



AHS Library Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Scheduling Classes	1
Library Goals/PD	1
From the Desk Of...	2
Section Added	2
Inquiry Introduction	2

- Statistics:**
- * Students for October:
School day (6, 231); After-school (494)
 - * Number of classes for October (96)
 - * Students for November:
School day (8,257); After-school (823)
 - * Number of classes for October (91)

Scheduling Classes & Activities

With the birth of the computer center in the rear of the library, we've been busier than ever with classes. From English to science and Explorations to health, we've been doing it all.

One thing we'd like to mention is how to schedule time in the library. To keep accurate records, we have a calendar behind the desk that we use to organize classes, typically one per period. When you are ready to bring a class down, see one of the librarians who will then sit with you to find time on the calendar. We will ask you to fill out a [research planning form](#) as well. It's a Word form, so that it's easy to save, edit

and email back without ever having a paper copy! It can also be found on the [library's homepage](#). This ensures that the teachers and librarians know what the expectations are when the classes visit.

Each class has the use of a twenty-computer lab, LCD/VHS/DVD projection screen, and printer. And, your very own librarian! With classes above twenty students, there are computers available in the front of the library.

We have no limit on how far in advance you can schedule a project, so planning is essential. Many times the computer lab is booked weeks in advance

and we ask that we have at least one day's notice if you are planning a project. But, that one day does not guarantee that we have the space.

The library is also sometimes used as a space for testing and even meetings, so please let us know. We can either find an alternate space better suited for your needs or accommodate you here.

We look forward to working with you to plan activities for you classes that include more than just finding and reporting information, but letting students discover on their own.

Library Goals and Professional Development

At the beginning of the '09-'10 school year, the library staff sat down to come up with goals: goals that would further the influence of the library and its services. The first two goals involve teachers, not only do we want to create innovative and creative projects with teachers, we also want to provide them with professional development to use new technologies and implement old technologies to construct meaningful lessons. Our third goal involves the parents, whom we want to invite to the library throughout the school year as both an open house to the changes we're making, but also to see where students spend their time working and researching. And, the fourth goal is to increase access to computers for our students. With the help of technology, we created a computer lab in the rear of the library with an overhead LCD projector. This enables the front computers to be used for students doing research and typing during lunches and study halls. A future goal is to be able to circulate laptop computers for use as well.

From the Desk Of...

Editor's Note: Mrs. Greenaway-Chandler's column will re-appear in January's edition. Stay tuned!



Mrs. Abdul

On Wednesday, November 4th I attended a lecture put on by the University at Albany's School of Education. They hosted professor and author, [Allan Collins](#) who works in both science and education.

His new book, *Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology* was the basis for the lecture on needing a new vision for education with the advent of new technology. This technology enables students to learn from home, it allows students to pursue their interests and learn more than ever with the Internet and social networking. Technology allows critical thinking and problem solving to be learned on the job.

So, he concludes, its only fitting that education must readjust as well. While it won't happen overnight, it must happen to keep pace. Thought-provoking.

For more information on the changing landscape of education: *Reading, Writing, and Rising Up* by Christensen; *Teaching for Joy and Justice* (sequel) by Christensen; *Keeping the Promise? The Debate Over Charter Schools* edited by Dingerson, Miner, Peterson and Walters; *Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling* by Gatto.



Inquiry Learning: A Preview

Growing Into Inquiry is the title Capital Region BOCES has given to the process of changing the way teachers and librarians do business.

In short, we want students to get involved in "a cycle of questioning, investigating, verifying, and generating" to demonstrate that learning is a process, that students can answer their own questions, that students can solve real-world problems, confront issues, and explore personal interests.

Librarian, Sonji Greenaway-Chandler has attended several workshops already on how to best implement these goals and achieve inquiry success. Look for future editions of the newsletter to provide a more detailed explanation on how to create inquiry-based lessons and activities.



Section Added

With an increasing number of young adult authors writing series, the library has added a section, just for these series for better access. Any series over five books will re-located to the shelving unit next to the reading nook. We hope to have a banner indicating this special section within the year.

Series like Darren Shan's *Cirque du Freak* series (which was turned in to a movie this fall called *The Vampire's Assistant*) or the Bluford High series that focuses on a fictional urban high school and the lives of a group of students who attend it.

Also on this special shelf is a group of fiction and nonfiction titles for our ELL population, as well as light reading for students looking for short and simple stories to engage them.

New Addition

Be sure to congratulate our librarian, Sonji Greenaway-Chandler on the birth of her baby girl, Sabriyya.



Welcome Back

The library also welcomed back, Ms. Brenda Twiggs, a retired librarian and former director of Hudson Valley Community College's library during November and December.

Display Ideas

If your class has a special project that you would like to have displayed in the library, please see us.

We always enjoy having new and inviting projects and artwork to showcase Albany High's talent!

"The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth."

-Erasmus