birthday. There is definitely a learning curve, knowing that when students are social they are not going to be quiet. We will continue to add activities that encourage our students to be social and think creativity.

# UTILIZATION

## Current

- Library Checkout
- Makerspaces
- Achieve 3000
- After school homework club
- School clubs
- STEM after school classes (Hillcrest, Oakland, Petty, AES)



## Future Plans

- Co-taught lessons
- Technology that is not available in the classroom
- Presentation area for classrooms



Overall, students and staff seem to like the new aesthetics of the library media spaces however, we need more to draw them in and keep them here. It is safe to say that our library media spaces are still mainly thought of as book warehouses where teachers bring their students to check out new books and return old ones.

Over and over, the teachers say that they do not have unstructured time in their day to visit the library nor is there anything in the library that they do not have in their classrooms (tables, promethean board, etc). Last year, our elementary students visited the library twice a week, this year it is once (and sometimes less than that). With new curriculums, the teachers are focusing on what is going on in their classrooms and just do not have the time to come to the library as much as they would like to.

Hopefully, starting with the Oakland Library Committee and the new Technology Committee, we can use their ideas as springboards to enhance the spaces to create a true learning commons area where students and staff will thrive.

The spaces are used, periodically, by small and large groups for classroom instruction, after school homework or school clubs, and by outside organizations like the Spanish Club or the STEM Club.

AUGS sees the most use mainly because of its Success period which is a little less structured. Students come down to exchange books, do homework and create in the Tinker Space area.

Next year, we hope to broaden the library use by including new technology for teachers that is unavailable in their classroom, a presentation area and co-taught lessons with the library media specialist. We know that change takes time and rethinking the library media space and its purpose will take time too.

## OAKLAND LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

### 2015-2016

- Computer lab is separate room
- Teacher resources not located in library



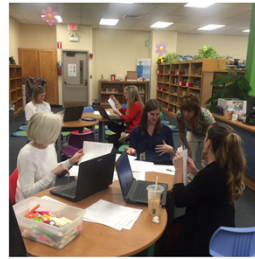
### 2016-2017

- Stage for performances
- Tiered seating
- One classroom space
- Individualized spaces
- New technology
- Bring in Guided Reading materials from the portable
- Computers coming into the library
- New bookshelves

Year 2 Summer plans will focus on Oakland. Last summer, we were able to make a few changes to Oakland, but we had a few obstacles standing in our way. One was that the computer lab is housed in a separate area outside the library walls preventing a true Library Media Center. Another was the library space houses several staff offices which we needed to be mindful of but took space away from the actual footprint of the library. Also, the teacher's guided reading materials are housed in a portable outside the walls of the school and not in the library media space.

With the help of the Oakland Library Media Center Committee, these issues will be addressed.

Some of our ideas include moving the computer lab into the library media space via laptops, removing the office spaces and creating a teacher resource area that would include all the Guided Materials from outside, thus freeing up a portable for use. Adding tiered seating and some type of stage for presentations, purchase new shelving that matches, adding new technology and creating a new open layout.



THANK YOU

