

Sample Elevator Speech from Margaret Sullivan, Rockwood School District

At the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the RSHS Library played a pivotal role in helping the 9th and 10th grade Language Arts implement a “Book Love” approach to reading and literature. Students are given time to read books they choose at the beginning of class every day, are required to read 120 minutes per week for homework, and are expected to read thirty books during the school year. Language Arts teachers and students rely on the librarians to provide an up-to-date collection of literature that appeals to young adults, present book talks, offer readers’ advisory, and lead lessons on book selection.

By the end of 2013-14 school year, teachers in other subject areas began to notice that when students finished a test or assignment in their class before the bell rang, many of them took out a book and read instead of looking at their cell phones. In fact, one veteran teacher commented, “In my 100 years of teaching, I’ve never seen so many students read so many books!”

The reading culture at RSHS at Summit has continued to grow over the past three years. Teachers still comment on the number of students who always have a book with them and read during any down time they may have during the school day. In the Library, the number of fiction books circulated has increased 298% between the 2012-13 school year (the year prior to the implementation of “Book Love”) and the 2015-16 school year (last year).

Last year’s junior class was the first class to experience two years of “Book Love.” Their composite score on the reading portion of the ACT was 1.6 points higher than that of the previous class – a school record! We are certain this increase is due at least in part to the fact the students built up their reading stamina and improved their comprehension because of all the books they read during their freshman and sophomore years of high school.

Librarians and make a significant contribution to student achievement. Please keep this fact in mind when forming the districts ESSA team and include one or more librarians as team members.

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