

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT

Andrew Robitaille, Jackson Memorial Middle School

Phone: 330-830-8034 x3508

Email: atr2jc@jackson.sparcc.org



Stephanie Soduk, Public Relations and Development Manager, Stark County District Library

Phone: 330.458.2699

Email: ssoduk@starklibrary.org

Jackson Middle School forms partnership with Stark County District Library

March 7, 2016 (Massillon, Ohio) – Students of Jackson Memorial Middle School are expanding their access to educational materials through a partnership with Stark County District Library. Andrew Robitaille, the information and media specialist at Jackson Memorial Middle School, initiated the partnership this year in an effort to increase collaboration between schools and public libraries.

Students who participate in the partnership program can visit their middle school library to request materials from Stark County District Library. The materials are sent to Jackson Township Branch Library, and the students are notified of their availability. Students can then pick up the materials at the Jackson Township Branch Library, or they can ask Mr. Robitaille to retrieve them on their behalf. When students finish using their materials, they can also request Mr. Robitaille to return the materials to the Jackson Branch Library.

"Our school libraries and our public libraries offer so many excellent resources to our students," said Robitaille. "It just makes sense for us to combine forces and expose more students to the love of reading."

Mr. Robitaille has worked closely with Ellen Doucette, teen librarian at Jackson Branch Library, to create the partnership. "It's a total win-win situation in that both the Jackson Memorial Middle School and the Stark County District Library benefit immensely," Doucette said. "I am so happy to see this happening."

Kathy Kibler, manager at Jackson Township Branch Library, agrees. "Great things happen when school libraries and public libraries work together! This latest partnership is just one of many collaborative efforts between Andrew Robitaille and Ellen Doucette. Jackson Township is fortunate to have two such caring professionals working together to ensure student access to library services and materials."

Through this partnership, students at Jackson Memorial Middle School can borrow a wealth of resources, including books, CDs, DVDs, and e-books from the Ohio Digital Library. The partnership fits well with the current initiative from President Obama, ConnectED, which encourages Libraries and schools to collaborate in an effort to increase resource accessibility for students.

For additional information, visit tiny.cc/librarypartnership or email Andrew Robitaille at atr2jc@jackson.sparcc.org.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

One of the 8 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county’s oldest library -- Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 100,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.5 million items from its 1.2 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents nearly 8,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 280,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its “no overdue fines” policy, the recently launched BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

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