Indiana School Libraries Lead to Better Student Performance

"...50 years of research, and more than 60 studies [show] that students attending schools with well-stocked libraries, staffed by a credentialed librarian do consistently better academically and have higher standardized test scores."

Esad, N. (2022). Could school librarians be the secret to increasing literacy scores? Every Library Institute. https://www.everylibrary institute.org/school_librarians_literacy_scores_report

School Librarians are LITERACY ADVOCATES

- Inspire the next generation of readers by connecting the right book with the right student, thus increasing literacy attainment
- Teach media and digital literacy skills so students can better analyze the modern world - important skills for the future
- Collaborate and co-teach with other faculty, expanding literacy in all content areas
- Organize reading incentives and author visits, encouraging recreational reading

School libraries offer students a spectrum of ways to interact with books: (left) Book tastings are a great way to stimulate the senses and make choosing a book fun at Hamilton Southeastern Intermediate Junior High; (right) Students engage with multiple informational texts in a library writing lab at Decatur Central High School.

Students at Whiteland Community High School participate in National Voter Registration Day learning activities.

School Librarians are RESOURCE CURATORS

- Purchase and maintain collection materials while staying current with new technologies
- Create usable and welcoming library spaces that promote access for everyone often in multiple languages
- Ensure budget dollars are spent wisely, enabling resource sharing for all students and staff
- Identify and compile resources for teachers to support, reinforce, and extend classroom learning

School Librarians are RESEARCH & INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

- Teach students how to ethically gather, review, share, and cite information
- Facilitate new digital resources for staff and students, ensuring that users know how to connect and access what they need
- Encourage student inquiry and curiosity through exploration of online databases, primary sources, and engineering makerspaces
- Collaborate with administration to develop policies around intellectual honesty, artificial intelligence use, and copyright

School libraries provide the mental and physical space for student exploration: (left) Engineering students test the strength of paper bridges at Ben Davis 9th Grade Center; (middle) Students build collaboration skills with breakout boxes in Duneland Schools; (right) Carmel High School students employ critical and creative thinking skills while studying angles and vectors.

The Power of School Libraries

"School library services play an essential role in student literacy development, despite the fact that they are often treated like a nice add-on to schools rather than a necessary ingredient. Building reading joy helps kids learn and love to read, and to continue to identify as readers throughout their lives."

Appel, Heather. "The Power of School Libraries: Why Every Student Deserves Access." Oakland Literacy Coalition, 8 Jan. 2024, oaklandliteracycoalition.org/the-power-of-school-libraries-why-every-student-deserves-access/.

Predicting Reading Ability Among Ten-Year-Olds

"The clear winner in boosting reading achievement seems to be providing access to books, which in turn helps create a pleasure reading habit, which in turn creates better scores on tests." This study compared International Reading scores in 2006 - 2016.

Lao, Christy, et al. "Predicting Reading Ability Among Ten-Year-Olds." languagemagazine.com, Daniel Ward, 18 June 2021.

Lack of Indiana School Librarians

According to the *2018 Status Report on Indiana School Libraries*, an ILF study,

75% of elementary schools **DO NOT** have a school librarian on staff, putting students at risk for poorer performance.

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