

2014-2015

Horseheads High School Library

(New) Partners in Learning

Maureen Frei and Mary Ann Sheets



Highlights:

Mary Ann Sheets joined the Horseheads High Library as the new AV Librarian, and has made a tremendous impact in her first year. She brought both experience and enthusiasm to the library (as well as a rather astounding collection of funny hats that made appearances throughout the year).

The library enjoyed its second year of using both NoodleTools, the online citation creator, and the MediaFlex online database management system. Both have been great successes, and we anticipate even greater usage next year.



Mrs. Sheets finished her first year at Horseheads High in style with a new hat.

Statistics:

Individual sign-ins:		2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013
	From Classes	881*	8,134	6,583
	From Activity/Lunch	19,640*	10,968	7,237
	From Physical Education Class	1,123	939	813
Total student sign-ins		21,644*	20,041	14,633
Classes		865/797 109%	849/840 101%	963/810 (119%)
Other statistics				
	Book and Audiobook Circulation	3,250	4,128	4,272
	eBooks and eJournals	19,996	55,951	25,855
	Medi Flex database Management sessions	366,343**		N/A
	Video/DVD Circulation	1,207	1,197	1,508
	Interlibrary Loans	107	100	135
	NoodleTools Projects	2,404	2,169	N/A

*The method of gathering individual sign-in statistics gathered during Activity periods was adjusted midway through the first semester this year. All students signed in on the same sheet, regardless of whether it was their lunch or activity period. Sign-ins for students out of classes were gathered only periods 1-4 and 9-10.

**The extremely high "hit" count from the Media Flex database management system is suspect in how it is calculated, and will be on our watch list for next year. There is no doubt, however, that the system itself has been a huge success in making it easy to access all of the databases from both inside and outside of school.

~Maureen Frei

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

What a great year here at the Horseheads High School Library. As a new member of the faculty, I couldn't be happier with my job. The entire staff is super, the students are awesome, and the spirit of community certainly thrives here at Horseheads. Maureen and Beth have been invaluable in helping me transition to my new position. It has truly been a year where collaborative partnerships were the key to our successes and created some of the most wonderful teaching and learning moments during the year.

Classroom/Librarian Partnerships: We are so fortunate here at Horseheads to have such a wonderful staff whose willingness to provide students new and innovative learning experiences is never-ending. Throughout the school year, we were able to work closely with the English and Social Studies departments in particular to develop several new collaborative lessons which incorporated a variety of opportunities for students to learn both library and content-based material. As a faculty, our goal for the year was to improve on students' research process. We were pleased to be able to offer a variety of library materials and resources in order to accomplish this goal. Lessons were tailored to teacher and student needs and provided plenty of opportunities for the teacher and librarians to work with students both individually and in groups. The collaboration extended to the students and we received variety of great feedback about how to adapt our lessons to better fit their learning needs. For example, we added a presentation to our instruction during the second semester explaining the research process itself which we use with the students prior to beginning their projects or research. This allows us all to be on the same page when it comes to expectations and to have common terminology so that we can better communicate and interpret issues that arise during their learning experience.

Student/Librarian Partnerships: We are pleased to have seen an increase in the number of students utilizing the library during activity periods this year. Students are coming into the library to not only read or work independently on projects, but to seek individual librarian assistance on research or other assigned work. It is a great feeling to know that students feel comfortable enough to 'hang' in the library on their free time and are taking advantage of the opportunity to work with us individually, not only on academic but personal projects as well. Knowing that students feel welcome and empowered to create their own learning experiences is a true testament to the collaborative partnerships formed between the library and the school community as a whole.

Quality Research & Learning Opportunities: We hear this a lot from students: "But Google is so much easier –why can't I just use that for my project?" We work very hard as a faculty to make sure our students understand that research and Google aren't necessarily synonymous and that there are a variety of other resources available to them. Integrating and embedding library skills within the various content areas is vital to allowing students to practice quality research skills, as is having a variety of excellent resources. Maureen has selected some superior research databases for the library and we have also added a wealth and variety of great book and video resources for both students and staff to use within all content areas. As the year progresses we see students improve in their ability to independently locate quality resources, create deeper and more thoughtful searches, ask better questions, and articulate and evaluate their learning. By continuing to grow our collection and constantly evaluate new materials and resources for use within the school community, we will ensure that students are able to keep expanding on their learning.

Future Initiatives: Over the summer the district librarians will meet as a group to discuss the library skills that are taught/needed at all grade levels and develop a plan to ensure that we address these skills consistently across the various grade levels. This collaborative process will help ensure that high school students are better prepared for the demands of the rigorous research that is expected of them. As a high school library team, we have also been collaborating on the planning of the implementation of the Common Core curriculum for English 11 and the History Day project for U.S. History and we intend to continue that process throughout the summer and into the following year as we implement the lessons and research strategies students will need to become lifelong learners and knowledgeable consumers of information.

The library here at Horseheads is truly the hub of the school. We will continue to collaborate with our school community to create curriculum, purchase materials, incorporate technology, and create learning opportunities for students so that the Horseheads Library Media Center will be a place where learning is fostered and where students are challenged to push the boundaries of their knowledge. Thank you for this opportunity to find a home at Horseheads. I truly do love my job!

~ Mary Ann Sheets

Moments:



Fun showcase



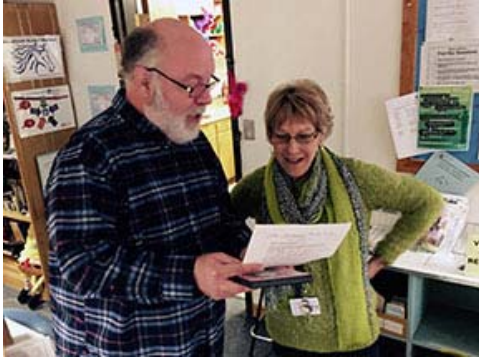
Research!



The "Ocean" continues to be a popular study area with the sound of the waves as white noise from ceiling speakers during Activity periods



Working together



More working together



School spirit

And finally:

During the spring semester, the library became the temporary home for student Matt Dunn's wonderful art pieces. Students and staff alike admired the work, although some were more than a little creeped out by the Cherubs (Mrs. Sheets!!)

