

# Annual Report 2016-17 DRMS Learning Commons

June 2017

## ANNUAL OVERVIEW

This has been a very successful and busy year for the DRMS Learning Commons.

Circulation for SY 2016-17: **18,118**

Average Age of the Collection: **2004**

Copies of books added to the collection: **273**

Books Weeded From the Collection: **1,566**

## RESEARCH & TEACHING

**Mrs. Myers worked with every department PLT and team this year.**

North by Northwest: Social Studies 7.1

Colonial America: Social Studies 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

What is your question for your life?: Math 7.1

Roald Dahl and BFG dream Jars: L.A. 6.4

Raina Telgemeier and Graphic Novelists: L.A. 6.4

Holocaust: L.A. 6.1

Ancient Greece GRAPES stations: Social Studies 6.1, 6.2/3

Create a Fakebook Page for a Mathematician: Math 7.4

Research Paper: L.A. 7.1, 7.2/3, 7.4, 8.1, 8.4

Edgar Allan Poe Study: L.A. 6.2/3, 6.4, 6.1

Primary and Secondary Sources: Social Studies 6.1

Microbiology Project: Science 8.1, 8.2

Dickens of a Party: L.A. 7.2/3

Imperialism Research: S.S. 7/2.3

Bettering the World research: L.A. 6.2

Independent Study Groups WWI project: 7.4

Independent Study Groups Science Project: 7.4

Plagiarism: Literacy Connections, Wood, 6th grade

Cross Curricular Science/LA Research Paper: 8.1

Human Body Infographic Research Project: Science 7.1 and 7.4

Space Research Project: Science 6.2/3

Nature vs. Nurture Research Project: Science 7.2/3

Ancestry Project: Literacy Connections, K. Johnson (6th & 7th grades)

Brochure Project: Science 7.2/3

Probability Project: Math Connections, Paynter (7th)

Strong Structures: Science 7/4



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Therapy Dogs Hone Literacy Skills
- Making Russian Friends
- Readyng for Project Ready
- New Mission, New Vision – Shape Future of the Learning Commons

## STUDENTS STEER BOOK CLUBS

We began the year with the “Read All About It” book club. Each grade level visited the learning commons one morning a week during Gear Up and read books based on themes for three week periods. This allowed students to choose what they wanted to read and to float in and out as needed based on interest in the reading themes. The most enthusiastic group was 7/1 . Reluctant readers from 8/3 joined us later in the year and really enjoyed read-alouds. Many



of these girls had

never wanted to read before but having a safe environment in which they were able to choose their books made a monumental difference.



*“The dogs enjoy my wonderful telling of kids’ stories with loads of enthusiasm, and I enjoy the relief of having someone to talk to in my own comfort” — Jackson Bryn*

## THERAPY DOGS

This year the media center coordinated with area therapy dogs and the special programs students in Mrs. Frenor’s and Ms. Penn’s classes to create a weekly reading session. When the dogs visited, the children read aloud to them. These opportunities improved literacy and public speaking skills for students who thoroughly enjoyed the visits.

## INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS SPARK STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Interactive displays throughout the school year have enabled all students to have a voice in the learning commons’ happenings.

The year began with students submitting name ideas for our shark whose purpose was to remind them to “take a bite out of nonfiction and read.” The shark was named Jaws Jr.

November’s display provided students with the chance to vote for their favorite book in our “Freedom to Read” election.

December’s display included a holiday tree competition between media assistants in which students voted on Twitter for their favorite. Media assistants used weeded books to create their trees.

For February, students checked out a “blind valentine,” in which they checked out a wrapped book with the understanding that regardless of what the book was about the student had to at least take it home for the night and try reading it.

For our March Madness media assistant-created display, students voted weekly to crown a national champion of books.

## E-PALS AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



6.4 students Skyping with Russian ePal Dasha.

At the start of the second semester several of the AIG students from Ms. Bollinger’s Gear Up group were invited to learn about Russia and Skype with several Russian students. The Skype sessions have become twice weekly chats and the students have created documents and shared information with our Russian friends, such as a lesson on our language. The students even learned how to write their names in Russian.

The last nine weeks several AIG students from 6.1 joined the fun. Originally they were supposed to communicate via written documents and letters with friends in Finland but when we didn’t hear back in a timely fashion they began joining the weekly Skype sessions with Russia. They have enjoyed comparing how certain events in history have been taught in America versus how the same event was taught in Russia. One very big difference they saw was the portrayal of the fall of communism. In America, it was lauded but for average Russians it was a grim, sad time that represented some of the darkest days in their history.

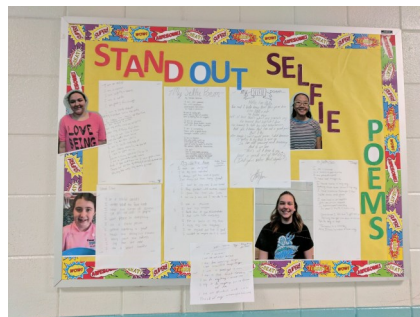
This experience has greatly enhanced the students’ global awareness and expanded their understanding of various points in history.

## SPECIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

One of Mrs. Graham’s 7.4 science classes **Skyped** with **Dr. Steven Penn**, a scientist who proved Einstein’s Theory of Gravitational Waves to be correct.

Several **writing contests** were advertised through the media center, including one through Roald Dahl’s web site for ages 5 to 12 and another one from the author of *Toward A Secret Sky* for ages 13 to 18.

The media center sponsored a **Selfie Poetry Contest** in honor of National Library Month. Winners who had the most creative poems were posted on the bulletin board.



Selfie Poem Contest Winners

To celebrate **Dr. Seuss’s birthday**, the “Read All About It” book club and 8.1 students created Truffula trees and placed them around the media center. The media center also hosted the **Hour of Code** for 7th grade classes.

### Professional Development

- Fall WCPSS Convergence— This conference sparked the idea for ePals and Project Ready.
- Spring WCPSS Convergence
- Imagine the Next— national conference that highlighted trends in library media.
- Positivity Project

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### Reading for Project Ready

Durant Road Middle School was selected to be part of Project Ready for the 2017-18 school year. Project Ready is a new initiative that WCPSS is beginning as it partners with NCCU and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Project READY is a year-long professional development opportunity for 30 selected schools that will send teams comprised of the school librarian, a classroom teacher, and a literacy coach who will focus on cultural competency and equity literacy, with the goal of improved student engagement and achievement.

Training for this initiative begins in August.

## TRANSFORMATION: A MEDIA CENTER BECOMES A LEARNING COMMONS

Mrs. Myers has been working to transform the media center from a 1994 library to a Learning Commons of 2016.

She created a survey and posted it via a QR code around school for the kids to have input on the changes and she solicited feedback from staff via email. She invited feedback from various staff members.

She has weeded more than 1,500 books and has integrated the reference section into the regular nonfiction section. She moved the videos and the fiction section which opened up the view from the windows.

Mrs. Myers met with Kendra Allen and Emily Cochran from the county about furniture and how to update the look of the space. She received 32 new chairs with wheels, four leisure reading chairs and a whiteboard ottoman from the county. Additionally the county paid for wheels to be added to eight of the media center tables.

Mr. Ziegler and Mrs. Myers were awarded an Active Learning Space grant of \$50,000 that will be used to update the space and purchase new virtual reality equipment, furniture, build a recording studio, and a Makerspace.

She collaborated with Mrs. Bender regarding the integration of a Makerspace. The plan is to put a lego wall into bookshelves where the magazines are currently located. A Teen Tech Club will be established where students will begin using the Makerspace, thereby promoting and sustaining it. Professional development for staff will be provided during the 2017-18 school year and the science department will be the first to model ways to integrate the MakerSpace into lessons and projects. The goal is to create more cross-curricular projects within the school.

In addition to the physical changes to the space, Mrs. Myers has also updated the media center's online presence via the web page.

### A NEW LOOK & A NEW DIRECTION

#### **The Mission of the DRMS Learning Commons is:**

to provide opportunities for students to grow academically by instilling the 4C's as part of each student's skill set, thereby preparing them to be learners, leaders, and thinkers.

#### **Vision:**

The learning commons is a student-centered community where students create, communicate, collaborate, and think critically.

## NEW YEAR = NEW GOALS FOR 2017-18

- Renewal of National Boards for Mrs. Myers
- Mrs. Myers will apply for the Czech Republic Cultural Opportunity through N.C. State and continue the ePals projects during Gear-Up for 6th and 7th grades.
- Continue weeding with the goal of improving the average age of the collection.
- Develop a living collection management plan
- Grow a working MTAC and updated school technology plan.
- Increase cross-curricular projects and collaboration with all subjects and teachers.
- Provide professional development for Makerspace and recording studio for staff.
- Promote the Positivity Project schoolwide and serve on the school committee.
- Attend professional development for Project Ready and provide school level training.