

School Advocacy Plan for Boys Town Schools

TARGET GROUP

The target audience for this school library advocacy plan is new teachers and staff members. For the 2024-2025 school year, Boys Town Middle/High School hired ten new teachers, including an elementary student teacher for the fall semester. The range of new teachers is a diverse one with some teachers have many years of previous teaching experience with other districts while a handful of teachers coming into the profession for the first time.

One of the most important reasons for new staff and teachers to be aware of their school library program is because the center as a hub of learning while offering a variety of different resources to help further support teaching and student achievement (Farmer, 2014). After experiencing several observations, discussions, and interviews, some of the needs have made quite apparent of new teachers for Boys Town Middle/High School and include:

1. Introduction to Library Services
 - a. Overview of library services available and physical space. Also, an explanation of library policies borrowing of products and other resources.
2. Professional Development
 - a. Training sessions/workshops on how to integrate library resources with daily lessons with students
3. Technology Integration
 - a. Instruction/training of technology available in the library space including computers, create spaces, ebooks, and more.

GOALS

1. *Help familiarize new teachers and staff members with Boys Town library services*

Benefit for New Teachers/Staff:

- New staff members will immediately gain access to a variety of high-quality resources including books, journals, and databases. This can help save time in lesson planning in trying to find resources as well as introduce students in high-quality engaging resources.

Benefits for School Library Program:

- When teachers and staff use library resources, it better increases and helps the academic culture of the school. When this happens, the school library becomes a central hub for collaboration with teachers and students.

2. *Conduct regular professional development opportunities introducing new teachers and staff in how to incorporate library resources with their daily lesson plans and activities*

Benefit for New Teachers/Staff:

- With the access to professional development, new teachers will feel empowered to use library resources and technology in their classrooms. This will help teachers incorporate diverse and engaging materials, leading to more engaged curriculum and lessons.

Benefits for School Library Program:

- By offering professional development, the school library is able to establish itself as a vital educational partner and collaborator for all teachers and staff throughout the building. This collaboration enhances the library's role as a center of academic success and contributes to its ongoing advocacy and sustainability as well.

3. *Help familiarize new teachers and staff with the technology available at the media center and how to use them properly.*

Benefits for New Teachers/Staff:

- New teachers will gain familiarity and confidence in using available technology, which in result in more creative and engaging lessons for our student to experience. The use of technology also allows teachers to support different learning styles and differentiate lessons for students as needed.

Benefits for School Library Program:

- Increasing the presence and use of school technology strengthens the school library's role as a technology hub for the school. As library technology

use increases, this also increases the reputation of the school library as an essential place and presence in the school.

ACTIVITIES FOR ADVOCACY

1. Goal #1

- a. Library orientation/tour: New teachers and faculty during preservice week before the new school year starts led by school librarian and library paraprofessional.
 - i. Materials: Refreshments, snacks, PowerPoint, Library Handouts for Station Activities
 - ii. Persons: School Librarian, Library Paraprofessional, New Teachers/Staff

2. Goal #2

- a. Offer a variety of planned professional development lessons/workshops ideally once a month with optional workshops offered throughout the year as well. This includes topics such as how to collaborate with library, how teachers can incorporate databases in their student projects, and more.
 - i. Materials: PowerPoints, Computers, Handouts
 - ii. Persons: School Librarian, Technology Coach, New Teachers

3. Goal #3

- a. Technology Survey: deploy technology survey at the beginning of the year to better understand how teachers are looking at incorporating technology in their classrooms and develop professional development around those topics of interests
 - i. Materials: Microsoft Form Survey
 - ii. Persons: New Teachers, School Librarian, Technology Coach
- b. Computer Lab Checkout: Allow teachers time to reserve a time to bring students down to the library to explore and use library technology resources to offer a variety of different lesson types as well as increase engagement among students.
 - i. Materials: Computers, CreateSpace, technology software programs (Adobe, Canva, Office 365, etc.)
 - ii. Persons: School Librarian, Teachers, Students, Technology Coach, Technology Coordinator

MARKETING

1. Goal #1

- a. Prepare new facility handout to be given to new teachers/staff during library orientation. This handout includes processes of checking out materials, materials/resources available for use my staff, upcoming events, who to contact, and more.
 - i. Contacts: District Printing, Principal, Assistant Principals, New Teachers/Staff, Secretaries, School Librarian
- b. Send Calendar Invite to new teachers and administrators to attend school library tour during a designated day during preservice week.
 - i. Contacts: New Teachers/Staff, Administration Team, School Technology Team, School Librarian

2. Goal #2

- a. Send professional development calendar for the semester to all new teachers. The calendar highlights the days professional development will be offered and what topics will be covered on those days. Calendar also highlights optional workshops that will be offered after school on specific topics requested to help develop new teachers.
 - i. Contacts: New teachers/staff, administrators, technology team, teaching and learning team, school library team

3. Goal #3

- a. Send weekly technology tips/resources news letters that highlights technology tips and highlights certain technology the school has available for teachers to use and incorporate in their classroom and how to access them.
 - i. Contacts: All schoolteachers and staff
- b. School Library Website is created and incorporated to the school website. This includes access to library computer lab checkout form, resources available, upcoming events, and more.
 - i. Contacts: All school staff and teachers, students

References:

Farmer, L. (2014). Introduction to information literacy for students. Neal-Schuman.