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Printed Page Alive and Well At Clearspring Middle School

FOLLETT DESTINY LIBRARY MANAGER KEY TO BOOSTING BOOK CIRCULATION

Not long after Clearspring Middle School (CMS) opened its doors in the fall 2012, the library quickly became an integral part of the campus's learning environment and a cool place for the students to gather, study, and thrive.

Librarian Arlene Baldwin, a proponent of printed books, turned to Follett Destiny® Library Manager to create a library of which the entire school community could be proud. She is now turning heads with how printed books are booming in popularity at CMS.

From the moment Arlene brought Follett aboard to help the library be as rich in content as context, she was confident in her choice.

"We knew that in partnering with Follett we could create a library we're proud of. When our initial order was placed, we were pleased to find the prices included shelf-ready processing (spine label, MARC record, bar code affixed to the book and Mylar on dust jackets if required) and Follett always includes *free* shipping in Canada and the US with each order. We received the books in true Dewey order, and they were quickly put on the shelves in minutes rather than hours," Arlene recalls.



In addition to Destiny Library Manager, CMS also reaps the benefits of using Titlewave.com – Follett’s powerful collection development and curriculum support tool that provides the ability to search millions of available titles in print and digital format.

“Our graphic novels from titlewave®, including biographies, just fly off the shelves.” Arlene says.

“We are most proud of our circulation numbers, which have grown from 21,000 titles when we opened for 2012-13 to 33,000 by the end of the 2014-15 school year – an increase of nearly 60 percent!” Arlene exclaims. “Everyone is amazed that a school with a student population of approximately 520 students generates circulation that high.”

She reports CMS’s library is more than a quiet, popular space to read, as it also has blossomed into a hub for research, literacy, and a newly formed Makerspace. “Our staff and students are also impressed with how well they are able to maneuver through Destiny. Searching for books on specific topics or genres is done quickly and efficiently,” Arlene says. “Destiny is such a great, easy program to use.”

Not only do users of the CMS library rely on Destiny to find books tailored to their research, but the Follett Destiny Discover® app makes it easy for students to browse the library collection from anywhere.

“The kids help me shelve and organize the library, and if they are looking for a title we don’t have, we go over the wish list in Titlewave together and order what we need,” Arlene says. “It’s based on what they like to read – they get to be involved and it gives them a sense of ‘this is our library.’ Then there’s the excitement throughout the library when the new arrivals come in and are catalogued!”

CMS’s 32 teachers are very much part of the library family, too, as they routinely ask Arlene to compile collections of novels or nonfiction books that fit into specific activities planned for their classrooms. Teachers and students alike also appreciate CMS’s modern library layout, which includes an array of comfortable sofas, hexagonal tables, and individual seminar rooms.

With many schools exclusively turning to digital books, Arlene says it’s easy to think the days of the printed page are numbered. But she offers up her own library as a counter theory.

“The printed page is alive and well at the CMS Library,” Arlene asserts. “It is our responsibility and privilege to pass on the joy of reading to future generations.

“As anyone who has ever been moved by a good book knows, our memories hold on to far more than the powerful words in a story,” she continues. “We remember the smooth feel of the pages, the smell of the paper, the illustrations on the cover, and how the book felt in our hand. No virtual reality can ever replace the real feeling of curling up with a good book.”

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