

St. Margaret's Episcopal School Library Vision

Research shows that an exemplary school library program positively influences student success. The mission of the school library program is to ensure that students are competent in information access, evaluation, organization and use.

The school library is a unique classroom on campus. Learning that happens in the library is hands-on, process oriented, and transformational--driven not just by student's academic needs but by real-life and/or personal needs as well.

The Librarians teach in collaboration with classroom teachers to ensure that students master the various processes of information access, evaluation, organization and ethical use while more completely understanding the subject academic content. Information literacy is taught in cooperation with content curriculum with an emphasis on the metacognitive skills of process.

The collection of the school library includes age appropriate information on a wide array of topics, but is also reflecting of the campus curriculum. Materials are available in diverse formats ensuring that students learn how to access and evaluate a wide variety of informational packages. A library collection offers a variety of viewpoints allowing students to broaden their view of the world and participate in healthy discussion.

The library program extends beyond the SMES campus through a presence on the web. The library website offers students up to date access to resources, academic assistance, and reading advice. The online library also serves to strengthen communication and collaboration with the larger SMES community.

The Library Staff embraces the library vision and their unique roles in realizing that vision. They work together to support student achievement by maintaining the collection and a library

environment that is conducive to learning. The staff is encouraged to add to their knowledge base and implement new ideas that will benefit the library program and encourage student success.

The school library fosters a love and appreciation of reading by offering and promoting a variety of high interest print materials. Programs that celebrate literacy and storytelling are regularly scheduled. Sharing and discussion of stories and good books is commonplace at all grade levels.

The school library environment is inviting, but conducive to study. Student expectations are clear and consistently enforced. Group and individual work is encouraged and facilitated. The library is seen as a welcoming place that offers students an opportunity to enrich their academic experience, explore personal interests, and gain a richer understanding of the role of information in a democratic society.

Communication and collaborative relationships with the SMES families and the broader community is valued and actively promoted.

SMES students have ownership of their school library. Student input regarding programming, environment, and collection development issues is actively sought and carefully considered.

The library is the pulse of the school. It reflects the values of the campus. It exhibits what is taught in the classrooms. It represents the environment of the school. It encapsulates the philosophy of the educators and decision makers. It serves as a portal to a world of knowledge and experience for our students.

The library is a key component in realizing the mission of educating student's hearts and minds for a life of learning and citizenship.