

NEWS RELEASE

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Stark County District Library and Canton City School District announce partnership

October 13, 2015 (Canton, Ohio) – Stark County District Library and Canton City School District are partnering in a new effort. The initiative, entitled Start Smart School Partnership, combines the partners' strengths and resources to offer students and families the best support for improved literacy and greater academic achievement.

Students and families are benefiting from the joint effort in several ways. First, all Canton City School District students received a Stark County District Library card at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, giving them full access to the library's extensive collections, databases, and online resources. New students will receive a card each year to ensure that all students have Library access.

Librarians from Stark County District Library are also working side-by-side with CCSD educators, building leadership, and school librarians to provide supplementary instructional services and materials. These include storytelling programs, book talks, book discussions, Library website instruction, database search instruction, iPad activities, speaker presentations, and other programs as requested. Students and families will also be informed of activities at the Library complementary to their studies and will be encouraged to visit the Library as part of their regular routine.

Finally, the partnership aims to increase basic literacy skills by having every student in the district read for 20 minutes each day. To extend this goal to weekends and the summer months, students will be encouraged to participate in existing Library programs like the Summer Reading Challenge.

The 2015-2016 school year is the pilot year for the Start Smart School Partnership program with CCSD as the launch partner. "Stark County District Library understands that to achieve literacy goals in the community, we need to meet students where they are. This partnership brings Library resources into the schools and educates students and staff on how to best utilize all of the fantastic resources that we have to offer," said Tena Wilson, Executive Director of Stark County District Library.

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The Library hopes to expand the partnership program to other school districts in future years. For more information on the partnership and how to get your district involved, contact Marianna DiGiacomo, Director of Community Services, 330-458-2769, mdigiacomostarklibrary.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>.

ABOUT CANTON CITY SCHOOLS

Rising achievement scores and a renewed passion for academic excellence – this is The Canton City School District.

With an enrollment of approximately 9,000 students, the Canton City School District is the largest in Stark County and one of the eight largest urban school systems in Ohio. It is also one of the largest employers in Stark County. The district comprises two high schools, a freshman academy, five middle school academies, seven Prek-2 Reading and Math Preparatory schools and seven 3-5 Leadership Schools. In addition, the district operates five alternative high schools, two alternative middle schools and helps operate a Montessori school, a Digital Academy and an Arts Academy.

Canton’s students have numerous opportunities to participate in the arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities. Our students, at every grade level, utilize the latest technology with the goal of raising achievement and preparing for the challenges of postsecondary years as well as career readiness. A highly qualified staff, a dedication to improving the educational experience and a commitment to a safe learning environment, make The Canton City School District a great place to learn and grow.

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Stark County District Library: Inspire Ideas. Enriching lives. Creating Community.