

# Share your **STORY**

A collaborative library advocacy campaign highlighting South Carolina library services from 2019 until 2021.





## South Carolina Library Association

Virginia Cononie  
2020-2021 Advocacy Co-Chair



Welcome to the Share your Story Book, a collection of stories from South Carolina Libraries from 2019 until 2021. It has been my joy to collect these narratives during COVID-19; an isolating time for myself and others. Each entry provides a glimpse into what it means to be a library professional prior, during and closer to

post-pandemic times. Even in the most difficult hours, South Carolina libraries reliably met their patrons wherever they were.

Countless resources were provided, meaningful connections were strengthened, maintained and developed and even with social distancing, libraries managed to support their communities in need. It goes without saying, you only have to read a couple of stories to see the immense impact South Carolina libraries have on it's residents.

Please read over the attached stories and letters from key members in various library communities and witness libraries at their finest. This support was possible by your continued dedication to libraries. By supporting South Carolina libraries, you are ensuring continue to progress in your communities.

Best,  
Virginia Cononie



## Friends of South Carolina Libraries

Marlena White  
Executive Board Member



The Friends of South Carolina Libraries help connect, educate, and engage the individuals and groups dedicated to supporting South Carolina libraries. Friends are fiercely proud of our libraries, staff, and the communities they serve.

As volunteers, we use our passion and talent to advocate for funding and awareness so every citizen knows that libraries are valuable and there to help meet their needs.

Covid-19 challenged Friends to remain relevant even with in-person fundraising cancelled and access to branches limited. Friends have found ways to support libraries and staff when they have needed it the most. Virtual meetings, drive-thru celebrations, and digital billboards are just a few examples of how Friends created new opportunities to collaborate and connect with the community while maintaining our social distance.

The Friends of South Carolina Libraries recognize and celebrate how our libraries creatively navigated a Covid-19 world and our commitment of support has never been stronger. We will continue to share the stories of our South Carolina libraries.

Always a Friend,  
Marlena White



## South Carolina Association of School Librarians

Tenley Middleton  
2020 - 2021 Legislative Chair



I would like to take a moment to inform you about the state of school libraries in South Carolina.

The overall outlook for school libraries in our state is positive.

We successfully rose to the challenge presented by COVID-19 and fulfilled our mission to help create 21st century learners at all grade levels. Whether learning at a distance, hybrid, or in person, we found a variety of creative ways to ensure that students had access to books and other materials.

We collaborated with teachers to ensure that they had the resources needed to support their standards. We taught invaluable lessons on information literacy, digital citizenship and the magic of the written word.

In addition, school librarians worked with parents, and other community members, to help them find resources to support their children through the pandemic.

Although some of us have been limited in

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***“The year has brought many challenges, but the school librarians of South Carolina have met them with grace, courage, and all the resources we have at hand.”***

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space as we’ve quarantined, we’ve truly expanded our role beyond the borders of the school library, bringing books and materials to classrooms, cars and doorsteps, and creating partnerships with public libraries to provide a larger array of electronic resources for our students.

The year has brought many challenges, but the school librarians of South Carolina have met them with grace, courage, and all the resources we have at hand. What we offer the school community has increased, however, our need for continued funding persists.

**We can’t achieve all that is possible without receiving full funding.**

It is of vital importance that monies be allocated on a per student basis to each school in South Carolina so that all our libraries stand on equal ground and every student has the same opportunities no matter where they live.

Respectfully yours,  
Tenley Middleton, M.L.I.S.

## Association of Public Library Administrators

Blair Hinson  
2020 - 2021 President



South Carolina's libraries strive to be centers of the community. Whether that community is the public community, an academic community, or a school environment, libraries provide

educational and enrichment opportunities that can be enjoyed by all.

Libraries are an investment in education and lifelong learning. They make a statement that learning is truly for all, and that learning doesn't end at the threshold of a classroom or lab.

Public libraries in South Carolina are models of what it means for a community to invest in its citizens. Public libraries across the state were major sources of comfort, innovation, and a sense of normalcy during the last year or so of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

Libraries adapted quickly to changing policies, service models, and identifying and meeting community needs even when the doors had to be closed to the public.

Once libraries were able to start reopening, they put a priority on safe but effective services like curbside delivery, expanded outreach, and featur-

ing more electronic resources. Because schools also had to adapt to an online environment, Wi-Fi and broadband at public libraries became even more important.

**As President of the Association of Public Library Administrators of South Carolina for 2021, I invite you to take a look at the stories of success contained in these pages.**

Each example, whether academic, school, or public library, represents an ethic of care and concern for the community, and a desire to make information and entertainment available to all regardless of race, color, ability to pay, or location.

Thank you for your past support of libraries, and we hope you will continue to value libraries in the years to come.

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***“Public libraries in South Carolina are models of what it means for a community to invest in its citizens.”***

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## Partnership Among South Carolina Libraries

Rick Moul  
PASCAL Executive Director



PASCAL is the Partnership of South Carolina Academic Libraries, a 56-member consortium serving the state's students, faculty, and researchers. Situated in the Commission on Higher Education, PASCAL provides resources and support, creating a powerful statewide virtual library that includes 12 million print volumes, over 300,000 e-books, and thousands of academic journals.

Programs include a Shared Library Services Platform for 55 institutions; statewide rapid print-delivery service; core electronic resources; and the South Carolina Affordable Learning initiative. We provide training and support for member libraries and foster collaboration within the South Carolina academic library community on a range of issues.

In Spring 2020, PASCAL's mission, to "provide timely and universal access to information resources and library services", took on even greater urgency as academic libraries across the state played a key role in the rapid transition to remote learning. Having access to high quality, online academic resources became even more critical for higher education students as campuses closed. In addition to providing high quality resources, academic libraries expanded existing online reference and support services or, in some cases, creating new services to reach remote learners. PASCAL also assisted member libraries increase and expand their outreach to faculty around affordable learning, helping increase student's access to affordable online course materials.

PASCAL achieved a major milestone in June 2020, completing implementation of a common systems

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***"Libraries have always been an essential element in South Carolina's higher education ecosystem."***

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infrastructure for the state's academic libraries. This shared library service platform integrates institutional collections and facilitates discovery and delivery of both print and online resources for students and faculty. While this was the culmination of several years of planning and preparation, it is really a foundational first step in fully unlocking the doors of the state's academic libraries to build more common, open, and affordable pathways to information resources for every South Carolina college student, regardless of their institutional affiliation.

When campuses began to re-open in the fall of 2020, PASCAL facilitated communication within the academic library community on how to safely provide in-person services and spaces. Through numerous webinars and information sharing sessions, members shared best practices on implementing curbside pick-up services, safe handling of materials, providing socially distanced spaces for students to study, and more.

Libraries have always been an essential element in South Carolina's higher education ecosystem. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the crucial services and support that libraries provide- whether remote or in-person - on all South Carolina campuses. PASCAL recognizes the important role that libraries played in moving higher education online during the crisis. We are proud to serve the academic library community and to partner with public and school libraries in serving South Carolinians.

Thank you for your continued support of libraries.

Respectfully,  
Rick Moul

# Thank you

## for supporting South Carolina Libraries!

Through your continued support, South Carolina Libraries are able to sustain programs and resources such as StoryFest, DISCUS, Talking Book Services and Summer Reading. These are just a few of the ways that libraries impact South Carolina everyday.

### Did You Know?

#### **In 2018, SC Public Libraries had:**

- 2,403,200 registered total borrowers.
- 13,989,511 total number of visits.
- Checked out 23,388,837 physical items and 31,686,321 digital items used.
- Held 68,174 total programs with a total of 1,473,293 attendees.

#### **In 2017, South Carolina Academic Libraries:**

- reported 4,586,740 eResources held, 6,558,695 total circulating materials and 149,346 visits in a typical week.
- The Partnership Among Carolina Libraries (PASCAL) provided essential resources to the state's college and university students, including over 17,000 journals, 300,000 e-books and universal access to 12 million print volumes. PASCAL has implemented a next generation Shared Library Service Platform for over 55 member libraries that has enhanced library services for students, faculty and staff. This system reduces overall system wide costs, creates a cohesive searching system for all and connects academic libraries across the state.

#### **During 2017-2018, South Carolina School Libraries:**

- Held an average print collection of 11,276 items, had at least one school librarian in over 880 schools across the state, and spent an average of \$10 per student for book purchases. School librarians continue to increase standardized test scores and reading scores by being present, engaging and available for students.

### Ready to Help?



# BUILD AMERICA'S LIBRARIES ACT

**S. 127 & H.R. 1581 would provide \$5 billion to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities.**

Introduced in the Senate on January 28, 2021, by **Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and cosponsors**, and in the House on March 3, 2021 by **Reps. Andy Levin (D-MI), Don Young (R-AK) and cosponsors**, the legislation would fund upgrades to the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers.

## FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

**Funding would be distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to state library agencies.** State libraries would then award grants on a competitive basis to libraries in each state. Funding would be prioritized to libraries serving marginalized communities, such as high-poverty areas. Additionally, IMLS would provide funding directly to tribal libraries. Eligible facilities under the Build America's Libraries Act include public libraries, tribal libraries, and state libraries that provide service directly to the general public.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Eligible uses of the funding include:**

- conducting facilities condition assessments, needs assessments, and master planning;
- financing new library facilities; or
- making capital improvements to existing library facilities, including buildings, grounds, and bookmobiles.

**Improvements to library facilities could include enhancements to:**

- protect health and safety, such as preventing the spread of COVID-19;
- upgrade broadband equipment and technology hardware;
- improve accessibility for people with disabilities;
- abate hazards such as mold and lead; and
- increase environmental sustainability, such as energy efficiency.

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# District 1

Beaufort • Berkeley • Dorchester • Charleston

2021

## Berkeley County Library

100 Library Street Moncks Corner, SC 29461

<https://berkeleylibrarysc.org/>

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck our region, Berkeley County Library Services sprang into action! First, with an opening plan including PPE and sanitization procedures and continued library service while being closed to the public. BCLS provided assistance to customers during and before the COVID-19 pandemic through registration for digital library cards, Chromebooks and WiFi devices.

In May 2020, Curbside Service Pickup was instituted and over 1,600 library items were picked up. In May and June over 300 people used this service. Many customers were thankful. “We did the Curbside Pickup last Friday and it just made for a really great weekend. Thank you for your hard work,” said a Goose Creek Library customer. “COVID has definitely impacted our service and what we’re able to do, as well as our customers,” So, in response we pivoted to virtual. Because we have many customers who migrated to the digital aspect, either because they are in quarantine or are apprehensive about venturing out in the public.”

– Gene Brunson Library Director

BCLS switched from in-person programming to virtual programs such as Storytime with over 13,000 views to date, Teen Improv Workshop, STEM videos and Zoom SC Legal Services Workshops and literacy programs like 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and distributed more



NANCY MACE

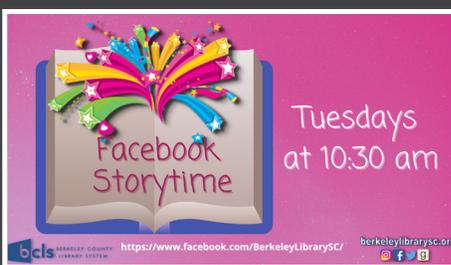
**“BCLS switched from in-person programming to virtual programs such as Storytime with over 13,000 views to date.”**

than 8,000 take-home crafts.

BCLS also increased all digital magazines, e-books and audiobooks. In April 2020, over 14,000 digital items were downloaded. The Library implemented access to 3,500 digital newspapers from around the country along with 826 digital library cards.

Library team members completed an inventory project of 204,179 library items to update each library collection. Library team members developed new programs, arts and crafts, and initiated new ideas for loans of telescopes, projectors, and media players. Shared by

Laurie O’Tool,  
Marketing/  
PR Coordinator •



### CLOSING NOTICE

All BCLS Branches are offering  
**CURBSIDE PICKUP SERVICES**  
while being closed to the public.  
*No items will be due while we are closed.*

**bcls** BERKELEY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM [berkeleylibrarysc.org](https://berkeleylibrarysc.org)



# Charleston County Library

4355 Bridgeview Drive North Charleston, SC  
29401

<https://www.ccpl.org/>

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached South Carolina, the Charleston County Public Library pivoted to develop new models of service to eliminate gaps created by our closure or limited service. To narrow the digital divide, the Library continued operating Wi-Fi outside 16 of its 17 buildings. In the first two months, a weekly average of 900 people connected to the library's Wi-Fi outside the facilities, with a total of more than 18,000 connections.

"There was an immediate need for internet access for many of our students and their families," said Christy James, CCSD Library Media Services Coordinator. "CCPL recognized a need in the community and filled it. I can't say enough how much CCPL stepped it up for our Charleston community."

Since the start of the pandemic, CCPL worked with existing community partners to distribute 2,900 free books to vulnerable or underserved populations. CCPL also distributed 3,000 temporary e-cards that allowed patrons to access all

the digital materials without a regular

library card during closure. We also provided every school district student (more than 50,000) a library account using their student ID. CCPL shifted from in-person programs to virtual, including storytimes, with 846 posted so far.

The feedback from the community has been overwhelming. "It's been such a welcome feeling of support to get those videos," said teacher Sarah Young. "It was a little something for the students and some help for parents also, which is exactly what we all need right now."

CCPL launched curbside service in June. In the first day alone, more than 7,000 items were checked out to 1,142 patrons. In August, several branches opened to limited in-person services, allowing computer use and browsing. We have also been distributing free take-and-make craft items for all ages. More than 17,000 have been distributed so far. Shared by Natalie Hauff. •

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***"There was an immediate need for internet access for many of our students and their families," said Christy James, CCSD Library Media Services Coordinator.***

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# James Island Charter High School

1000 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412  
<https://www.ccsdschools.com/Page/1455>

Our JICHS library is an integral part of our school, with far more than checking out books (although that is a critical part of our mission!). We host classes and students all day long, teach research skills, and are active leaders in our school as formal members of school teams: Leadership, Read to Succeed, Technology, and Culturally Responsive Teaching.

art displays; and promoting Women's History month with informational displays, a

Wonder Woman mannequin, books and posters.

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***“Students are the heart of our story. Our entire focus is on student success through reading, research, technology, assistance to faculty, and their well-being.”***

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The library at JICHS thrives on collaborations with school groups and the community. Students shown are from the United Brothers and Sisters Association and are setting up for a Project Lit event which involved students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members.

Students read the memoir *March* by John Lewis and came together for discussions and talks. Teacher Cadet students planned the event, UBASA students organized readings and speakers, and other school groups created displays honoring civil rights groups of all sorts and participated in discussions.

Our projects this week include introducing an Integrated Science class to the science fiction novel *Nyxia* by Scott Reingten and using it to teach research skills, reading for meaning, and finding the science in science fiction; teaching research on Chaucer's *Pilgrims* to seniors using college level databases; helping juniors learn about the Civil War using StoryBoard; supervising an Extended Essay class for International Baccalaureate juniors; working with an intern on an interactive Black Out Poetry display with materials for students to do their own; hosting IB senior project

This is one of three Project Lit events the library is sponsoring this year as a part of our efforts to have our entire JI community reading, learning, planning, and working together.

Students are the heart of our story. Our entire focus is on student success through reading, research, technology, assistance to faculty, and their well-being. Shared by Amy Ball •

## Sangaree Middle School

1050 Discovery Dr. Ladson, SC 29456  
<https://www.bcsdschools.net/domain/3553>

Sangaree Middle School's media center has spent the year leveraging book clubs to increase students' independent reading.

**By choosing high-interest texts, students are inspired to read other books to learn more.** We also have an extensive maker-space that offers 3d printing, laser cutting, t-shirt making, Legos and other building toys, and more. All are welcome in our media center! Shared by Alana Lewis •



## Sullivan's Island Elementary School

2014 Mike Perkis Place Sullivan's Island, SC 29482  
<https://www.ccsdschools.com/Domain/88>

Our library operates on a flexible schedule, which means that no two days are alike! While our students have been learning in person since September, this year has not been without its challenges. We began the year offering lessons, read alouds and book checkout in classrooms via our "book bus", which provided many much needed smiles to our students and staff.

This was also a time of increased support for teachers and staff with resources and technology assistance. Students were eventually able to be-

gin coming to the library, and our focus shifted to providing increased opportunities for social emotional learning through literature.

**The SIES library has always been an inclusive place where "Y'all=ALL" but, this year more than ever, we have strived to be a place where everyone's voice is heard and valued,** as well as a place where inclusivity is at the forefront of our practices and everyone is afforded the opportunity to realize our school theme and "Shine on!" Shared by Deborah Palmer Santos, MLIS



# Wando Warrior Library Media Center

1000 Warrior Way Mt Pleasant, SC 29466  
<https://sites.google.com/charleston.k12.sc.us/warriorlibrarymediacenter/home>

The mission of the Wando High School Library Media Center is to promote lifelong learning for all patrons of the Wando Warrior community.

It is the goal of the media program at Wando High School to ensure that students and staff members are competent, critical, and ethical users of ideas and information. This goal will be accomplished by:

1. Providing intellectual and physical access to materials in all formats.
2. Providing instruction to foster competence and stimulate interest in reading, viewing, and using information.
3. Working with educators to design learning strategies to meet the needs of students.

The Wando Warrior Library Media Center aligns itself with the Charleston County School District School Library Programs to provide equitable access to diverse, current, and relevant materials.

**We empower students to discover, create, and expand their understanding of the world in an open and welcoming environment.**

We support all school and community stakeholders through collaborating, teaching, and removing barriers to learning. Shared by Cindy Philbeck •



2019-2020

## *Daniel Island School Library*

2365 Daniel Island Drive Charleston, SC 29492

<https://www.bcsdschools.net/domain/3144>

The Daniel Island School Library promotes reading and learning through collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

The Library Media Center aims to empower students to become enthusiastic readers, effective users of information, and productive and ethical users of technology.

**Students develop research skills, use critical thinking to solve problems, and work collaboratively with others.**

The DIS Library encourages and inspires students' interests and love for reading and learning.

We strive to provide students with choices to demonstrate their learning and engaging activities that encourage creative minds to engineer solutions. Shared by Lily Evans. •



## Edmund A. Burns Elementary

3750 Dorchester Road North Charleston, SC 29405

My program, PAWS for Literacy, brings pet therapy into schools to encourage and promote literacy, **provide a sense of comfort and companionship, and reduce anxiety.**

My therapy dog, Bailey, loves to spend time with students at Burns Elementary. In the photo, Bailey is a special guest during Book Club as fifth graders read *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Shared by Kerri Rice. •



## Laing Middle School

2705 Bulrush Basket Lane Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

<https://www.ccsdschools.com/laing>

We foster an incredible relationships with our students at Laing Middle School! Our students get very excited when we host authors, book

fairs and rotating tinker tubs in the Media Center. We try to keep it engaging and interesting to maintain their enthusiasm. We also work closely with the local library to foster a Library Club after school.

More than 20 Laing students jumped at the opportunity to read books to the 4K students at our feeder school, Jennie Moore Elementary. **This was not only exciting for our students, but also for the Pre K students who enjoyed having the big kids read to them!**

One of our favorite times of year is when we sponsor a field trip in the fall and take students to Y'all Fest in downtown Charleston to meet and talk with authors and bring home more books than they can carry! Shared by Gina Scott. •



## *Phillip Simmons Elementary*

2095 Seven Sticks Road Charleston, SC 29492  
<https://www.bcsdschools.net/PSE>

The Media Center at Philip Simmons is not your typical Media center. The maker mindset began here for our **students and is cultivated every week in the Media Center.**

Students are invited to change their negative understanding of failure, determine their own direction, research and innovate solutions to problems, and participate in literacy based or student initiated build challenges. Shared by Rosemary Hand. •



## *Whitesides Elementary School*

1565 Rifle Range Road Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
<https://www.ccsdschools.com/Domain/54>

We are the hub of our school, where research, reading, creating and enjoying literature happen - plus we make learning fun for our 780 students and 40 teachers, participating in the Battle of the Books in our school and across Charleston County school district. Shared by Kim Livingston •



# District 2

Aiken • Barnwell • Lexington • Orangeburg • Richland •

2021

## Aiken Bamberg Barnwell Edgefield Regional Library System

314 Chesterfield St SW. Aiken, SC 29801  
<https://www.abbe-lib.org/>

When the pandemic started Aiken-Bamberg-Barnwell Library System employees struggled to maintain community ties with patrons without sharing a physical space. This was a time that masks were not recommended, little was known about surface transmission, and disinfectants were as scarce and valuable as gold.

The libraries in our four county system set out free books, copies of tax forms, activity kits, created virtual programs, ramped up promotion of the digital branch, and provided free wi-fi in all library parking lots.

During these bleak times stories of community and connection started to emerge. A woman had just moved with her young child into the area right as businesses shuttered doors, schools closed, and playgrounds were roped off. They



***“Another family shared that their 8 children huddled on the couch and watched a local theater group perform Little Red Riding Hood via the library Facebook page.”***

tuned in every weekday at noon on Facebook to watch an ABBE library employee read picture books and share early literacy tips. She let the employee know how the storytimes were what made her feel like she belonged to her new community.

Another family shared that their 8 children huddled on the couch and watched a local theater group perform Little Red Riding Hood via the library Facebook page. This helped provide some normalcy for them as they saw this group at the library every summer.

As precious hand sanitizer, disinfectant, plexi-glass shields, and PPE were secured for all 13 library locations, curbside service began. Then after public service areas were reconfigured to accommodate social distancing, all locations were able to re-open with limited services. Time and time again the phrase “I missed the library” was uttered by community members as they picked up books, signed into public computers, and picked up activity kits. Truth be told, the libraries missed them too. •



## Batesburg-Leesville Middle School Library

425 Shealy Rd., Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29006  
<https://blms.lex3.org/>

We strive to live the district's library mission statement : All members of our learning community will have generous access to innovative technology and high quality resources across physical, virtual, and mobile learning environments that encourage a love for reading and serve as the learning nuclei of our district.

**The philosophy of the BLMS Library can be seen through it's programming, displays, contests, decor, services, and book clubs both in the physical and virtual space.**

Our Philosophy: The school library should be a

safe, warm and welcoming active learning commons promoting the love of reading, thinking, creating and sharing to support students in developing the knowledge, skills and life/career characteristics necessary for productive citizens in the 21st century. Shared by Jill Slapnik •



## LCPL - Pelion Branch

206 Pine St Pelion, SC 29123  
<https://lexcolibrary.com/location/pelion/>

**We provided essential services to our community during COVID-19 by extending wifi to our parking lot, offering curbside pickup and mobile printing services.** Students were able to rely on our library space for stable wifi, available computers, and a quiet study atmosphere. Shared by Shirley Sprenne •



## Pelion Middle School Library



325 Main Street, Pelion, SC 29123  
<https://schools.lexington1.net/PMS>

Pelion Middle School opened a new school library in January. The library features multiple collaborative spaces including an experimental commons, media production room, and mak-

erspace bar. The library is also newly genrefied to accommodate a variety of readers. The primary goal of the library is to provide a space for every student. Whether this is done through ordering specific books requested by a reader, organizing student-led book clubs, or maintaining an inviting atmosphere, each person feels like the library belongs to them.

Students also enjoy having a space where they can participate in virtual learning using their personal devices, creating and problem-solving with pop-up makerspaces, or just hanging out with their friends during breaks. Shared by Carmen Mangus •

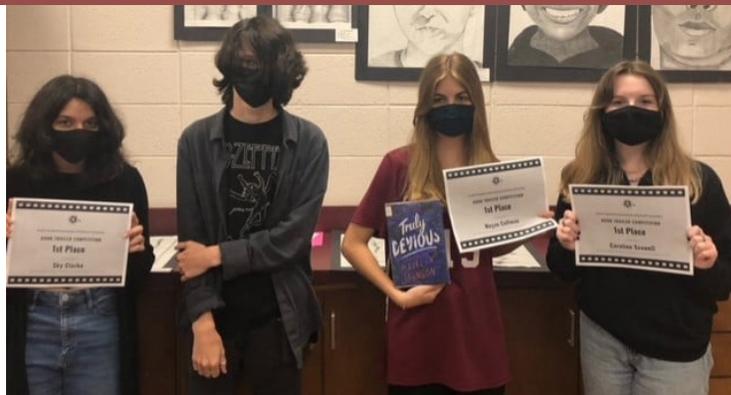
## South Aiken High School

232 East Pine Log Rd., Aiken, SC 29803  
<https://www.acpsd.net/SAHS>

Ms. Umsted, South Aiken High School librarian, collaborated with theater teacher Ms. Kuzmic to have students make book trailers featuring the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award nominees. In this unit, Theater 1 students were able to practice their craft while also learning about different elements of the film industry.

### The winning school book trailer featured the book, "Truly Devious" by Maureen Johnson.

The book trailer was then submitted to the South



Carolina Association of School Librarians book trailer contest and won first place, winning a \$100 prize for the school library! Shared by Alex Umsted and Beth Kelly •

## Swansea Public Library

### Patron Letter

199 N Lawrence Ave, Swansea, SC 29160  
<https://lexcolibrary.com/>

Excellence, upon excellence, my take on how the staff handled the Covid-19 era from beginning to present date. The concern of the staff for all the patrons served by this location was evident and sincere. From the periods of total closure to partial re-openings, the staff kept the public informed and did all possible to keep us and the staff safe. I am sure that the public is not fully aware of the magnitude of work the staff did to accomplish this through all the necessary changes as the pandemic continued.

One could tell the staff was saddened to not be able to share the written word, as usual, during closure time with its patrons. When the public was allowed inside again, they were joyous and wel-

### ***"Swansea location went above the call of duty for our community at the time it was needed."***

comed us warmly. It was a happy time- patrons & staff! During the closed or partial re-opening times, the staff put their unique touch on providing us access to books ( children, teenagers, adults, how -to) along with copies of the weekly newspaper and magazines. These discarded books, magazines etc were given new life much to the delight of the public. Two small carts of sanitized books were placed outside each day for us to drive up, select a few and enjoy.

This example of caring for the public by the staff was greatly appreciated. The books (non-returnable) are still being enjoyed as I have passed them on to friends and relatives - who then pass them on again and so the generosity of this branch continues. I am thankful the library is now open to browse but am not forgettable that the Swansea location went above the call of duty for our community at the time it was needed. If there is ever a selection for A Super Library and Staff, I nominate the Swansea location. Shared by Freda Spigener •

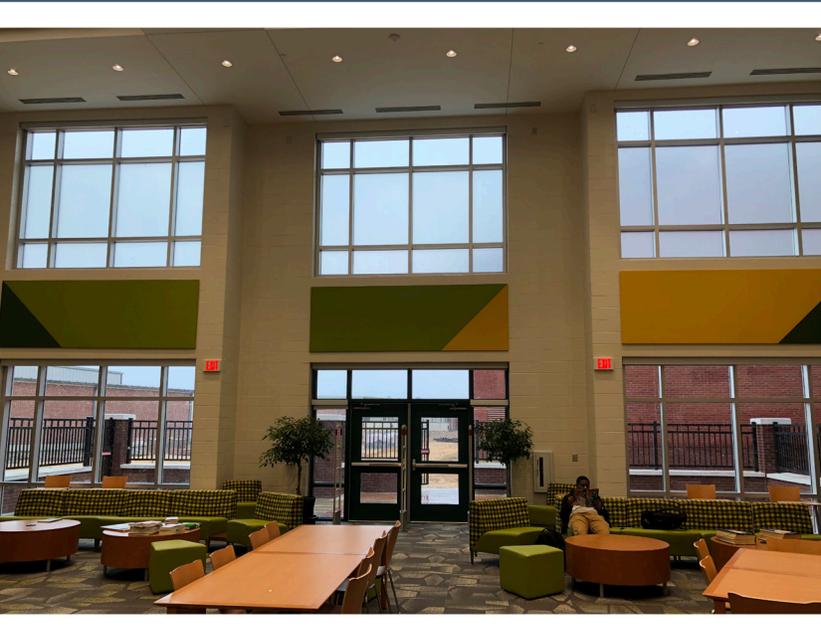


**2019-2020**

## ***Aiken County Public Library***

314 Chesterfield St SW Aiken, SC 29801  
<https://www.abbe-lib.org/locations/aiken-county-public-library/>

The Aiken County Public Library considers STEM activities essential to childhood development. Our children and teen patrons love to learn and practice their skills at our programs. Last year, our Youth Services department conducted 202 programs for infants, children and teens supporting the development of sensory, science, technology, spatial, literacy, and math skills. •



## ***Aiken High School Library***

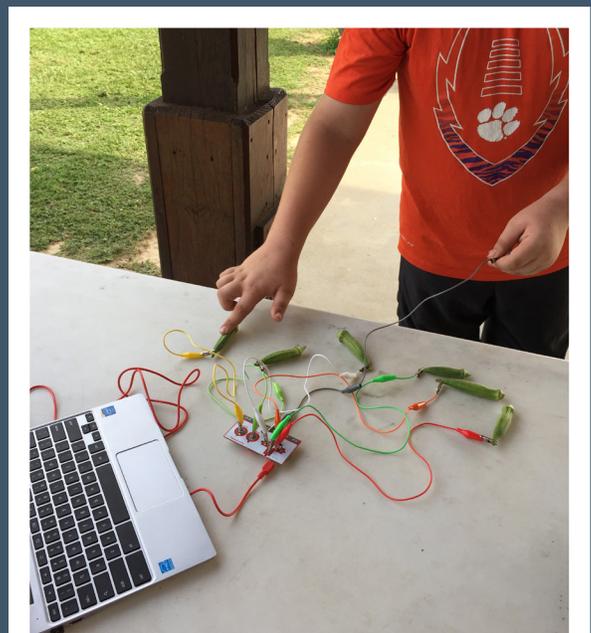
449 Rutland Dr Aiken, SC 29801  
<https://www.acpsd.net/domain/4580>

Aiken High has approximately 1345 students. Before the Covid 19 shutdown in March 2020, our library had served 18,095 individual students, 241 classes, 29 events, and numerous meetings and clubs after 3:30 when the library was closed to patrons. Shared by Malynda Young •

## ***Barnwell Public Library***

40 Burr Street Barnwell, SC 29812  
<https://www.abbe-lib.org/locations/barnwell-county-public-library/>

The Barnwell Library values community outreach. We are able to engage with a variety of people and age groups at the local farmer's market through crafts and STEM activities. Everyone, young and old, agree that their favorite activity is the Makey Makey okra piano. •



## ***Chukker Creek Elementary***

1830 Chukker Creek Road  
Aiken, SC 2980  
<https://www.acpsd.net/CCES>

Students at Chukker Creek Elementary had lots of fun dressing up as book characters for "Dr. Seuss Week at the Creek". We love reading at Chukker Creek!

Shared by  
Cheryl Curtis, Librarian. •



## ***Dent Middle School Library***

2721 Decker Blvd. Columbia, SC 29206  
<https://www.richland2.org/DM>

Our library is home to the 2018 Readers Team Champions. Our Readers Challenge Team competes every year in the district tournament. We have competed in the final round from 2017-2019. We plan to win again in 2020. We have a state of the art studio with a dynamic news team. We also house over fourteen thousand books.

The library has just received an award for book donations to an elementary school in the Caribbean. The library is known for its hospitality and the librarian is often called the Mayor for speaking to everybody that he sees on the campus. Shared by Scott Palmo. •



## Dreher High School Library

3310 Millwood Ave. Columbia, SC 29205  
<https://www.richlandone.org/domain/692>

We think of Dreher High School's library as the "Room of Requirement" from Harry Potter. Students and staff come to the library to find the information, technology, supplies and support that they need. We have over 17,000 books that support recreational reading and in-depth research. We help our learning community access quality online information through DISCUS databases.

We support computer repair and are the first line of defense when student devices are broken. We have two 3D printers to encourage students' techie creativity. Our library provides craft and project supplies and space for students to work. We provide games and puzzles to encourage brain breaks, social skills and quiet play.

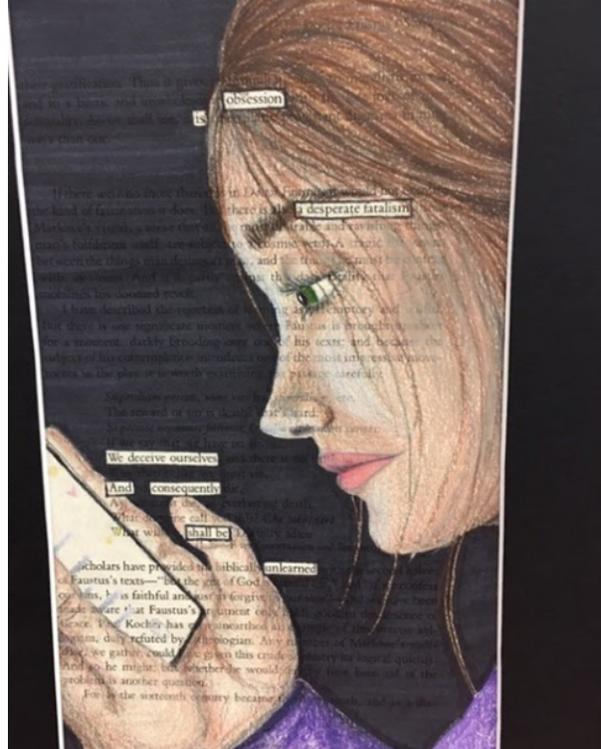
## Kennedy Middle School

274 East Pine Log Road, Aiken 29803  
<https://www.acpsd.net/KMS>

The KMS library serves approximately 750 students, faculty, and staff. No two days are ever the same, but by far, one of the best things that we do in our space is readers' advisory.

We have so many people (adults and students) who request suggestions for books, so we try very hard to match everyone with something perfect for them! Probably our favorite event we provide that promotes reading and community (and competition) is our annual Battle of the Books.

It started as a school-based event four years ago and has evolved into a competition that involves every middle school in Aiken County bringing together winners from each school vying for the coveted trophy. Even though the pandemic has made things look a little different this year, Battle



We provide a safe space for all our students to relax and learn new things. Our photo is some black out poetry art using discarded books. This was created in partnership with Jen Gorkweski's

of the Books is still taking place in a modified setting. Our students and staff support this literacy event with a contagious enthusiasm that encourages me to continue to provide activities and advocate for our libraries.

Shared by Michelle King. •



## ***Langely Bath Clearwater Middle***

29 Lions Trail Warrenton SC 29851  
<https://www.acpsd.net/Domain/12>

My library is divided into a book side and a computer side with the circulation center in the middle. My library assistant and I look forward to seeing our English classes every two weeks, and have a steady stream of classes sign up on a regular basis all year long. It really is the hub of the school.

I am the Student Council and News Crew advisor, so students are constantly coming to the library not only to check out books and use computers, but also just to hang out and chat with us. Our door is always open. Teachers and staff also think of the media center as a safe place to vent, chill, or ask for help.

In addition, we are the social media gurus, the fixers of technology, a testing center for the school and a quiet place teachers can send students to finish assignments. Basically, we are a one stop shop. Shared by Charish Saunders •



24 - Share your story

## ***Lexington Main Library***

5440 Augusta Road Lexington, SC 29072  
<https://lexcolibrary.com/>

The Lexington Main Library's Maker Space Cart purchased in March 2019 with support of the Friends, the maker space cart has provided an endless source of creativity, problem-solving, and family engagement at the Lexington Main Library. The cart includes art and crafting supplies, science experiment materials, reference books and computer programming devices. It is primarily used for elementary, teen and family programs, but also includes toddler appropriate materials, for younger siblings to join in the fun!

One dedicated maker space program, called "Mission Creativity", is planned monthly and challenges children to build, design, and explore via open-ended prompts. This drop-in style program is held in conjunction with Lexington School District 1's half days, providing parents and caregivers with a welcome educational program. Programs especially for teens are designed to promote collaboration and 21st century STEAM skills. Shared by Marlena White •



## Meadow Glen Elementary School

510 Ginny Lane Lexington, SC 29072

<https://schools.lexington1.net/MGES>

Our library is the learning hub of the school! We circulate an average of 1,500 books per week, and host many activities and support classroom learning in a variety of ways.

This photos shows third grade students who participated in a book-tasting at our library. This "tasting" helped them learn about different places and cultures all over the world for an upcoming unit. Students browsed eight different



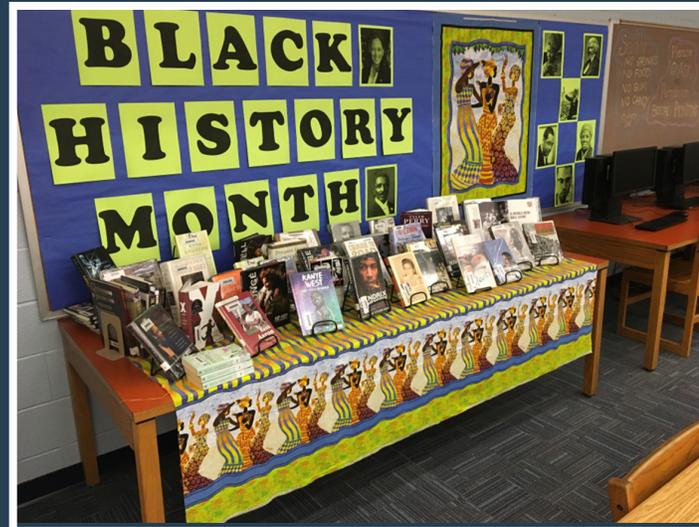
books during this tasting, and chose one of them to check out and use in the classroom for their research project. Shared by Debra Bumgarner •

## Midland Valley High School Media Center

227 Mustang Drive, Graniteville, SC 29829

<https://www.acpsd.net/Domain/21>

At Midland Valley High School, we have rotating displays to support our circulation of over 7,850 book checkouts since the beginning of the year (August 2020). Our school has an enrollment of 1226 (as of 3/10/20). Displays like these help showcase interesting and topical titles to tempt our students to read. Shared by Marcia S. Beja •



## Muller Road Middle

1031 Muller Road, Blythewood, SC 29016

<https://www.richland2.org/mrm>

Muller Road Middle's Mustangs use our library media center as a central place for collaboration, literacy, and community events. We serve over 900 students in grades 6-8 from the suburbs to rural NE Richland County. As one of the first one-to-one take home device schools in Richland School District Two, we opened in 2011 with a large digital collection. Nine years later, our library offers a balanced collection of 11,000+ print and digital resources. On average, 9 classes, or 225+ students, use our library daily. Since August 2019, we have circulated over 19,490 materials. We welcome visitors! Drop by and visit



during our daily Mustang Watch morning news broadcast, Studio1031 advisory class, or later in the day to see students accessing books for independent reading, creating on an iMac or Chromebook, researching with their peers, or browsing the pages of a new graphic novel. Be sure to follow us on social media! #MustangsRead Shared by Michal Hope Brandon •

## *Nancy Carson Library*

135 Edgefield Rd North Augusta SC, 29841  
<https://www.abbe-lib.org/locations/nancy-carson-library/>

The Nancy Carson Library sponsored an Acoustic Jam Session for all ages and skill sets. The youngest participant was nine and had skills that outshone most of the adults! **Fostering a sense of community is important to the library and we host a variety of programs to appeal to the diverse interests of our citizens.** •



## *North Augusta High School*

2000 Knobcone Avenue North Augusta, SC 29841  
<https://www.acpsd.net/Domain/23>

Our contemporary library serves our clientele with over 12,000 items available for check out. Students have access to a computer lab, collaboration stations and a media production room. We host several programs a year to promote a love of literacy – such as a poetry celebration, ghost stories in October, book clubs and a writing club. **We are a space where students come to read, study, network and create.** Shared by Michelle Wells. •



## *Round Top Elementary School*

449 Rimer Pond Rd Blythewood, SC 29016  
<https://www.richland2.org/rte>

Round Top Elementary Book a Flight Media Center serves the needs of 620 students in PreK- 5. Located in a suburban rural area, our media center averages 25 classes and 6 clubs each week in addition to a very busy walk-in clientele.

**At any given moment, you might learn about using a book database, how to use a graphic organizer, or find students creating custom videos. Come visit to see for yourself!**

Shared by Cindy Symonds •



# South Congaree Pine Ridge Library

200 Sunset Drive West Columbia, SC 29172  
<https://catalog.lex.lib.sc.us/polaris/Search/default.aspx?ctx=13.1033.0.0.3>

From toddlers to senior adults, the South Congaree-Pine Ridge Library is the central meeting place for our community. Toddlers sit in aisles and read picture books. Children take part in programs where they learn to formulate science projects, make bubbles or learn about our galaxy. Senior adults love to come watch movies while eating popcorn and visiting with Miss Carol.

Other times, children lounge on sofas reading their favorite books, while adults meet in book clubs to read the hottest new novel. Teens serve as Junior Volunteers assisting mainly with Summer Reading activities. **Library services such as computers, copy machines, facsimiles, and notary services meet vital needs for our patrons.**

The ultimate library experience for each patron group is realized when they converge on the cam-



pus at the beginning of Summer in celebration of reading and learning for a summer filled with reading, activities and fun—the ultimate Summer Reading experience. What a joy! Shared by Kitty Spires, President SCPR Friends •

# Wagener-Salley High School

272 Main Street South Wagener, SC  
<https://www.acpsd.net/WSHS>

**At WSHS it's not just about the books, it's about making connections.** Our monthly Craft Day is one way we draw in teens and has become one of our most popular events. There is a model craft; however, minimal directions are provided to see where teen creativity will take over to inspire something entirely different from the expected.

Our Craft Day program is just one program we use to make connections with our teens to inspire them to learn to love their library. Shared by Heather Loy. •



# District 3

Abbeville • Anderson • Clemson • Easley • Edgefield • Greenwood  
Laurens • McCormick • Newberry • Pickens • Saluda •

2021

## Anderson County Library System

300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson SC 29621  
[andersonlibrary.org](http://andersonlibrary.org)

The Anderson County Library System never stopped providing books and services.

When the Library closed its doors on March 17, library staff still answered questions by phone and email. Three days later, ACLS was issuing digital library cards so students, educators, and community members without library cards still had access to the eBooks and research resources they needed.

Even after reopening to the public, ACLS continues to issue digital library cards to those uncomfortable or unable to come into the library in order to ensure access for all. To date, over 475 digital library cards have been issued alone.

Reliable Internet access remains a challenge for rural members of our community and closing library branches to the public meant many people would lose the access they needed to file for unemployment, search for new jobs, and the many other reasons Internet access is a necessity. While WiFi has always been available 24/7 outside each library branch, ACLS ensured signals were strong, boosted signals where needed, and promoted WiFi access to the public.

By the first week of April, staff were creating and delivering virtual programs. Keeping children engaged with learning-based activities and providing easy at-home crafts, book club discussions, and tutorials on the Library's digital resources became the key components of virtual programs.



JEFF DUNCAN



Over 40 weekly virtual storytimes and over 200 virtual programs for kids, teens, and adults have been created and distributed in the past year.

Access to books and materials is at the library's core. Staff knew having books available would be important while parents were home with young children, kids and teens were in school virtually, and many adults were home full-time. Curbside pickup for library materials began at all 9 library locations in April 2020 and continues today with over 3,000 curbside pickups delivered.

Shared by Brianna McDonell •

# Clemson University Education Media Center

212 Tillman Hall, Clemson, SC 29634

<https://libraries.clemson.edu/education-media-center/>

The Education Media Center (EMC) is a curriculum materials library that supports the students, faculty, and staff of Clemson University's College of Education as well as South Carolina P-12 educators and residents by providing free resources, services, spaces, and technologies to facilitate the development of educators, counselors, administrators, training and development specialists, and all learners.

EMC collections include textbooks and workbooks in many subject areas, children's and young adult literature, audiovisual and educational technology, digital and media resources, manipulatives, assessment materials, and more!

The EMC also offers a Digital Media Learning (DML) Lab to support exploration, research, and development of educational apps and gaming, coding, virtual and augmented reality, video, audio, and 3D printing production, and other emerging STEAM and digital media technologies.

Other services include color printing, copying, and scanning, large format lamination, book binding, die cutting, and assignment, research, and lesson planning consultations. Shared by Tara Weekes •



## Clemson University Libraries

116 Sigma Drive, Clemson, SC 29634

<https://libraries.clemson.edu/>

Clemson Libraries set up and managed reservations for individual and group study areas in Cooper Library and around campus, including the Academic Success Center (ASC), Watt Family Innovation Center, and Sistine Hall. Students could access the study area reservation portal, printing services, and research consulting on this [resources site](#)." Shared by DeAnna McEntire

**LIBRARIES** Find & Borrow ▾ Research & Teaching ▾ Study & Create ▾

About ▾

R.M. Cooper Library 7:30 AM - 10:00 PM ▾ My Account Giving Help

### Library and Campus Study Spaces

Posted on January 29, 2021

Looking for a place to study? Employees and students can find and reserve individual and group study areas in Cooper Library and around campus, including the Academic Success Center (ASC), Watt Family Innovation Center, and Sistine Hall. Students Requiring ADA accessible spaces may utilize spaces established in the ASC.

Access the study area reservation portal, printing services, and research consulting on this [resources site](#).

Clemson University Libraries  
116 Sigma Drive, Clemson, SC 29634  
864-656-3027

**LIBRARIES** Directory Employment Contact Us

## Clinton Middle School

800 N. Adair St., Clinton, SC 29325  
<https://cms.lcsd56.org/en-US>

We have had to be very creative this year serving our students and staff with all of the Covid restrictions. We have created a Google Form for students to request books, and we deliver them to the students in their ELA classes.

We have been told that our service is better than Amazon Prime! We have utilized as many ebook services as possible to serve our face to face and virtual students.

Our students are also participating in a school wide challenge to read books, complete an activity about the book from a choice board and turn it in for a chance to win a pair of airpods or beats. I have been so excited to see all the reading our students are doing this year despite the challenges we have been faced with! Shared by Jana Wood •



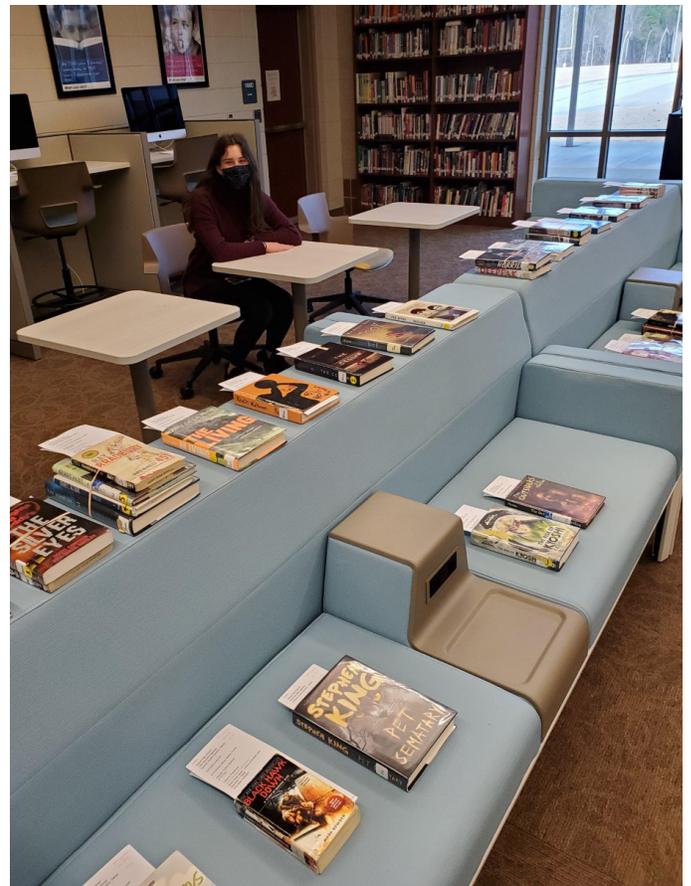
## D.W. Daniel High School

140 Blue and Gold Blvd. Central, SC 29630  
<http://dhs.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

**Each book in this picture represents a student who couldn't come to our school library this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.**

Each book also represents our dedication to continue to provide library services no matter the circumstance. We shifted our focus to remote service, enhanced digital content, and the utilization of digital platforms for collaboration, community building and library programming.

With the support of our school and community, as well as fellow media centers and media specialists across the state, we continue to persevere.



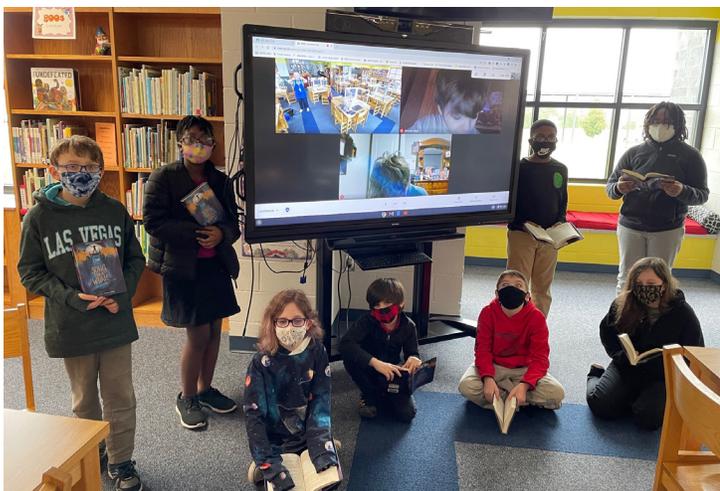
## ***Eleanor S. Rice Media Center -- McCormick Elementary and Middle Schools***

6977 Hwy 28 S McCormick, SC 29835  
<https://www.mccormick.k12.sc.us/>

The MES/MMS media center has been active during the 2020--2021 school year, but not in the 'normal' way!

Operating with a book cart, I have pushed into all classrooms for the Kindergarten through 8th grade face-to-face students. Both the MES and MMS virtual students have joined library classes for lessons via Google Meet. Older students, including virtual students, have used Destiny Discover to place books on hold which I then deliver to them or place in the office for pick-up.

For younger students, I have brought an assortment of books into their classrooms from which to choose. We have continued to celebrate special events such as Dot Day, Read Across America, and National Crayon Day, within the classes. The only students who have actually been in the library are members of the face-to-face 3rd - 5th grade Book Club. Our virtual members have joined us via our daily 'meets.' Though most library services have not been accomplished within the walls of the media center, the joy of reading has continued to be spread throughout the school! Shared by Mary Bock•



## ***Forest Acres Elementary School Library***

401 McAlister Road Easley, SC 29642  
<http://fae.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

We love to promote literacy and learning in our library. Students engage in story time, research, and are offered opportunities to explore their interests.

Although covid restrictions made this school year more challenging, we masked up and powered through. Some weeks, the librarian, Mrs. Gannon traveled to classrooms and brought the library cart.

Other weeks, when our covid numbers were lower, students were allowed to come visit the library socially distanced.

We know that readers grow up to be leaders, so we will do whatever it takes to keep reaching our youngest readers at Forest Acres Elementary!  
Shared by Leah Gannon •

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***“Although covid restrictions made this school year more challenging, we masked up and powered through.”***

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# Gettys Middle School

510 South Pendleton Street Easley, SC 29640

<http://gms.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

If you can't come to the library, the library will come to you! With over 1300 students, Gettys Middle School needed a way to circulate library books safely and efficiently.

I formed a plan in May and activated it on our first day back to school in August: making full use of Destiny Discover so that students could place holds on physical books for same- or next-day delivery, as well as being able to instantly check out any of the hundreds of eBooks in our collection. It has worked wonderfully! So far I've bagged, tagged, and delivered over 7,000 books to students eating lunch in their classrooms.

Students return books to conveniently located and secure hallway book drops.

All materials are quarantined for 7 days before recirculating. And to keep up spirits, the delivery cart gets regular holiday makeovers plus sound effects using an iPad!

The Halloween cart featured creepy decorations, spooky music, and a gift of Smarties with a note saying Reading Makes You Smarter in every bag. The Christmas cart filled the halls with holiday songs, while the current Valentine's Day cart features mellow love songs plus a Valentine card with every book.

There's always a seasonal or motivational bookmark

included in every package. I've leveraged every tool available in order to stay connected with my students: a library Schoology Group, direct messaging, Google Drive, Webex, Screencastify, etc.

Through video tutorials, I've been able to reach and teach my students the skills they need to access the library through their Chromebooks and their phones. eBook circulations have soared and print circulations have become more varied and meaningful because students are actively engaged in exploring the catalog for books they'll like. So, can a school library still function safely with Covid? Yes, it absolutely can! Shared by Christina Connell •



# Gray Court-Owings Media Center

9210 Highway 14 Gray Court SC 29645  
<https://www.gcoschool.org/en-US>

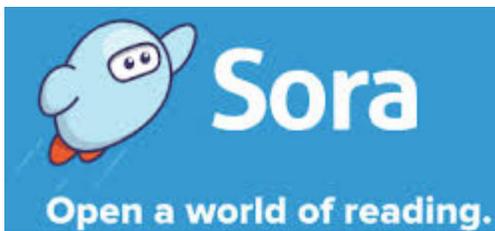
Gray Court-Owings School Library has continued to provide services to students and teachers despite facing challenges this year. While students were not fully face to face, they were able to place holds on books to be delivered curbside each week.

Ebooks and audiobooks using Sora by Overdrive were purchased by the district to provide book access for all students whether in-person or virtual. All schools in Laurens District 55 are partnering with the Laurens County Public Library to promote their services as well as provide students with public library cards for even more access to

resources and materials. Mrs. Spires, the school librarian, pushed her book mobile into classrooms to provide lessons, read alouds, and book check-out.

We also celebrated World Read Aloud Day with many community volunteers recording read alouds and sharing them with our students.

We especially thank Representative Jeff Duncan for sharing his read aloud of House Mouse, Senate Mouse with all students in Laurens District 55. Shared by Michelle Spires. •



## Gray Court-Owings School Library

Laurens School District 55

Michelle Spires School Librarian



## Honea Path Middle School

107 Brock Avenue Honea Path, SC 29654  
<http://hpms.anderson2.org/>

To encourage our middle school students to read, I have offered book delivery this school year. Students can choose books from the online catalog and I deliver the books to the student's homeroom. Browsing books in the library is an important part of choosing their books. Since students were not able to come to the library this year, I started First Chapter Fridays. I read the first chapter of several new books each week and post it in our library Google Classroom and on our library webpage. This allows students to hear a small portion of the book to determine if it is a book they want to check out. Shared by Amanda Totman •



## Liberty Primary School

940 Chastain Road Liberty, SC 29657

Liberty Primary School library focuses on the whole child which includes a combination of literacy, STEAM, and play. This year the library was on wheels moving from classroom to classroom. Students enjoyed seeing the "book mobile" arrive at their door to check out books. I selected a cart of fiction and nonfiction texts for students to select from. Although this year has been challenging, the library has given students every opportunity to engage in Maker Space within a safe, supportive learning environment.

Since students traveled in pod groups for safety this year, the maker space adopted a philosophy of pod challenges during play make days where imaginations could soar and play could happen. In maker space students have cooked, completed science experiments, designed beautiful art, and enjoyed free invention days using various supplies. The library has been closed to open book shopping school wide, but was transformed into a learning center for students for six week intervals. It has been wonderful to

see the imagination and excitement that students have toward the book mobile and maker space. Students have grown in creativity, engineering, science, and literacy from the transformation of our traditional format. The stamp of approval during such a difficult year has been "I love Maker Space! When is our class coming back? Is the book mobile coming today? I need a new book. Affirmation from my students made me determined to make this unprecedented year extraordinary. Shared by Angie Stone •



# Mount Lebanon Elementary School Library Media Center

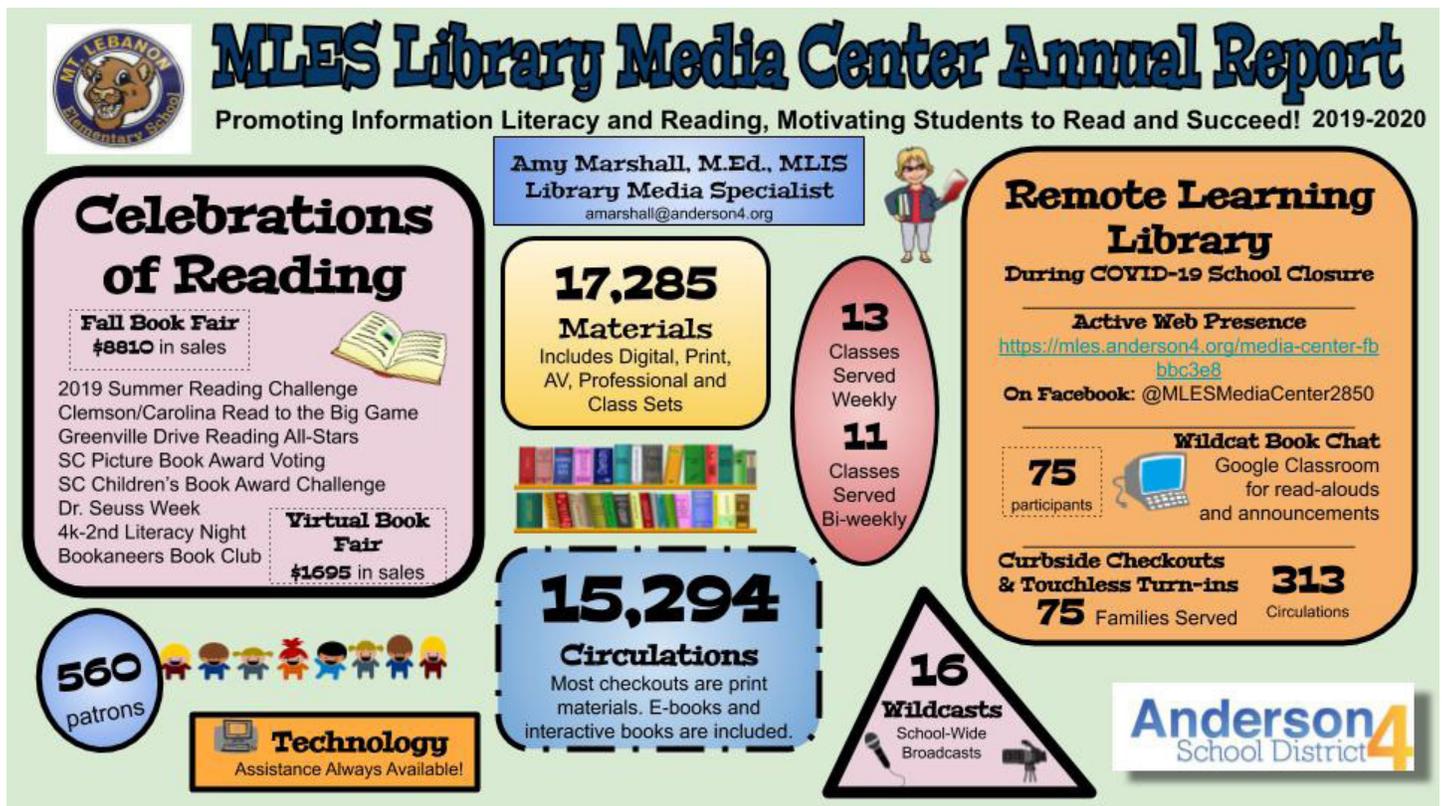
2850 Lebanon Rd. Pendleton, SC 29670  
<https://mles.anderson4.org/en-US>

Our library is a beautiful, welcoming place where students and teachers have many choices of reading and research materials.

Children like to visit before school, during the day and of course, when their classes come for their weekly library class. Even during quarantine and the school shutdown during 2020, we still checked books out to families and had an online Summer Reading Club.

The 20-21 school year has been a different one, with face-to-face students only ordering library books online or from book carts, and their access to the room itself has been quite limited.

However, we are anxious and excited to get things back to normal and get the library buzzing with little voices again! Shared by Amy Marshall •



# Oconee County Public Library

501 W South Broad Street, Walhalla, SC 29691  
<https://oconeelibrary.org/>

OCPL serves the small municipalities and rural areas of Oconee County with four branches and a bookmobile.

While the pandemic certainly changed things in terms of library programs and services, it also provided the opportunity to try new things.

During the time the library was closed, we created a way for borrowers to register online and use our e-books and other materials, even while we were closed to visitors.

Using donated books, we helped the school district to create busy bags for students affected by the EF3 tornado that struck Seneca in April, 2020. We also created a lot of new virtual programs and touchless services, like grab and go kits.

Our Wi-Fi is on 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We reopened in June, 2020, and have been able to maintain a balance of traditional and new, innovative services ever since. Shared by Blair Hinson •

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***“Using donated books, we helped the school district to create busy bags for students affected by the EF3 tornado that struck Seneca in April, 2020.”***

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# Palmetto High School Library

804 N Hamilton St Williamston, SC 29697  
<https://www.anderson1.org/Domain/971>

The PHS Library serves students in grades 9-12 in Williamston, SC. This year, we have students face-to-face as well as virtual students who log in to classes each day. One of our favorite activities throughout each school year is to read in literature circles.

I work with teachers to determine the best book choices based on a particular theme, and then I am able to book talk each of the choices with students. Students then choose their books and they read each day with other students who have the same book.

They engage in meaningful dialogue with one another about what they are reading and learn a

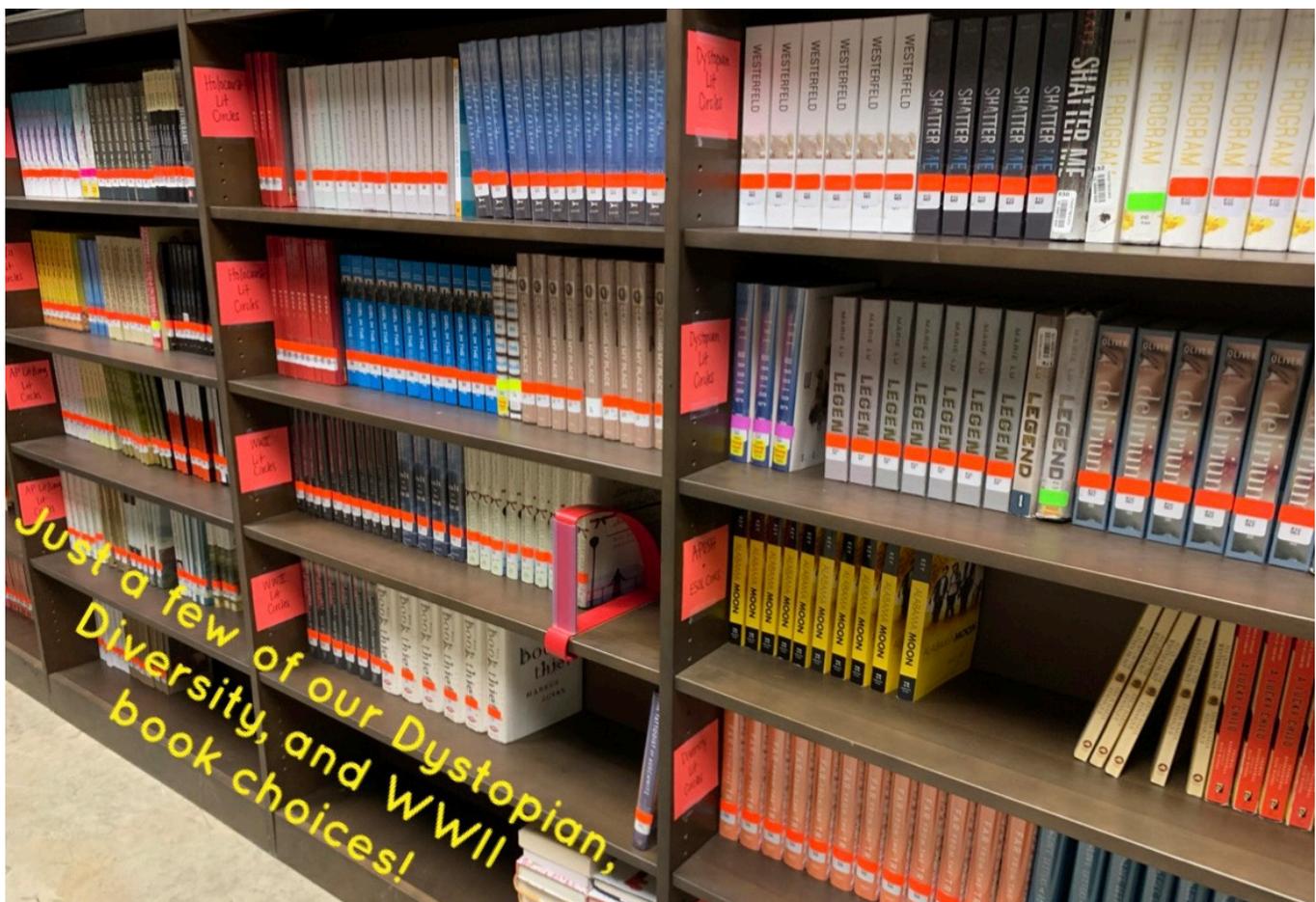
variety of skills along the way! Lit circles look a little different this year with Covid-19, but we are fortunate to have the tools to bring in our virtual learners, too!

We have been able to incorporate lit circles in all grade levels, and we are excited to see students enjoying reading! Shared by Joanna Watkins •

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***“Lit circles look a little different this year with Covid-19, but we are fortunate to have the tools to bring in our virtual learners, too!”***

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# Pickens County Library System

304 Biltmore Rd. Easley, SC 29640  
<https://pickenscountylibrarysystem.com/>

Although the Pickens County Library system did have to close to the public for a short time, we never stopped working to serve our community.

We assisted patrons via our library drive-thrus, curbside assistance and by implementing live library chat services along with email, phone, and social media messaging. We added additional databases and hundreds of additional e-books.

We used our virtual StoryTimes and “Quarantine Craft” programs to provide updates about our services, safety precautions, and community infor-

mation.

We then expanded our virtual programs to include local “field trips”, book clubs, author talks, music events, and Summer Reading events. Every residential address in Pickens County received a post card with a reading and activity list so that everyone in the community could participate in Summer Reading. If you can’t come to us, we will come to you!

Although the type of service may have changed, the level of service never changed. We maintained that level of service by implementing creative solutions and working to keep our community informed and connected.

By partnering with SCDHEC we provided free Covid Testing to thousands at our main library location in Easley. With social distancing measures in place and the expected high turnout for absentee voting, the library system provided three satellite voting locations. Over 12,000 people cast their ballots, safely and conveniently, at the libraries.

The library system was also able to assist Meals on Wheels and the United Way’s VITA Tax Assistance Services to continue their operations serving the community.

These are just a few examples of how the library has risen to the challenge of Covid 19. Covid has shown how flexible, resilient, and resourceful public library systems can be. With our dedicated, service-oriented staff, we were able to continue to meet the needs of our community--under extraordinary circumstances. •



38 - Share your story

# Pickens Middle School

140 Torch Lane Pickens, SC 29671  
<http://pms.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

Operating a middle school library has been a challenge this year, but I decided to go "old school" and utilize the Bookmobile concept from my childhood where the library comes to YOU!

Teachers give students time before my bi-weekly visits to place holds on desired titles and then I deliver them to their ELA classes. I also booktalk multiple titles and let them choose from a vast

selection of genres at each visit; they are excited when the "book lady" shows up with her rolling cart!

This has worked so well that I plan to continue a hybrid model of library and in-class visits next year as we hopefully resume normal operations. I feel like I know the kids better than in previous years and I know their literary tastes better, too!  
Shared by Shana Dalton •



# Pickens High School

150 Blue Flame Drive Pickens, SC 29671  
<http://phs.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

The Pickens High School Media Center serves approximately 1250 students in grades 9-12 and more than 100 faculty/staff members. Prior to the shutdown in 2020, the library served an average of more than 110 individual students along with approximately three classes each day.

New policies designed to improve student safety and health have limited the number of students and classes physically visiting the library this school year; however, services have continued. Students can browse titles virtually to check out ebooks and place holds on print books using Destiny Discover.

The print books are delivered to students while they are in class. When books are returned, they are quarantined before being placed on shelves or checked out to another student.

Classes coming to the library to conduct research and complete projects are seated using social

distancing guidelines and books are sanitized before use by another student. In addition, the media specialist has made visits to classrooms to promote book checkout and provide DISCUS instruction.

Fiction, nonfiction and ebook titles are promoted weekly on the media center's Destiny homepage. In an effort to provide better access, more ebook titles have been purchased this year than in previous years.

Other special promotions have included Instagram posts highlighting book titles where the media specialist worked with the school newspaper (@thephssapphire) to share titles celebrating African Americans during Black History Month and notable women during Women's History Month. In addition, the media specialist has collaborated with teachers to provide readalouds to local elementary students through Reading with the Blue Flame, a program where student athletes read children's books, and a service learning project where seniors shared readalouds during Read Across America. Shared by Karen Williamson •



# West End Elementary School

314 Pelzer Hwy, Easley, SC 29642  
<http://wes.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

This year we have been presented with both challenges and successes in our library that serves over 500 students in a Title 1 elementary school in Pickens County, SC.

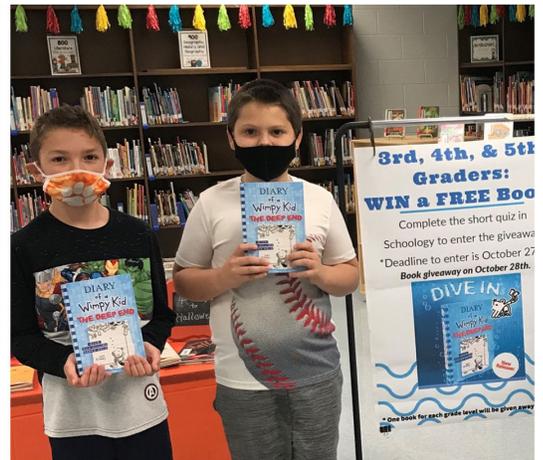
Students in grades 1-5 request books using their device and kindergarteners use book menus; then, books are delivered to students.

To promote reading, we have frequently changed book displays, held book giveaways, created Choice Boards in Google slides and Book Collections in Follett Destiny.

Virtual mosaic sticker boards from Let's Stick Together have engaged all of our students as they worked towards a common goal. WebEx has allowed us to see our students during Virtual Learning days and teaching the same classes for three weeks at a time has allowed me to really get to know my students.

Overall, this year has been a unique journey that we will not soon forget! Shared by Stephanie C. Mann

***"WebEx has allowed us to see our students during Virtual Learning days and teaching the same classes for three weeks at a time has allowed me to really get to know my students."***



## Wren High School

905 Wren School Rd, Piedmont, SC 29673  
<https://www.anderson1.org/Domain/1101>

The Wren High library continued to serve our students, teachers, and community during the pandemic and when school buildings were closed by delivering books, sharing book talks and read alouds online, curating and sharing learning resources, providing technology help and troubleshooting, and answering any questions thrown our way.

The building may have been closed but we never stopped working for our kids. Shared by Tamara Cox •

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***“The building may have been closed but we never stopped working for our kids.”***

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## West Pelzer Elementary

110 W Stewart st. Pelzer, SC 29669  
<https://www.anderson1.org/domain/557>

This school year has been challenging due to the COVID pandemic. We are no longer able to gather as a large group. Due to this, we have had to change how we host an author visit. Normally, students will gather in the gym or library to listen to the author speak.

This year, we opted for a virtual author visit with Nick Bruel. He is the author and illustrator of the Bad Kitty series (one of the most checked out series in the library). During the week of his visit, students listened to the first book in his series, Bad Kitty. They were also encouraged to submit questions that they would like the author to answer during the meeting.

By the time of the author visit, students were excited to meet the author! Students and teachers enjoyed the visit. Since the librarian, Deidre Ables, hosted the virtual visit via Zoom, she is now a celebrity around the school! Shared by Deidre Ables •



## Edgefield County Public Library

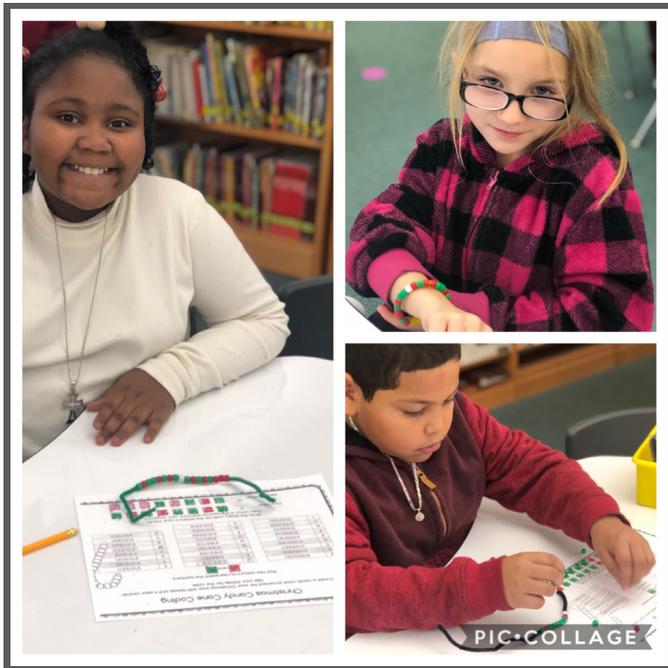
105 Courthouse Square Edgefield SC, 29824  
<https://www.abbe-lib.org/locations/edgefield-county-public-library/>

The Edgefield community places an importance on the arts. Once a year the library hosts an "Open Mic Night" for ages eleven and up. Area youth come out to showcase their singing, dancing, poetry, instrument playing, and artwork. The teens tell us that their favorite part about coming into the library is the freedom to be themselves while forming connections with others. •

## Gray Court-Owings Media Center

9210 Hwy 14 Gray Court, SC 29645  
<https://www.gcoschool.org/en-US>

Gray Court-Owings School Media Center celebrated Hour of Code by making binary bracelets. Students learned about computer science and coding by completing an "unplugged" activity. By using different color beads, pipe cleaners, and binary code, students were able to make a binary bracelet using their initials. Shared by Michelle Spires•



## Honea Path Elementary

East Greer St. Honea Path, SC 29654  
<http://hpe.anderson2.org/>  
Shared by Stacey Griffith•



**These boxes represent \$1000 worth of free books granted to our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## ***Joanna—Woodson Elementary School***

510 S. Ellis St. Joanna SC 29351  
<https://jwes.lcsd56.org/en-US>

Author Steve Swinburne visited students at Joanna - Woodson Elementary School. He shared his passion for writing about endangered animals and his love of nature.

Swinburne's presentation included music and movement which engaged students of all ages. Shared by Tina Hurley •



## ***Laurens Middle School Library***

1035 West Main St. Laurens, SC 29360  
<https://www.laurensmiddle.org/en-US>

At Laurens Middle School we incorporate all subjects into our library program. Our favorite lesson each year is our Rubik's Cube mosaic.

This year, combining art and science students created a mosaic of our principal using 397 cubes. Shared by Kathleen Baker



## ***Mount Lebanon Elementary School***

2850 Lebanon Rd. Pendleton SC 29670  
<https://mles.anderson4.org/en-US>

Our library at Mount Lebanon is a place where students learn to love reading, where stories come alive, and where learning is fun. We sing along with books, we write letters to our favorite authors, and we work together to solve problems and find information in the stacks and on-line. When is the last time you performed a skit where all the characters were crayons? When did you dance like a nut with nut siblings, Wally and Hazel? Oh, and when did you discover that Pluto might actually be a planet after all? Has it been



too long?

Well, come join us Wildcats anytime, and we will let you in on the fun! Shared by Amy Marshall •

## Palmetto Middle School Library

803 N. Hamilton Street Williamston, SC 29697  
<https://mles.anderson4.org/en-US>

The Palmetto Middle School Library serves approximately 820 students in grades 6-8. Students have the opportunity to visit the library on a rotating schedule with their ELA classes as well as individually using hall passes from their teachers.

In addition to book checkout, the library also offers lessons on research, internet safety, digital citizenship, etc. The PMS Library serves as the hub for our school Battle of the Books teams. Students throughout the school can take advantage of reading opportunities such as The Great Genre Challenge where students focus on reading the SC Junior Book Award nominees.

Teachers are also an integral part of our library system, recommending books and guiding students toward appropriate books. Shared by Katie Moody

•



## Pendleton High School

7324 Hwy 187 Anderson, SC 29625  
<https://hs.pendleton.k12.or.us/>

At Pendleton High School the Library is truly the heart of the school. The Pendleton High School Library features a full service cafe, four private study rooms, and writable tables and walls. The space was designed after a college or public library in an effort to model college and career readiness. In addition to traditional classes, the library hosts events like College App Day, faculty yoga, professional development, course fairs, college tutors, and other informational meetings.

It is common to have hundreds of students come through the library each day. Students use the space to study, read, research, print, collaborate, use technology, and explore the world. The school's technology professional, graduation coach, vocational coaches, and mental health counselors use the space to meet with students to find solutions to problems. The PHS Library is fully supported by the school and district leadership; therefore, it thrives as a vital tool to enhance teaching and learning. Shared by Kelley Rider



# Pomaria Garmany Elementary

7288 SC Hwy 176 Pomaria, SC 29126  
<https://www.pomaria-garmany.org/>

“We provided book services to our community during COVID-19 by continuously advertising our 5 Lending Libraries throughout our rural community. Our Library impacts our community every day by keeping these Lending Libraries up to date with fresh seasonal books.”

Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School's Media Center serves a very rural area. Since this area is approximately 10 miles from the closest public library, the librarian Christi Vinson works closely with the local boy scout troop to operate 5 Little Lending Libraries for the Pomaria community.

The students of Pomaria-Garmany Elementary have donated many of these books and are trained when they come to their school library

what the purpose of the lending libraries are, how to recognize a lending library book and about the donation process.

The local boy scout troop organizes the lending library process by making and posting each lending library, labeling the books and swapping out books in the lending libraries on a monthly basis.

The children of the Pomaria community have expressed their appreciation to the librarian, Christi Vinson, PGE students and the local boy scout troop! Shared by Christi H. Vinson. •



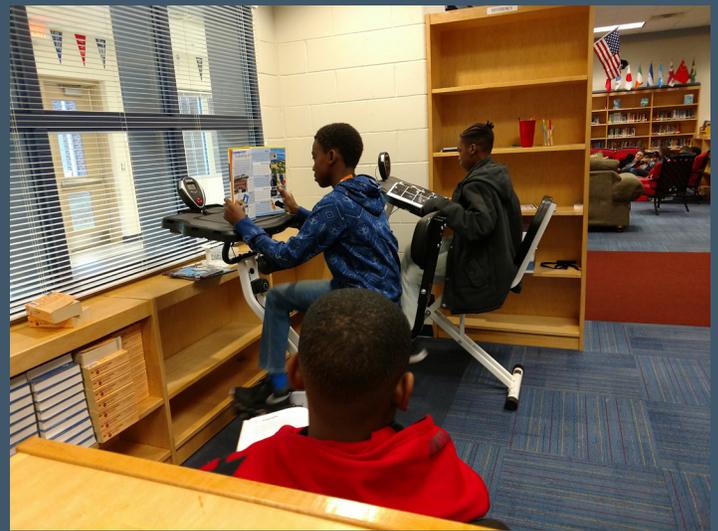
## ***Robert Anderson Middle School Library***

2302 Dobbins Bridge Rd Anderson, SC 29626  
<https://www.anderson5.net/robertanderson>

The Robert Anderson Middle School Library serves over 1,300 middle schoolers in Anderson, SC and over 100 teachers. At the beginning of each year, we do some type of scavenger hunt to remind students of how to use the library and find digital and print resources. This year we used Chromebooks to review in a competition using Gimkit.

Students really love hanging out in our flexible seating in the reading corner to enjoy the new books they check out and some of our magazines. They also love using our two FitDesk bikes obtained through a Donors Choose grant.

The teachers like allowing students a posi-



tive outlet to release their energy while they read books and magazines or do work on their Chromebooks.

We spend time teaching students about media literacy and how to evaluate online sources. In the photo, students worked in groups to analyze photographs found online for accuracy. They used red and green paddles to 'vote' on the authenticity of each photo, and explained their reasoning. Shared by Heather Thore. •

## ***Saluda Primary School***

200 Matthews Drive Saluda, SC  
29138  
<https://sps.saludaschools.org/>

The SPS library serves students in 5K to 2nd grade. Students have weekly book checkout and library lessons in digital tech, research and information literacy, internet safety and storytimes. We also have a Sleuth Club for 2nd graders to learn about CSI, forensics, and mysteries (pictured). - Shared by Jill Altman •

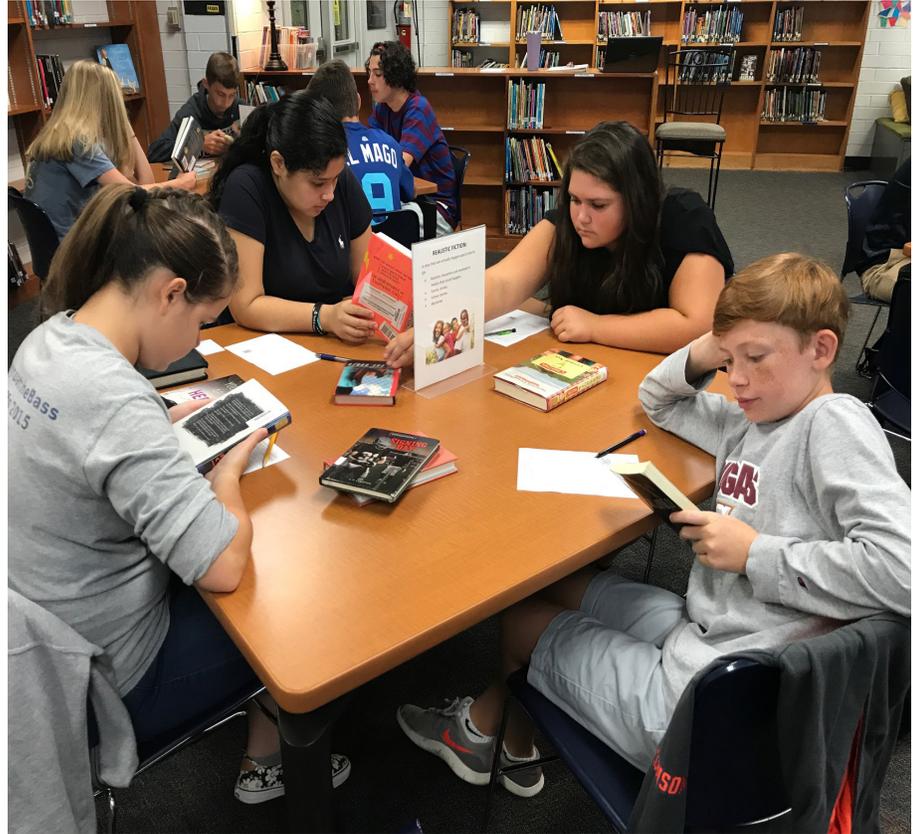


## Seneca Middle School

810 W. South 4th St. Seneca, SC 29678  
<http://sms.oconee.k12.sc.us/>

Seneca Middle School's library media center serves approximately 850 students and over 100 faculty and staff. The library offers open access for students to visit during the school day, as well as during our extended before and after-school hours. Students also visit the library on a weekly or bi-weekly basis through ELA classroom visits.

Since the media center is the hub of the school, it is an extension of the classroom and interwoven with all areas of the curriculum. As the library is a very active space, the media specialist and classroom teacher co-teach various information literacy skills to provide students opportunities to engage with information, collaborate with others, and create products. The library media center also strives to encourage a



love of reading through various programs including readers advisory, book tastings, book clubs, book fairs, poetry slams, SC Junior Book Awards, Young Minds Dreaming, Read Your Way to the Big Game, and Teen Read Week. •

## Southwood Academy of the Arts Media Center

1110 Southwood Street  
Anderson, SC 29624  
<https://www.anderson5.net/Domain/23>

The Southwood Academy of the Arts Media Center serves 360 middle school students and their teachers. As the media specialist, I love putting books in the hands of students who want to read them! One way I try to do that is through book clubs, which students really enjoy. I often run out of copies of the books and have students on wait lists. This past fall, the 6th grade book club read *Restart* by Gordon Korman, and the 7th and 8th grade book club read *Wild Bird* by



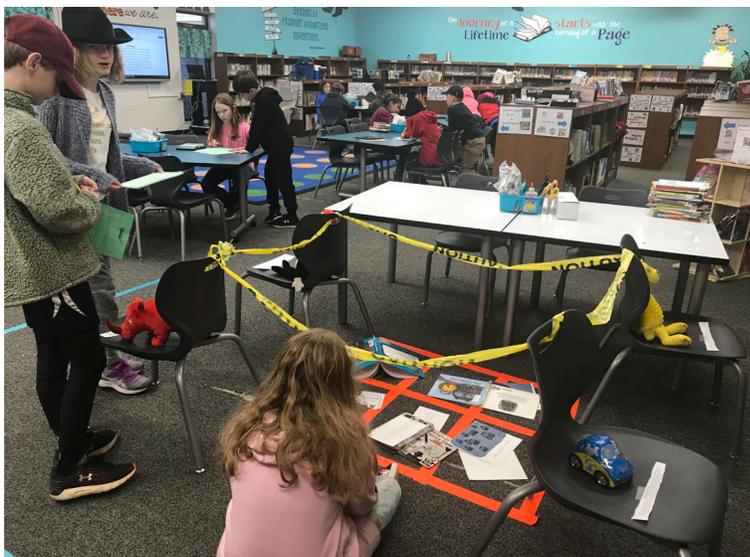
Wendelin Van Draanen. The students met during their lunch periods once a week for five weeks to discuss readings. Shared by Krista Spencer. •

## ***West Pelzer Elementary School Library***

110 West Stewart Street Pelzer, SC 29669  
<https://www.anderson1.org/domain/557>

The West Pelzer Elementary Library serves students from K4-5th grade. During Read Across America week, the librarian collaborates with the literacy specialist and literacy team to make the week special for students.

This year, students are having a spirit week and bedtime stories. The librarian is sending out a video with a teacher reading a bedtime story (some of the books are March Book Madness books which students will vote on later). Families listen to the story each night and fill out a form to be entered to win a prize. In the library, 2nd-5th grade students are solving a mystery to discover which Seuss character did the unthinkable crime of ripping library books. On March 2nd (Dr. Seuss' birthday) teachers were



invited to bring their class for book buddies. Two classes (from different grade levels) came to the library to read Dr. Seuss and/or Theodore Seuss Geisel award books to each other. Shared by Deidre Ables •

## ***Wren High School Library***

905 Wren School Road Piedmont, SC 29673  
<https://www.anderson1.org/Domain/1101>

Students at Wren High learned all about the Radium Girls by reading the novel *Glow* and visiting stations in the library to learn about radiation, labor laws, and Marie Curie. All of our freshman are reading the novel this year and our theatre students are performing the play *Radium Girls*. In addition, the author of *Glow*, Megan Bryant, will be visiting the school in April to talk about her research. This lesson was highlighted in the SC Teacher of the Year video for Tamara Cox, librarian. •

You can watch it here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZmBdakXqpQ&t=6s>



# District 4

Greenville • Greer • Spartanburg •

2021



WILLIAM TIMMONS

## Arcadia Elementary School

375 Spring Street, Spartanburg, SC 29301  
<https://aes.spart6.org/>

This year has changed a lot of things, but not our goal of building a love of reading. Our library has become mobile, pushing into classrooms to serve the 359 students we see face-to-face. The books on our mobile cart are chosen based on student interest surveys, and once in the classroom, books are laid out for students to peruse.

Our fourth and fifth grade students also learned how to place holds through our library catalog Destiny, and the school media specialist Katherine Malmquist delivers the books later in the day.



This year the students have participated in a variety of activities including Dot Day, The Global Read Aloud picture book study, Hour of Code, and March Book Madness. Students have learned to navigate Sora by Overdrive to borrow eBooks from the Spartanburg Public Library.

Library time incorporates a variety of literacy skills as we are working to build better readers and leaders. Shared by Katherine Malmquist •

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*“This year has changed a lot of things, but not our goal of building a love of reading.”*

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# Christ Church Episcopal Middle

555 Wenwood Road Greenville, SC 29607

<https://www.cces.org/>

As a result of the pandemic students could not browse shelves to check out books, we could not host authors at our school, and book clubs could not physically meet.

However, these challenges allowed for creative solutions. Students were taught how to view our library collection digitally and select books to be placed on hold that could then be delivered to them or picked up in the library. This digital offering and service is still in place even though students may now be in the library.

At Christmas, students donated books to The Pleasant Valley Teen Center. We hosted several virtual author visits and formed a mystery book club with 5th and 6th grade students. Students participated in the SCASL book trailer contest and read a lot of the SCASL book nominees in order to vote for their favorite.

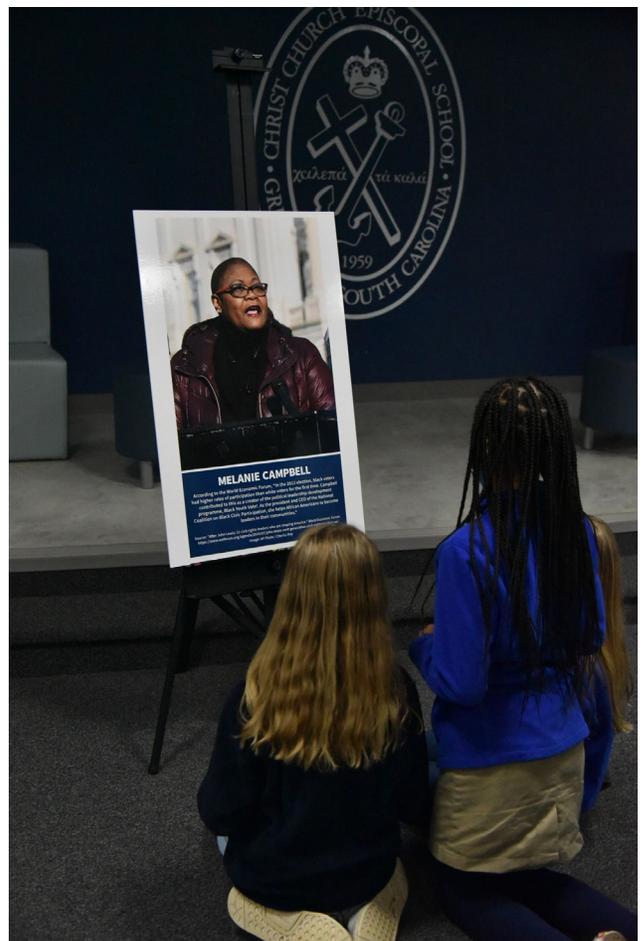
During Martin Luther King week, we had a Goose-chase game with small teams. The game only lasted 15 minutes to stay within CDC safety guidelines, but it was a big hit!

With the challenges this year we have learned to work together, think creatively, and discovered some unique ways to accomplish tasks. Most importantly, reading and sharing reading didn't stop! Shared by Brenda Stephens •

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***“With the challenges this year we have learned to work together, think creatively, and discovered some unique ways to accomplish tasks.”***

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# Christ Church Episcopal Upper School

567 Wenwood Rd Greenville, SC 29607

<https://www.cces.org/>

The pandemic brought opportunities to rethink library programming and instruction, making libraries more important than ever!

In the Upper School at Christ Church Episcopal, school librarian and journalism/newspaper teacher Jamie Gregory introduced MackinVIA as a way to streamline the use of electronic resources, adding databases to what our state offers through Discus so that students could successfully complete sophomore projects as part of the Middle Years Programme (IB) in addition to senior thesis projects.

Ebooks and digital audiobooks were added in collaboration with classroom teachers and Achievement Center instructors. Students participated in a digital escape room activity in September 2020 related to mis/disinformation and also completed a Hyperdoc celebrating the Freedom to Read.

The journalism/newspaper class enjoyed 2 virtual

visits, one with Jed Blackwell, sports writer for the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, and Greta Pittenger, fact-checker and researcher for NPR. Jamie revived the book club, hosting virtual meetings for Upper School students.

Students were still able to participate in the SCYABA program, submitting votes to choose the next book award winner. Jamie has also built an extensive collection of how-to videos on her school Youtube channel on a variety of topics for students and teachers.

She collaborated with the school's diversity and inclusion director to plan a virtual guest speaker event celebrating Women's History Month while also highlighting the library's collection. Despite all of the challenges, it's been an exciting year to be a librarian! Shared by Jamie Gregory •



# Greenville County Library System

25 Heritage Green Place, Greenville, SC 29601  
<https://www.greenvillelibrary.org/>

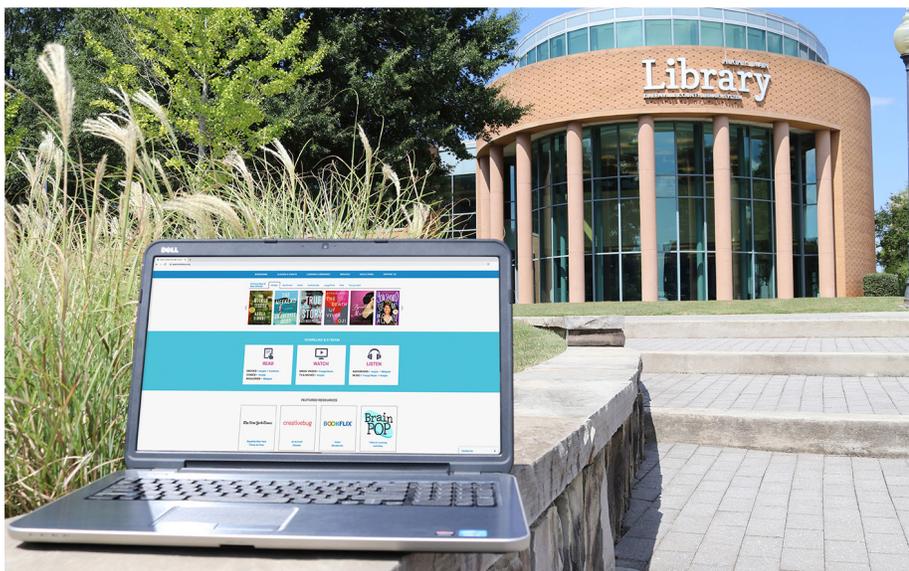
Since transitioning from curbside service to reopening its facilities to the public for browsing and limited computer use in early July 2020, the Greenville County Library System's 12 locations and bookmobile welcomed over 409,000 visitors through March 2021.

The purchase of counter shields, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and disposable face masks has helped staff reduce the spread of COVID-19 between staff and library visitors.

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***“Since transitioning from curbside service to reopening its facilities to the public for browsing and limited computer use in early July 2020, the Greenville County Library System’s 12 locations and bookmobile welcomed over 409,000 visitors through March 2021.”***

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Outdoor wireless access points and directional antennas enabled the Library System to strengthen and expand access to its public WiFi service without the need for users to enter library buildings.

Free public WiFi access is available at all library locations daily from 6am - 9pm.

The network coverage includes the lawn in front of the Hughes Main Library on the Heritage Green Campus in downtown Greenville as well as the parking areas at all 11 branch libraries.

Shared by Greenville County Library System •



# Greenville County Schools' Librarians

This past year has been one of challenge and change, but the Greenville County Schools' librarians have not let that stop them. Throughout the pandemic, our school library teams were willing to put themselves out there and went above and beyond to make sure our students were successful and had access to books.

When the Covid closure first happened, as a whole group, GCS librarians created and shared virtual Professional Development. This step to better educate themselves led to most of the levels meeting weekly to brainstorm together on ways to reach our students and help our teachers during this challenging time. With many of the ideas going above and beyond their call of duty, the librarians were eager to nurture those relationships with students and staff, and just be there to help.

Just a few of the ways they were willing to reach their students were: creating and mailing postcards to students, book delivery in the car loop, virtual field trips during Spring Break, virtual guest author visits, virtual book clubs, troubleshooting tech problems through Zoom, Google Meet, and Facetime, recording troubleshooting videos, and recording book talks.

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***“Knowing this would be a year like no other, most GCS Librarians could be seen front and center figuring out how to get Chromebooks to students while still keeping all precautions in mind.”***

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Knowing this would be a year like no other, most GCS Librarians could be seen front and center figuring out how to get Chromebooks to students while still keeping all precautions in mind. Time was spent helping curate and create tools for teachers who were virtual for the first time and sharing tutorials with students who might never walk into a school building this year.

Library Orientations were moved online and recorded with new policies and procedures in place to help protect the students and staff while in the libraries. Librarians created a site to share with English departments which showcased collaborations that had taken place so that English teachers would know examples

and ways librarians could support their lessons.

To reach students both in the building and virtually, librarians were forced to brainstorm and implement innovative and creative new ideas. Some examples include First Page Fridays videos that gave students a “taste” of a good book the library had to offer, Ugly Christmas Sweater Book Themed Reading Contests, and Book Madness Bracket Challenges. Virtual bookshelves were created to display books to students who did not attend brick and mortar school.

Greenville County Librarians partnered with many others inside and outside of their buildings to make innovative things happen. A librarian, a counselor, and a school social worker teamed up to create Mindful Mondays, a weekly presentation in which students learned a new Mindful tool to help to promote their Social Emotional Learning.

In an effort to promote math, financial literacy, and reading, a librarian worked with the math department, the Greenville Federal Credit Union, and a High School to come up with programming around the book Millionaires for the Month, by Stacy McNulty.

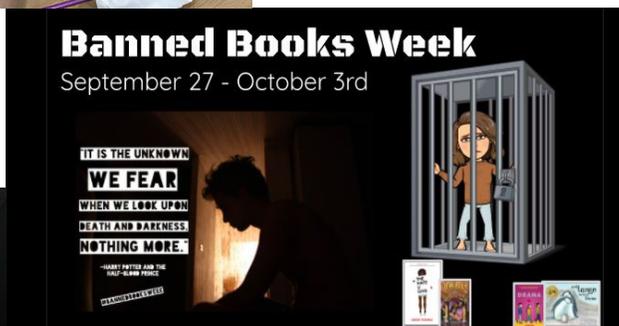
A partnership with the librarian, district instructional technology staff, and personalized video messages from local State Legislature Representatives allowed for students to visit the SC State House to learn about State Legislature all without leaving their high school. Elementary librarians worked together to still pull off a very successful Battle of the Books, virtually, for our students during eLearning.

We invite you to visit the [GCS Libraries Collaboration Page](#) to see more examples of the great things happening in the school libraries near you.

# GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS LIBRARIES



**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE  
VIRTUAL TOUR**



**#GCSLibrariesmakeadifference**

## ***Furman University Libraries***

3300 Poinsett Highway Greenville, SC 29613  
<https://libguides.furman.edu/>

In spring of 2020, Furman University made a quick transition to remote learning. Our library played a key role during the transition. Several library faculty members have served on university committees that made decisions related to our campus wide COVID-19 response while other faculty and staff shifted their focus towards supporting the online learning environment.

Many of our students were away on spring break when the decision was made to move to online learning. This meant that, until the university worked out a process for retrieving their personal belongings, students wouldn't have access to textbooks and other physical course materials left behind in their dorms.

Thanks to our Digital Collections Center and Access Services staff, The Furman University Libraries digitized over 220 sections of texts in the last two weeks of March 2020, which eased the transition to online learning.

Over the course of the year, library faculty and staff stepped up to the plate to adjust routines to the new normal of life in a pandemic. Our Technical Services department negotiated for extended free trials of digital products and purchased twice our typical number of ebooks. In preparation for the return to campus in the fall, staff members selected and placed directional signage throughout our library spaces, and our custodial staff went above and beyond in their cleaning and sanitizing efforts.

Our Outreach department tackled the challenges that come with teaching in hybrid and online models, offered re-

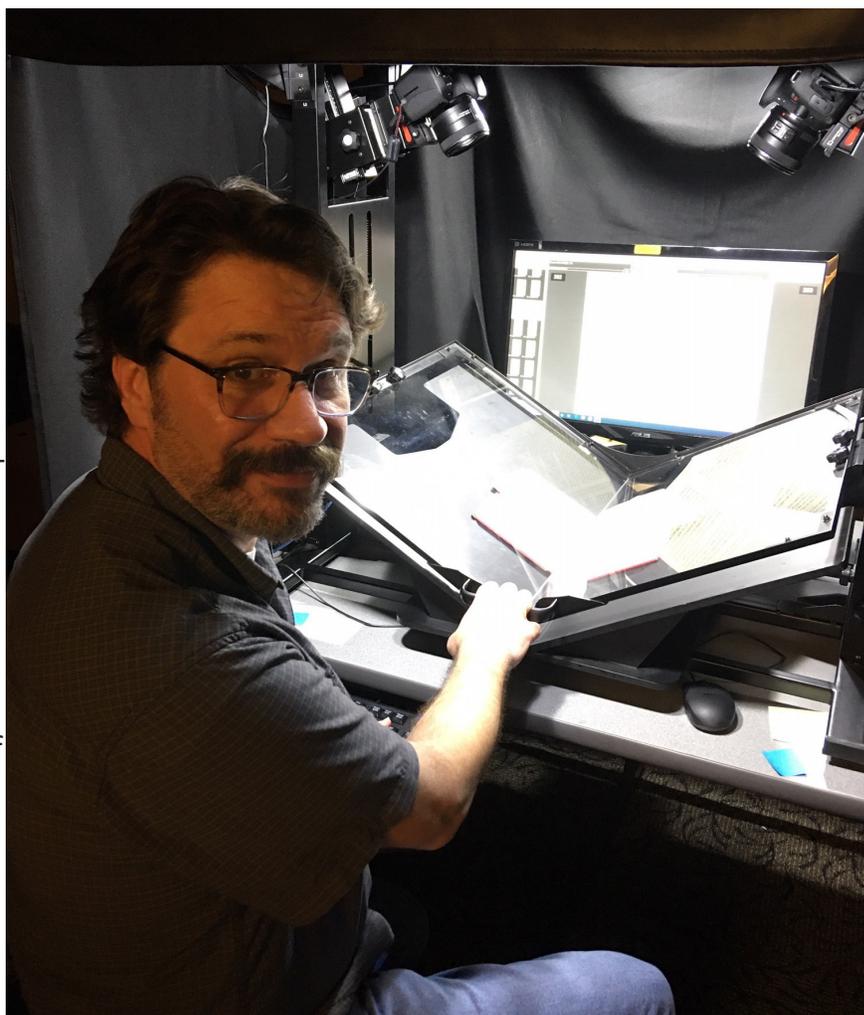
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***“Thanks to our Digital Collections Center and Access Services staff, The Furman University Libraries digitized over 220 sections of texts in the last two weeks of March 2020, which eased the transition to online learning.”***

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search assistance via Zoom, and implemented a proactive chat on the library website to expand our virtual presence.

While many of our faculty and staff worked from home, we are especially grateful to those who staffed the library in person to keep the buildings open and running: they deserve much praise and thanks for their work over the past year! Shared by Miles Dame •



# Lone Oak Elementary School

7314 Lone Oak Road, Spartanburg S.C. 29303  
<https://loes.spart6.org/>

The library at Lone Oak Elementary school is truly the heart of our school.

The library is where many of our students can find themselves reflected in the books we offer. Not only is our library a mirror of our school's diverse population, it is also a center for learning, language development and reading instruction.

Our library also offers various forms of books from print, digital and audio recordings as well as curbside library pick up to support virtual learning so that students have equitable access to materials whether in person or at home.

Our library is a safe place for students to come and know they are represented and loved.

Shared by Brandy Rollins •



# Mauldin High School Library

701 E Butler Rd, Mauldin, SC 29662  
<https://sites.google.com/greenvilleschools.us/mauldinhighschoolibrary>

Even in times of a pandemic, MHS library reached out by sending postcards to students & teachers, hosting virtual book clubs and orientation, Mindful Mondays, First Page Fridays, and weekly video messages to the students.

<http://bit.ly/MauldinLibrary>

Shared by Lindsay Beaman •



## ***Pauline Glenn Springs Elementary School***

2957 HWY 56, Pauline, SC 29374

<https://pgs.spart6.org/apps/contact/>

No matter the challenge in this 2020-2021 school year, we have made sure that students have access to books that they love from our library. Whether we were on a hybrid schedule, virtual, or full on face-to-face, we have been doing all we can to provide the best access for our books.

We have pushed carts around the building to all the classrooms, pulled holds and delivered, and then happily opened the doors to the library! Shared by Molly Phillips •



## ***R.P. Dawkins Middle School***

1300 E. Blackstock Road Moore, SC 29369

<https://dms.spart6.org/>

We have worked to make our library accessible to all students and teachers from the very beginning of the pandemic. While we were quarantined, I created a Google Classroom and read aloud to students daily.

Once we came back to school, we had a reserve & delivery system so students had books. We were able to open our library quickly because we worked to meet social distancing standards and sanitized after each class.



We've continued to hold book clubs and always have a Google Meet so that our virtual students can join those who are face to face.

Our goal is to be as accessible as possible for students and teachers, providing them with support that meets their academic needs as well as their social and emotional needs. Shared by. Dr. Amanda Cox •

# Riverside Middle School

615 Hammett Bridge Rd. Greer, SC 29650  
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/rms/>

The RMS Library Learning Commons is a vibrant, active space in “normal” years, but we’ve had to adjust during the pandemic! Our physical space is being used for large classes, so we haven’t been able to be open as usual.

We have been an essential partner for teachers, providing resources and technology to support student learning, as well as providing instruction in digital literacy, virtual author visits and field trips, and more! Students still have access to the books, and we’ve been hustling all over the building delivering holds to students every day.

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***“The library is essential to creating great learning experiences for students, and we do our best to model what we teach.”***

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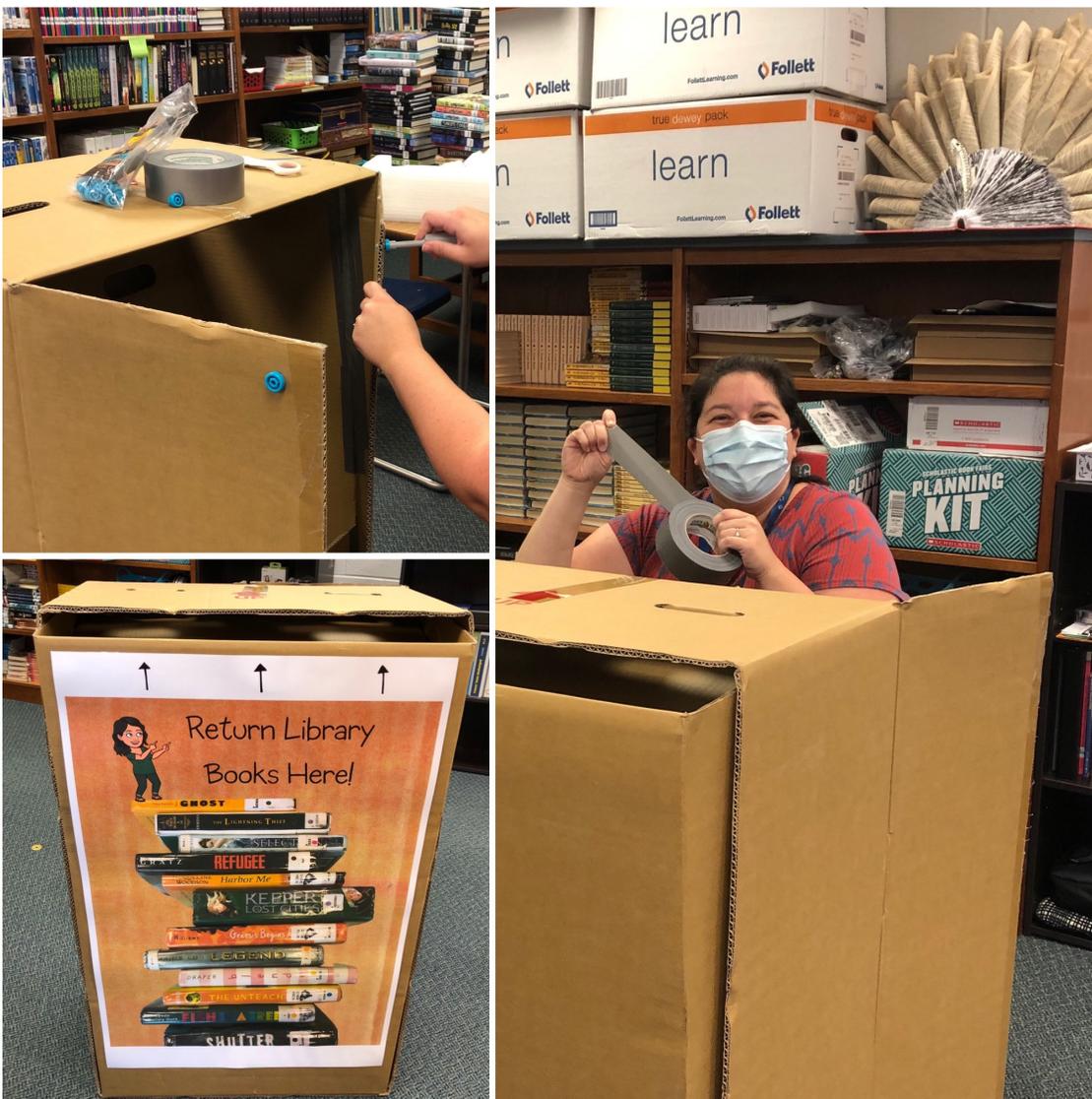
It’s not just about the books, either. We created a makerspace for students to expand their learning beyond the classroom and allow for experimentation and exploration in ways unheard of just a few years ago!

Our makerspace includes 3D printers, circuit kits, a button maker, a Cricut, a drone, Sphero robots, and much more! During the pandemic we created

“Take&Make” kits to keep our students engaged and having fun.

The library is essential to creating great learning experiences for students, and we do our best to model what we teach - including using our makerspace to solve problems like how to give students a good way to drop off books!

Shared by Gaelyn Jenkins •



## Spartanburg School District 4 - (Woodruff Schools)

205 Sj Workman Hwy Woodruff, SC 29388  
<https://www.spartanburg4.org/>

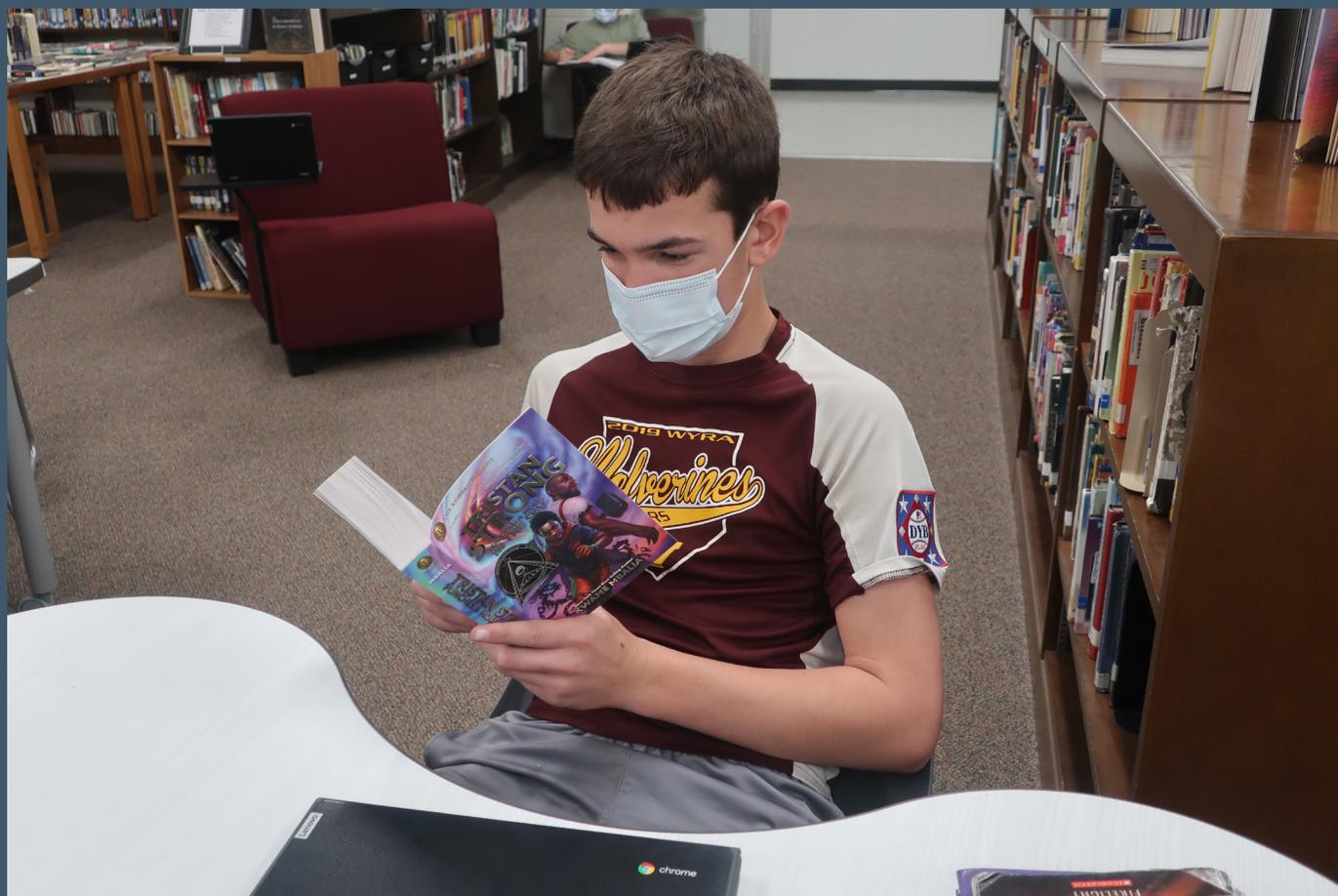
Our district is quite unique in that we have four schools, a primary, elementary, middle, and high school. We are in a rural area and our schools are all within a half mile of each other, but we are quickly growing as the housing market in our area grows.

As we began our year on a hybrid schedule, we quickly had to refine our roles. Instead of being a place where students could come get books, the media specialists went into the classrooms to promote books.

We took book carts with us, trained students how to hold books in Destiny (thanks to our newly integrated one-to-one Chromebook system), or we handed out book menus that allowed our

younger students to select the genre of book they wanted. We are now evolving, and students are being allowed back in the media centers, where they love coming and having freedom to select great books.

We are staying in contact with our students certainly through personal contact, but we have also added Google Classrooms and Schoology groups to promote books and research resources. Through these learning management systems we have created and shared video lessons and presentations addressing research and media literacy skills as well as sharing directed research resources. Shared by Tina Harrell •



# Spartanburg Public Libraries

151 S Church St, Spartanburg, SC 29306  
<http://www.infodepot.org/>

The Spartanburg County Public Libraries closed on March 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the start of the pandemic. As all in-person services closed the SCPL COVID-19 webpage went up and Library bins were placed at local grocery stores filled with donated books. Patrons were encouraged to visit our website for access to digital materials and to watch for updates on social media.

Beginning in April the Libraries began promoting free digital library cards available through Over-Drive. We also began promoting the Spartanburg County Pandemic Time Capsule project and encouraged residents of Spartanburg to email us with photos, drawings, physical creations, etc. to describe how they were handling the shutdown. The Libraries began offering free printing and limited internet services at the Headquarters Library as well as online genealogy classes.

In May we hosted a Drive-In Movie at the Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds featuring "The Lion King." Over 500 residents attended, and the event was much appreciated by the community. All Spartanburg County Public Libraries reopened to the public for limited hours beginning June 3, 2020. June was also the launch of the Summer Reading Program as well as new virtual programming for all ages with 2,684 patrons completing Summer Reading.

Beginning in July, the Spartanburg County Public Libraries stopped charging fines on late

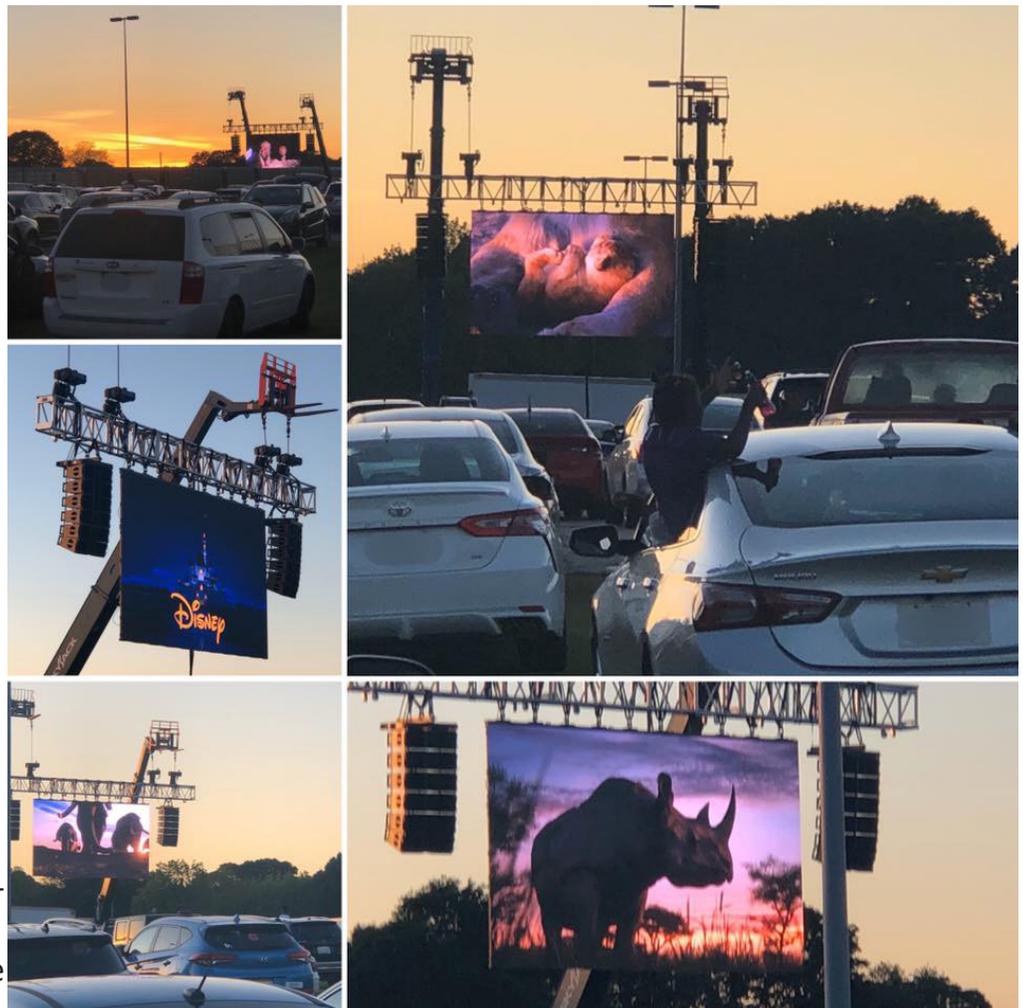
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***"Our service model has changed over the last year in response to the pandemic, but we are proud of how we have adapted to meet our communities' needs."***

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items and Fall brought the addition of Holds Pick Up services at all locations and the launch of the SCPL Hotspot program making mi-fi devices available for the public to checkout.

As of this writing, we are still unable to offer in-person programs but have been able to reopen for limited hours and offer continued services to the public. Our service model has changed over the last year in response to the pandemic, but we are proud of how we have adapted to meet our communities' needs. Shared by Amanda C. Newman •





## ***Woodland Heights Elementary School***

1216 John B White Sr Blvd Spartanburg, SC 29306  
<https://whes.spart6.org/>

Woodland Heights Elementary students love visiting the library each week for library lessons, stories, and book checkout. For many of our students, the school library is their only means of access to reading materials and other library services.

No matter what challenges they face outside of school, students know that they are valued and appreciated whenever they visit the library. The school year started with #Library-to-Go on a cart, pushing in to classrooms for lessons and book delivery.

Students learned to put books on hold in the library catalog and then Mrs. Graham, Woodland

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***“For many of our students, the school library is their only means of access to reading materials and other library services.”***

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Heights Librarian, would deliver "book orders" to classrooms. Second semester, students are coming to the library which is very exciting! Students are spaced out, wear masks, and sanitize their hands, and other safety protocols.

#Library2021: The Experience includes Google Meets with other schools, Ozobots and programming drones, Legos, book browsing and checkout, contests, new books, and art centers. Shared by Elizabeth Graham •

# ***USC Upstate Library***

800 University Way Spartanburg SC 29303  
[www.uscupstate.edu/library](http://www.uscupstate.edu/library)

The University of South Carolina - Upstate Library never closed its doors when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The library continued to provide a space for students to study while instituting best practices for engaging in a shared space. Serving library patrons who were without WIFI, personal computers and printers served as a primary mission during an incredibly challenging time.

Instructor librarians converted information literacy classes to excel in an exclusive online environment and extensively bolstered up research library guides to meet the needs of students and faculty.

The Access Services department instituted online material requesting; an option that did not exist prior to COVID-19. Individual library patrons needs were met via pick up appointments, digital interlibrary loan and special requests, all through the pandemic and a library renovation project set to conclude in Fall 2021.

Reference services were conducted remotely until in-person was resumed in Fall of 2020. Online chat interactions surged while working in a virtual environment. “Book a librarian” research virtual appointments were promoted for students in search of one-on-one needs.

Although the budget was frozen, librarians worked to find existing materials that best supported and benefited courses. Online materials were shared along with educational streaming materials.

The USC Upstate Library supported students, faculty and staff by employing both existing and non-existing resources and practices. Unifying around a common goal of student success, the library continues to help students meet their goal of graduation through constant assistance, accessible resources that support curriculum and reliable connection point for all questions. Shared by Virginia Cononie •

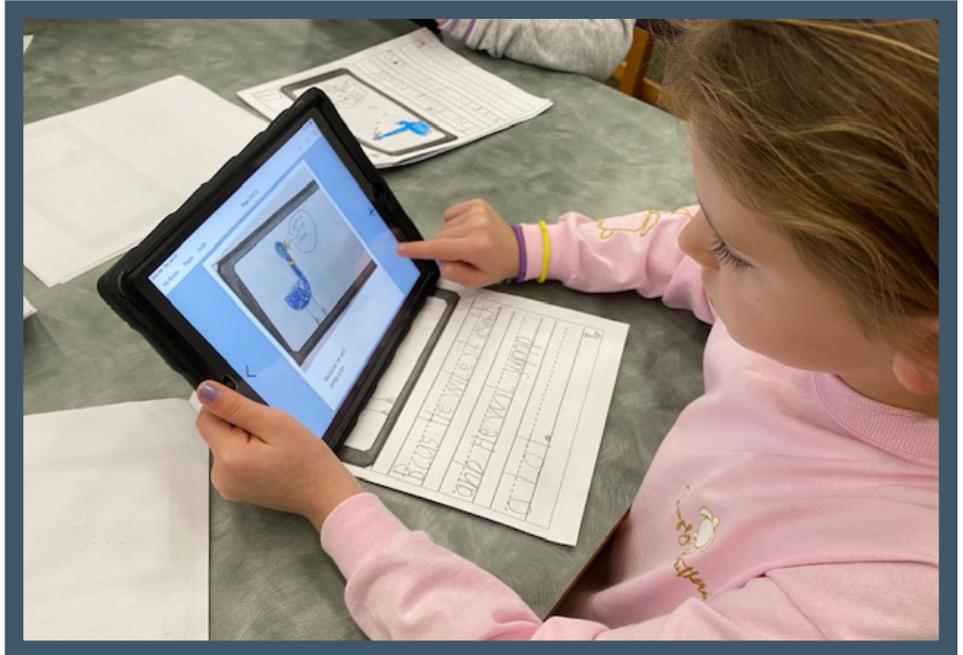


## Abner Creek Academy

2050 Abner Creek Road Duncan,  
SC 29334

<https://www.spart5.net/domain/85>

Students in first grade are using iPads to publish e-books they have written. Shared by Elizabeth Koon •



## J. F. Byrnes High School

150 East Main Street Duncan, SC 29334

<https://www.spart5.net/BHS>

High school librarians Karen Hill and Jamie Gregory are implementing Adulting 101 classes in the school library this year during Power Hour. Topics include cooking, finances 101, professionalism in the workplace, mending clothes, being an informed citizen, and mental health tips.

Featured in this picture is the February session led by school resource officers on personal safety. Shared by Jamie Gregory •



## **Mauldin High School Library**

701 E Butler Rd Mauldin, SC 29662  
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/mauldinh/>

During Exam Week to promote Social and Emotional Learning the library sponsored brain breaks for the students.

This was a time for our students to come and unplug from the stress that exams can place on a student. We had different stations each day during lunch promoting an activity they could use to build self awareness and find positive outlets for their stress.

We had coloring stations, puzzle stations, maker stations, stick together stations, feel the vibe station, building station, and our feature mindfulness activity for the day which consisted of a big



brain dump station, yoga, and big board games. We also had a wonderful mindfulness room.

There was something for every personality type. Our students were excited to drop in and find a way to recharge before their next exam. Shared by Lindsay Beaman. •

## **Middle Tyger Library**

170 Groce Road Lyman, SC 29365  
<http://www.spartanburglibraries.org/Locations/middle-tyger>

My library is a medium-size branch of the Spartanburg County Public Libraries. Located in Lyman it serves the people of western Spartanburg County and neighboring Greer.



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***“The public library is  
The People’s University.”***

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The library offers a full schedule of programs for all ages, plus free internet, computer software, copying/scanning services and exam proctoring to residents.

The public library is The People's University, and as such provides reading material in multiple formats and languages, including over 33,000 eBooks via the OverDrive ebook service. Shared by Chris Rogers •

# Monaview Elementary Media Center

10 Monaview St. Greenville SC 29617  
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/monaview/>

In the Monaview Elementary media center,  
we read, write, build, create, code, and more!  
Shared by Katie Jones •



In the Monaview  
Elementary  
Media Center, we...



**READ**  
**WRITE**  
**BUILD**  
**CREATE**  
**CODE**  
**COLLABORATE**  
**EXPLORE**

10 Monaview St. Greenville SC

PIC•COLLAG

## The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel

*The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel transports listeners to H.G. Wells Middle School to follow Mars Patel—a plucky but brilliant outcast prone to trouble—and his friends as they investigate the mysterious connection between disappearing kids and a billionaire inventor.*

**Begins with "Tune in Tuesdays" Podcast  
February 4, RCMS Library, at 8:00 am.**



**Sign up ahead of time using your student email.  
Look for the Google Form from the Ralph Chandler  
Library. All are welcome!!**

## Ralph Chandler Middle School

4231 Fork Shoals Road Simpsonville, SC 29680  
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/chandler/>

Our library is a middle school library serving approximately 750 students in grades 6-8. Each month, before school, we host a special podcast morning called Tune in Tuesdays. Research shows that students have a listening comprehension three tiers higher than reading. When we incorporate the addition of podcast transcripts, students develop close reading skills while much more engaged with the material, as they have heard it and developed their viewpoints already. Their passion for documenting evidence is much stronger. Our goal is to ensure that learners leave Ralph Chandler MS as , critical, and ethical users and producers of ideas and information. Shared by Candace Walton •

# Woodland Heights Elementary School

1216 John B. White. Sr. Blvd. Spartanburg, SC

29306

<https://whes.spart6.org/>

The Woodland Heights Library serves over 395 students in K4-5th grades, with weekly library lessons, stories, and information literacy instruction, all served with a technology and media arts integration twist.

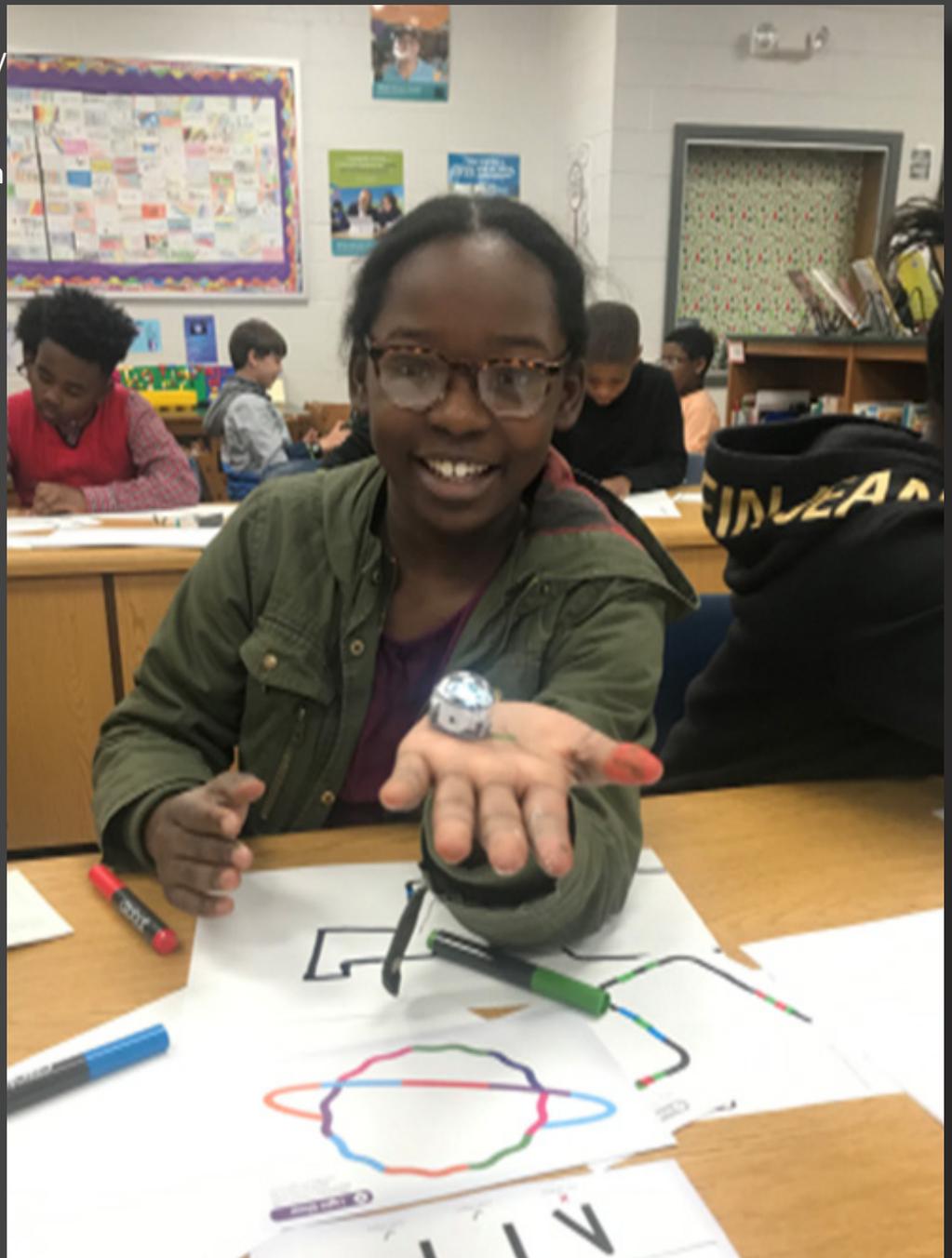
The students are frequent and enthusiastic visitors to the library. For many of our students, the school library is their only means of access to reading materials and other library services. Every day, I am amazed at my library students' excitement for reading, collaboration, and technology.

The Woodland Heights Library provides a safe, engaging, and nurturing hub of learning for our students.

No matter what challenges they face outside of school, students know that they are valued and appreciated whenever they visit the library.

Shared by Elizabeth Graham •

***No matter what challenges they face outside of school, students know that they are valued and appreciated whenever they visit the library.***



# District 5

Camden • Cherokee • Chester • Fairfield • Kershaw • Lancaster • Lee  
• Newberry • Rockhill • Union • York •

2021

## Andrew Jackson High School

6925 Kershaw Camden Hwy Kershaw SC 29067  
<https://ajhs.lancastercsd.com/>

When school closed in March, I began with creating a collection of online resources for my students and staff (museums, national parks, operas, e-books, etc.).

I shared resources with faculty for their classes (ex. Lightbox books). When schools opened, I have created training videos for faculty and students that include booktalks, Google classroom tips, Cloud Library and Hoopla through the public library and more specific videos for classes including literary criticism using DISCUS and Little Explorer's Dictionary website for Spanish classes.

There is a bitmoji classroom on the website that includes YABA books, Banned Book Week, instructions on putting books on hold and renewing books. With the hybrid schedule and COVID restrictions books are delivered to students this year and virtual students come up to school to pick them up. Students have not been coming to the library but I have been going to the classrooms if possible.

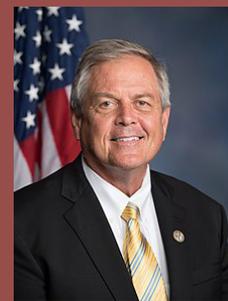
I created a virtual book tasting for one English class using Destiny Col-

lections, put together a collection on the Periodic Elements for a Physical Science class and have tried to build the digital collection in our library so that students can access more materials.

I have also created online flashcards for various classes to put into Google classroom using flippity.net.

Books are promoted on the website through slideshows, trailers, collections and then QR codes in the hallway. We also did a virtual makerspace in November and December with book folding.

I sent out instructions via e-mail and had several students show interest as well as a couple classes. I am trying to make the library as accessible and available as possible this year even if it has to be done digitally. Shared by Caitlin Creagan •



RALPH NORMAN



## Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School

242 Ebenezer Ave Rock Hill, SC 29730  
<https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/ebenezer>

This pandemic year is the quietest our library has ever been. Although the physical library has been closed, we have risen to the challenge of making sure our students have materials to read, our teachers have resources to support them in the classroom, and we've been able to still introduce children to the joys of the written word as well as teach them digital citizenship and information lit-

eracy. Still, I cannot wait until the library is full of students again who are reading, creating, learning, growing and making plenty of noise in the process! Shared by Charlotte Evans •



## Ida Jane Dacus Library and Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections

824 Oakland Ave, Rock Hill, SC 29733  
<https://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/dacus>

Library and Archives employees at Winthrop University were quick to transform existing services to continue assisting students and faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, when Winthrop University went remote in March 2020, Dacus was swift in loaning laptops to students who relied on the library's technology, and quickly collaborated with the [Computing and Information Technology department](#) to coordinate this campus-wide effort.

We promoted our existing [screensharing functionality for reference consultations](#) so students could continue one-on-one appointments (screensharing interactions have gone up over 2000% since March 2020).

Dacus employees knew that students weren't the only ones who needed assistance; as faculty were transforming their courses, we developed [virtual instruction and learning materials](#) and released resources such as the new Automagic LTI tool which streamlines incorporating library resources into Blackboard courses. Since our community had little time to prepare for remote learning, we quickly pivoted to [curbside pick-up options](#) for physical library materials to ensure students and

faculty could continue coursework. More recently, we expanded remote access to our print collection through our [personal delivery system](#) for Winthrop community members who live more than 15 miles away from campus.

Additionally, we knew students and faculty would be looking for electronic resources at greater rates, so our technical services team ensured our library holdings were discoverable in Google Scholar searches and that Open Access resources were listed in our catalog.

Finally, Dacus Library and Pettus Archives have contin-

ued to work with departments across campus to engage with students as we continue to be physically apart – we have collaborated on a [Research Explorations series](#), [Winthrop's Virtual Homecoming Week](#), and [Research Parties!](#)

We continue to look for more opportunities to create a sense of community (such as [online virtual exhibits](#)), and to provide students learning opportunities and personal connections during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Shared by V. Emily Deinert •



# Indian Land High School

8063 River Rd Indian Land, SC 29707  
<https://ilhs.lancastercsd.com/>

We are still talking with students to recommend great books to read, even if that means by email. We post to social media about new books and tech tips weekly. We have a chapter of the Project LIT book club community and facilitate an online book club promoting contemporary books for young adults that deal with relevant social issues. We encourage students to self-reflect then decide the type of books they want to read, then direct them to those types of books with bookmarks, displays, virtual book rooms linked to eBooks, and personalized book talks.

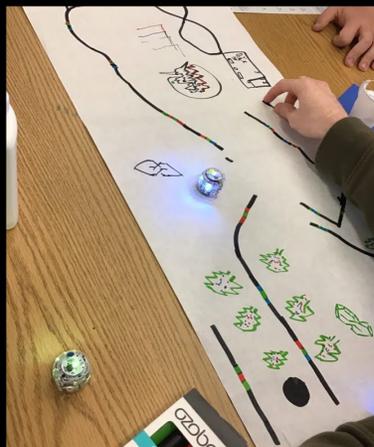
We have been in classrooms teaching research skills. We provide lessons on everything from using online databases and accurately citing sources to creating infographics, animating stop

motion movies in chemistry class, and producing podcasts. We teach in the classroom assisting with technical situations like Chromebook issues, getting virtual whiteboards to write, fixing glitches in a google Meet, and suggesting educational apps to keep students engaged and excited about learning.

We have been in a hybrid model for most of the year. We've created virtual choice boards for virtual students while hosting socially distanced in-person activities in the library. We have hosted seasonal celebrations: Ozobot Thanksgiving Day parade, salt painting, Valentine's trivia, and cardmaking, and  $\pi$  day fun. We have displayed a traveling poster exhibition from the Smithsonian about women's suffrage and the 19th Amendment. We planned some gardening and cooking

activities in the spring to go along with some fresh "Spring reads" that are coming to our library soon. In collaboration with the other high schools in our district, Lancaster County Schools, we hosted a virtual author visit and activities to correspond with the book Stay Sweet by Siobhan Vivian.

We are always committed to providing services to teachers, students, and our community. Shared by Helen Prince, Rebecca Brunson, Mike Leroy. •



INDIAN LAND HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY



# McCrorey-Liston School of Technology

1978 Hwy 215 Blair, SC 29015

<https://mlst.fairfield1.org/>

McCrorey-Liston School of Technology is tiny but mighty! We are a Title 1 school in rural Fairfield County. We promote literacy in a variety of formats--print, electronic, audio, and video. We recently applied for and received two grants: A Pets in the Classroom Grant and a Little Free Library Impact Grant. These grants will help build a community of caring, literate students, families and community members. Shared by Shannon Fennell



# Northwestern High School Media Center

2503 W. Main St. Rock Hill, SC 29732

<https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/Domain/31>

In the fall of 2019, I was pleased to implement a Project Lit book club at Northwestern High School, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

The funds necessary to purchase the Project Lit titles were made available through a grant from our local Walmart. Initially I had the books displayed on a small shelving cart, however due to the popularity (and the subsequent need to add additional titles and copies), the books were moved to a more permanent display. I am frequently asked where the cart with the “good books” can be found. The books are available to

all students and are frequently circulated to students that are not members of the book club.

I first heard about Project Lit at a session during our annual SCASL conference. While my collection development already included a focus on diverse books, I was excited about a way to further diversify my collection and include authors that my students might not already be reading. The selections have been outstanding to read personally, but the way they have resonated with my students is the real success!

This year we had to implement changes in how we meet (due to COVID). We are using a combination of our Canvas learning management system and other online tools. I’ve created videos to recruit new members. Shared by Tenley Middleton, M.L.I.S. •

- <https://youtu.be/CjslP-WgnfHQ>
- <https://youtu.be/so-iOKANSUXw>

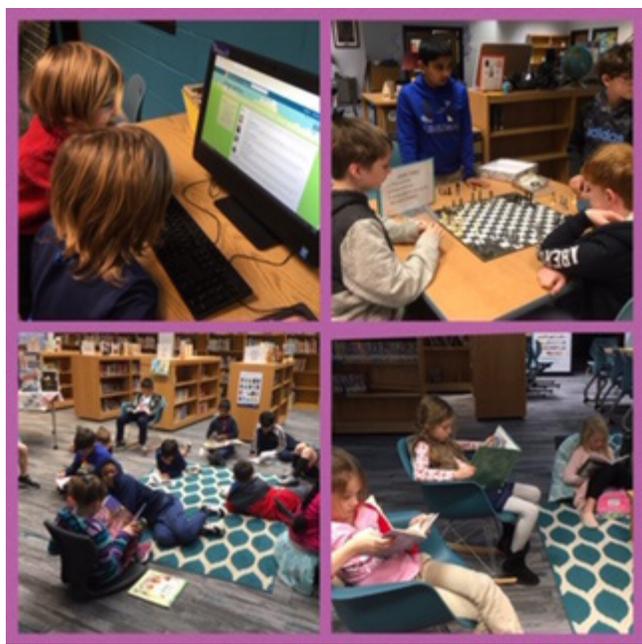


2019-2020

## Gold Hill Elementary School Library

1000 Dave Gibson Blvd Fort Mill, SC 29708  
<http://ghes.fortmillschools.org/>

The Gold Hill Elementary Library serves more than 900 students in the Fort Mill School District. The library has a makerspace, flexible seating area, classroom, mobile devices and self checkout stations. Their librarian is dedicated to providing an environment that they can grow their love of learning and literature, share their ideas with each other and the world, create new stories and games, and think about the world around



them and reflect on themselves. Shared by Helen Prince •

## Lugoff - Elgin Middle School

1244 Hwy. 1 South Lugoff, SC 29078  
<https://www.kcsdschools.net/Domain/18>

At Lugoff-Elgin Middle School, the goal is to make reading fun and to promote ease of access. Once a month, the LEMS Bookmobile visits students, on their grade level hallways, loaded down with great reads that they can checkout. How much more fun can you get? Shared by Emily Baccomo •



## Lugoff - Elgin High School

1284 Highway 1 South Lugoff, SC 29078  
<https://www.kcsdschools.net/Domain/17>

All Aboard the Literacy Express! Literacy Express is a program that spreads the joy of reading.. It started in 2013 with 13 students and has grown exponentially. To date over 994 students have visited 2309 classrooms, read to over 49,000

elementary students, we have given away 2250 books and 7000 dollars in scholarships. LEHS students travel to the 4 West Wateree elementary schools to read to the students.

This is a win-win situation for all students involved. This may be used as community service hours and the students have the opportunity to apply for a \$1000.00 scholarship in their senior year.

Events include: Kershaw County Read In, Halloween Literacy Express, Real Men Read, Spanish Edition, Holiday Literacy Express Read Across America, and State Read In. Shared by Anne C. Lemieux •



## Hickory Grove Sharon Elementary

4901 Hickory Grove Road Hickory Grove, SC  
29717

<https://www.facebook.com/York1HGS/>

We held a Wake Up and Read event this year where parents came to school and read with their kids. This was an opportunity for us to spotlight our relationship with our parents and encourage a love for reading throughout our school and community! Shared by Sherri Comer •



## Hunter Street Elementary School

1100 Hunter Street York SC 29745

<https://www.york.k12.sc.us/Domain/11>

Almost 500 students (PreK-4th grade) at Hunter Street Elementary participated in reading each of the 2019-2020 SC Picture Book Award Nominees.

They voted for their favorite book during “Election Week” in the library, and were able to create bookmarks representing their favorite titles and characters! Shared by Sara Howard •



## Northwestern High School

2503 W Main St Rock Hill, SC

<https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/Domain/31>

We participated in the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award Program. Shared by Tenley Middleton •

# District 6

Allendale • Bamberg • Calhoun • Clarendon • Colleton • Columbia •  
Dorchester • Hampton • Jasper • Kingstree • Lake City • Orangeburg  
• Sumter • Walterboro • Williamsburg •

2021



JIM CLYBURN

## Dorchester County Library

506 N Parler Ave, St. George, SC 29477  
[www.dorchesterlibrarysc.org](http://www.dorchesterlibrarysc.org)

We returned to work after the COVID closures knowing that there would be no in-person programs for the foreseeable future.

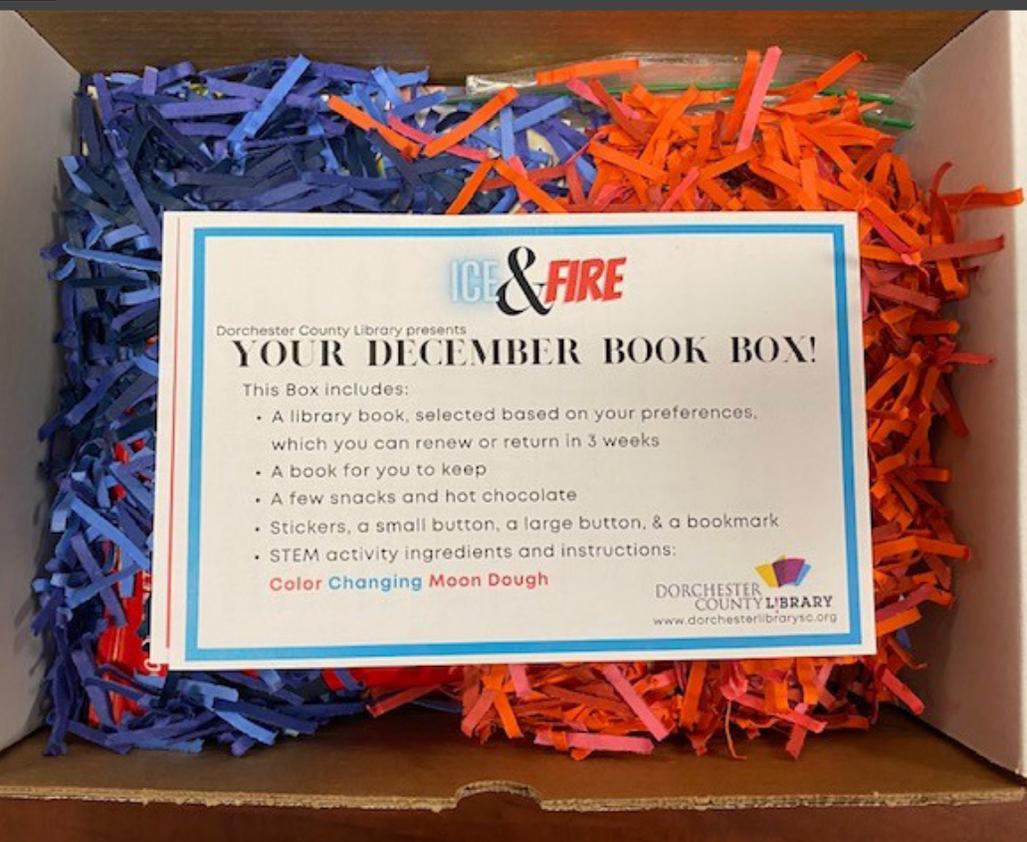
We tried to translate our previously planned programs into digital formats. However, with students attending school online, it became clear that they were getting burned out from staring at screens all day. Looking for a way to safely

***“We are thankful for this opportunity to connect with and encourage students, families, and individuals of all ages and to share our love of reading and learning with them.”***

connect offline, we began researching Book Subscription Programs, which were gaining popularity among libraries that were encountering similar issues.

We adapted the program to best serve our community, offering four age categories to accommodate readers of all ages, adding STEAM activities as well as books, and creating a registration survey that asked for participants’ reading preferences, so we could tailor each book to the individual. We started with 40 boxes total, which grew to 75 after the first month.

We continue to reach capacity with each month’s registration and receive encouraging feedback from participants. We are thankful for this opportunity to connect with and encourage students, families, and individuals of all



## **Harvin Clarendon County Library**

215 N Brooks St, Manning, SC 29102  
<https://clarendoncountylibrary.com/>

Curbside Service is here to stay at Harvin Clarendon County Library! We have all come to appreciate the convenience of curbside grocery pickup, food delivery, even alcohol delivery! So, when the pandemic hit and patrons needed assistance to pick up materials, drop off materials that don't go in the book drop, or even for faxing and copies, our staff rose to the occasion.

We continue to receive so much positive feedback from exasperated parents of small children and frail, elderly patrons who appreciate not having to lug books out to their car that Curbside Service is here to stay! Shared by Jamie Welch •



## **Millwood Elementary Media Center**

24 Pinewood Road Sumter, SC 29150  
<http://mwe.sumterschools.net/>

I believe that my #1 job as the media specialist at Millwood Elementary School is to open and expand the imaginations of my students.

I do this through reading aloud fun and engaging picture books to them each time we meet. Together we create new stories both handwritten and online using different technology tools.

Each year, I pick a different theme for the library to make it both welcoming and fun. Past themes for the library have included: Alice in Wonderland, The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan, and The Jungle Book.

I also utilize makerspaces to give students the chance to make and build things which puts their growing imaginations to the test. Each library is different and unique, but we all are striving for the same goals. We want our students to love

reading and have the power to do whatever they can imagine for themselves. Shared by Lessie Bernshouse •



# Richland Northeast High School

7500 Brookfield Road Columbia, SC 29223

<https://www.richland2.org/RNH>

Operating during a pandemic has been a challenge in many ways, but at Richland Northeast High School we are continuing to meet the needs of our students and staff members.

The activities and services to our school community include: book checkout to virtual and face-to-face students; virtual media center orientation; an “Adulting 101” virtual workshop series for our Juniors and Seniors; virtual book club meetings and author visits; virtual crafting club featuring knitting and crocheting; virtual presentations with our local public library; and virtual class instruction/collaborations with teachers and students.

We maintain a Google classroom page to stay connected with our students and teachers and post activities weekly including virtual field trips,

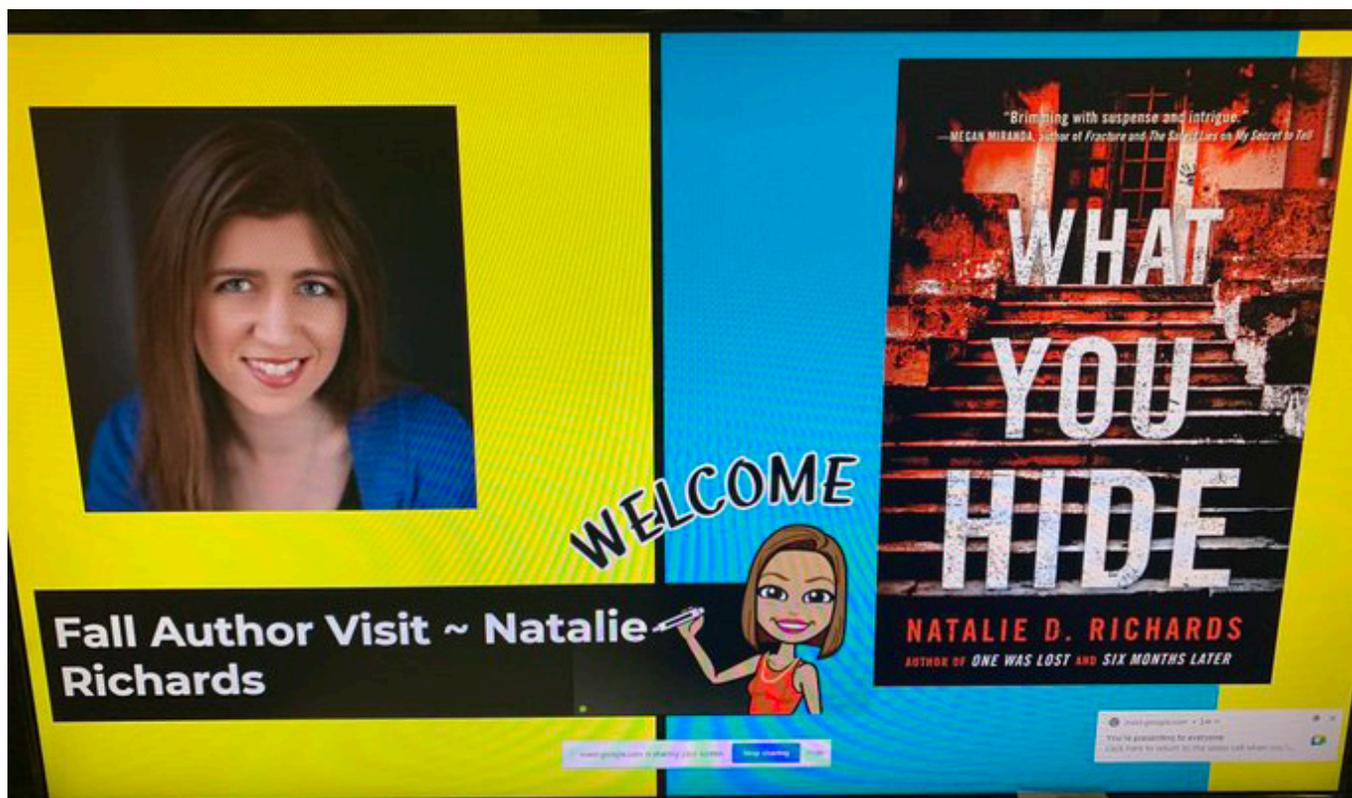
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***“Operating during a pandemic has been a challenge in many ways, but at Richland Northeast High School we are continuing to meet the needs of our students and staff members.”***

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Flipgrid Fridays, Workout Wednesday, and online games. We also continue to open daily for student visits each morning before school and during lunch.

The pandemic has changed the way we operate but it has not stopped us from providing essential services to our patrons! Shared by Pamela Williams •



## Sumter County Library

111 N. Harvin St. Sumter, SC 29150  
<https://www.sumtercountylibrary.org/>

Here at Sumter County Library during the pandemic, we are taking a piece of the library out to our community including Headstart centers, child development centers, and an adult learning center.

Every month we deliver Read, Learn and Grow boxes full of inspiring literature, awesome STEM toys, fun crafts and teacher resources. These well received boxes have allowed our library to be a continued asset within our community by creating an enriching learning environment for our children and adults.

“We really enjoy the box. It is filled with so much fun and love. Thank you for this great partnership. Our students love it!” -Jehovah Christian and Academic School. Shared by Julie Hynes •



# Sumter High School

2580 McCray's Mill Road Sumter 29154  
<http://shs.sumterschools.net/>

I am proud to share the services that the Sumter High School library provided to our faculty and students, as well as, my librarian colleagues during the pandemic. I mentioned my librarian colleagues because they are technology leaders in their schools, and we collaborated together through Zoom on ways we can help our teachers and enhance their instruction.

Many of our teachers were, like teachers across America, drowning and needed assistance. The Zoom collaborative sessions were passed along to our own school communities. We worked countless hours above and beyond a normal workday to ensure we met the needs of our teachers and students.

We made ourselves available after hours, weekends, and holidays as needed for all stakeholders. Our duties did not stop with web trainings, but we made ourselves available to troubleshoot Chromebooks, technology issues, and the like.

My library assistants were available (even after-hours) to troubleshoot technology issues and

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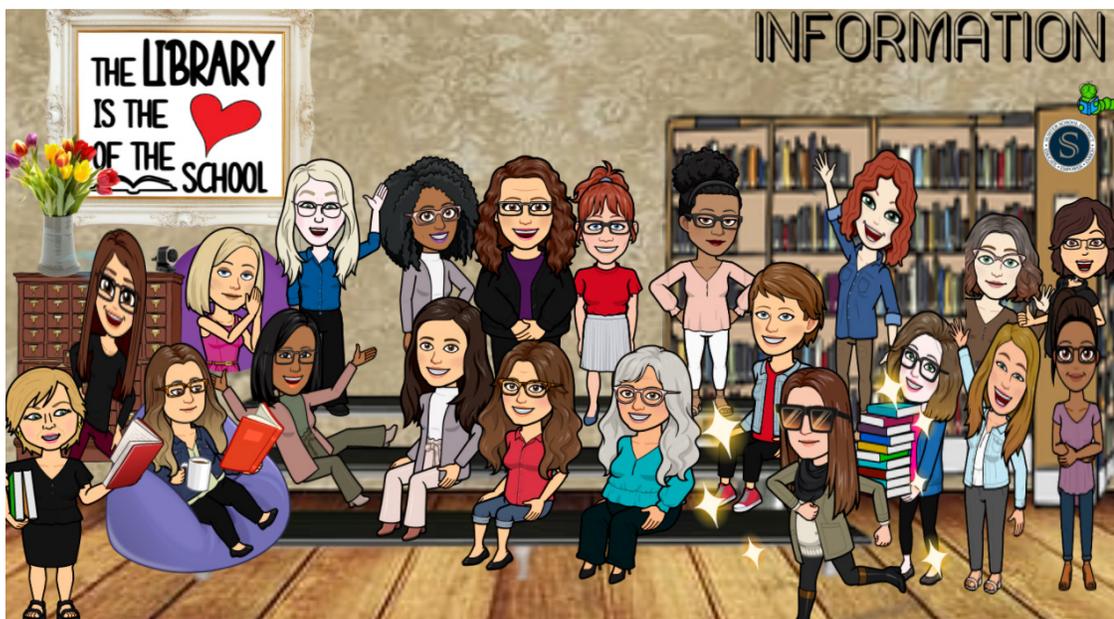
***“We made ourselves available after hours, weekends, and holidays as needed for all stakeholders.”***

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interacted with students through our online Book Club. Personally, I worked hard researching and sending useful information and instructions to my teachers.

I shared online apps, free online resources, and supportive curriculum information to help them navigate through eLearning. I created virtual field trips, interactive lessons, plus purchased ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines to promote reading within the virtual classroom and for pleasure reading. I created instructional videos for the school website on accessing the online library catalog and posted instructional videos for parents to help them navigate this new world.

I created standards-based interactive lesson plans for teachers to use during virtual learning days to allow extra time for tutoring students and to finalize grades.



It has been an exciting year and I am thankful that I was able to let our stakeholders see just how important and relevant it is having a school librarian. Shared by Ronda Speed •

# Walker Gamble Elementary Library

2358 Walker Gamble Road, New Zion, SC 29111

<https://www.walkergamble.com/en-US>

When our school went online in the beginning of the COVID shutdown, everyone from every department offered to help where help was needed. While our classroom teachers were pulling together fast online lessons, our special area teachers were riding buses delivering meals, handing out laptops and packets, and doing whatever else needed to be done!

During this time I was also developing a Google Classroom for my library. Our library did not have many e-books but fortunately there were so many

options from publishers and websites such as Epic that provided free access to students during this time. I had over a 1/3 of my school join my WGE Library Classroom within the first week!

It gave the students access to books and also a way to communicate with me. Now, this year we went back to face to face instruction after our Christmas break. Our library however was still closed to students. I knew I had to find a way to get books into student's hands.

I added the Title Peek feature (with my principal's approval) to my Destiny software so that the book covers could be visible to the students. I made a Screencastify video explaining how to place books on hold through Destiny Discover and then added the video to our Library Google Classroom.

When the students placed the books on hold I pulled the books and personally delivered to the classrooms during the day. The students LOVED IT! More and more students started requesting books as it spread :)

I also teach five GT classes during the day so it has been a challenge pulling and delivering books but it is so gratifying seeing their faces when they get a book deliver! I love my job :) Shared by Michelle Weaver •



## Bamberg County Public Library

3156 Railroad Avenue Bamberg, SC 29003  
<https://www.abbe-lib.org/locations/bamberg-county-public-library/>

The Bamberg Library involves local partners to connect our youngest patrons to their hometown heroes. We invited the Fire Department and the US Forestry Commission to host a special fire safety storytime...the response was awesome!



## Miller F. Whittaker Library

300 College St., N.E., Orangeburg, SC 29117  
<https://scsu.libguides.com/>

Centrally located on the campus of South Carolina State University, the Miller F. Whittaker Library supports the University in meeting its land-grant and related mission by providing access to and delivery of quality informational resources and services, including instruction, and space for students, faculty, and staff.

Through professional development, the library aims to maintain a highly-skilled workforce.

In 2019, the library accomplished the following:

- Provided 3,149 point-of-contact reference (PCR) inquiries
- Conducted 56 Library Instruction presentations
- Reached 760 students through library instruction
- Remodeled 8 – small and large study rooms to create a more inviting technologically-equipped collaborative work environment for students.
- Received a \$249,376 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to educate and empower HBCU academic librarians to become advocates and collaborate with faculty to provide open educational resources for students.

Shared by Ruth Hodges •



## ***Richland Northeast High School***

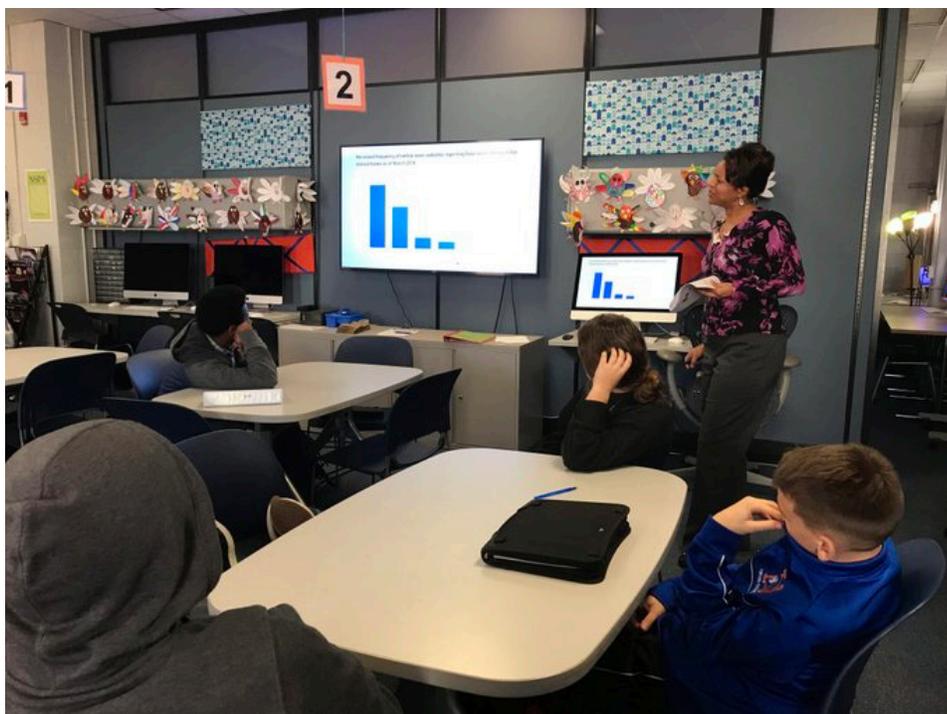
7500 Brookfield Road

Columbia, SC 29223

<https://www.richland2.org/RNH>

The school librarian worked with students in a journalism class on fighting fake news. During this lesson, they learned about different types of misinformation and tips and tools for dealing with misinformation, including digital forensics techniques.

In a follow up lesson, students learned about how they can be ethical information users by understanding copyright and fair use guidelines. Shared by Pamela Williams •



## ***Sumter County Library***

111N. Harvin St. Sumter, SC

<https://www.sumtercountylibrary.org/>

At our library we have incorporated sensory bins into our story time. These bins allow the children to explore, create and use their imagination while engaging their senses.

The children are always excited when they get to dig into the sensory bins. Not only are they using fine motor skills, but they are also expanding their vocabulary and math skills. Shared by Julie Hynes •



# District 7

Conway • Cheraw • Chesterfield • Georgetown • Darlington  
• Dillon • Florence • Hartsville • Horry • Marion • Marlboro  
• Myrtle Beach • Mullins •



TOM RICE

2021

## *Chesterfield County Library System*

119 West Main Street, Chesterfield, SC 29709  
<http://www.chesterfield.lib.sc.us/index.php>

During the pandemic, Chesterfield County Library System staff worked hard to find ways to be available to the public when the buildings needed to be closed off.

Staff came up with the idea of “We’ll meet you at the front door.” A service that allowed patrons to get the books and services they needed and wanted, all while providing the needed safety from prolonged exposure to the airborne COVID-19 virus.

We had staff stationed at the front door of the library during our adjusted hours of operation and we were able to check out books, DVD’s, make copies, send faxes, etc just like before the pandemic hit.

The library system also invested in video production equipment, lighting, a green screen, and editing software to produce high-quality story time videos which we posted online weekly for 24/7 access by parents so our youngest patrons would not go without their story times.

The library system also installed long-range Wi-Fi antennas on the front of each library building (at the

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***“We had staff stationed at the front door of the library during our adjusted hours of operation and we were able to check out books, DVD’s, make copies, send faxes, etc just like before the pandemic hit.”***

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Cheraw, Chesterfield, and Pageland branch library locations) to better provide 24/7 free open internet access which reaches into the parking lot at each location, making research and digital content access more readily available for students and patrons of all ages from the comfort and safety of their own vehicles. Shared by Michael N. Kaltwang



# ***Darlington High School***

525 Spring Street Darlington, SC 2953

<http://dhs.dcsdschools.org/2>

This year has definitely been unprecedented for students as well as media specialists. In the midst of the pandemic we helped our teachers and students navigate the daily challenges of accessing and using technology to learn. This was my first year at Darlington High School, so troubleshooting technology gave me a chance to learn the students and community.

I decided to completely update the website so students could better find online resources and databases for instruction and information needs. This gave me the opportunity to talk to teachers and get feedback to know how to best support students for research and all other information needs.

DISCUS is an excellent resource for research, so I created videos to train students to use many of the resources on the site. We also were able to purchase eBooks for teachers to use for instruction and in the general media center collection.

Using ebooks was new for this community so I taught the teachers and the students how to access the eBooks for interest and how teachers can create assignments using eBooks.

Once we returned to 5 day face to face instruction, students were able to come check out books and use the multimedia room for presentations and assign-

ments. Teachers also began using the media center for class projects and research.

We are slowly getting back to a more normal media center schedule, but we have learned many lessons along the way. Updating the website and creating training videos for students to access information online is a great way to support students moving forward.

Covid has taught us that students may be learning in many different types of ways and we must make sure that students have the support needed to be able to access information.

I am so glad we are beginning to return to more traditional media center services, but we will take the lessons learned and continue building on them for the future. Shared by Laura E. Matthews



# Florence County Library

509 S Dargan St, Florence, SC 29506  
<https://florencelibrary.org/>

Not content merely to maintain service during the pandemic, the Florence County Library staff continued to add new ways to inspire children and adults to dream big dreams and lift themselves to new levels of achievement.

Through virtual programs the library staff shared stories of local heroes who served as role models for future leaders. A children's librarian, for instance, inspired children with "Ron's Big Mission" about Lake City Astronaut Ron McNair.

Growing up in Lake City in the 1950s, McNair was not able to check out books from the library until he decided to take matters into his own hands. When a supportive white patron offered to put him on her card, young McNair said, "No thanks, Mrs. Fielding, I'm going to do it all by myself."

After the local police and Ron McNair's mother were called in, the librarian remembered what a faithful reader Ron had been and decided to issue him his own card.

Other virtual programs featured interviews with more local leaders, such as Mayor Theresa Myers Ervin, pediatrician Dr. John Keith, Chamber of Commerce chair Mike Reichenbach, and Nicole Echols, chair of the Pee Dee branch of Harvest Hope food bank.

Other library staff also provided heroic service during the weeks when the library was closed. They cleaned and re-cleaned both the building and the collec-

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***"Not content merely to maintain service during the pandemic, the Florence County Library staff continued to add new ways to inspire children and adults to dream big dreams and lift themselves to new levels of achievement."***

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tions. Arranging for patrons to order online and to pick up books without coming in, the willing staff then proceeded to shuttle books to waiting patrons at the front door.

Between June and mid-September over 139,000 books were circulated in this manner. Once the staff and county determined it was safe for small numbers of people to return to the library, they added duty at the front door to conduct temperature checks.

Professional. Passionate. Innovative. Florence County Library. Shared by Roger Hux; Friends of the Florence County Library •



# Marlboro County Library

203 Fayetteville Avenue, Bennettsville, SC 29512  
<https://edelmanpubliclibrary.org/>

During the initial phase of the national COVID-19 pandemic, every Library in South Carolina closed their doors. This immediately shut off a plethora of resources for an already starved, rural community, in South Carolina. Our Friends of the Mar-ian Wright Edelman Public Library immediately stepped up and took action.

The primary goal was to provide 24/7 access to books in every community throughout Marlboro County. Secretary of the Friends and Steward of the Little Free Library project, Wilma Workman,

wrote and received grants to add free libraries in the towns of Wallace and Blenheim (the only towns without Little Free Libraries).

Once received, the City of Bennettsville helped paint the libraries, and then County Maintenance workers helped to install them. The 10 pre-existing Little Free Libraries were attended to, spruced up with paint, and mended where needed.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Workman continued her efforts to seek out children's books for the free libraries. She contacted the Lisa Libraries of New York, and received 200 children's books to be distributed throughout all 12 free Library locations: 2 in McColl, 1 in Clio, 1 in Blenheim, 1 in Wallace, 1 in Brightsville, and 6 more downtown in Bennettsville. The Library used its bookmobile to keep each box filled every other week.

The Little Free Library project, headed by our Friends, showcased how our small, rural, Marlboro County community came together to make sure all citizens had access to books during a nationwide lockdown.

This is a testament to the fact that we can do anything through the help of good "Friends." continued on next page...



2019-2020 -

Marlboro County Public Library System is committed to providing compassionate service that meets the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of all citizens in Marlboro County, S.C.

Concentrated efforts, to provide accessible services for all age groups, are made each year to ensure citizens have access to the resources needed to succeed in an impoverished community.

The attached info-graphic details Library service statistics and program participation for FY 2019. Shared by Bobbie J. Grooms, Director •

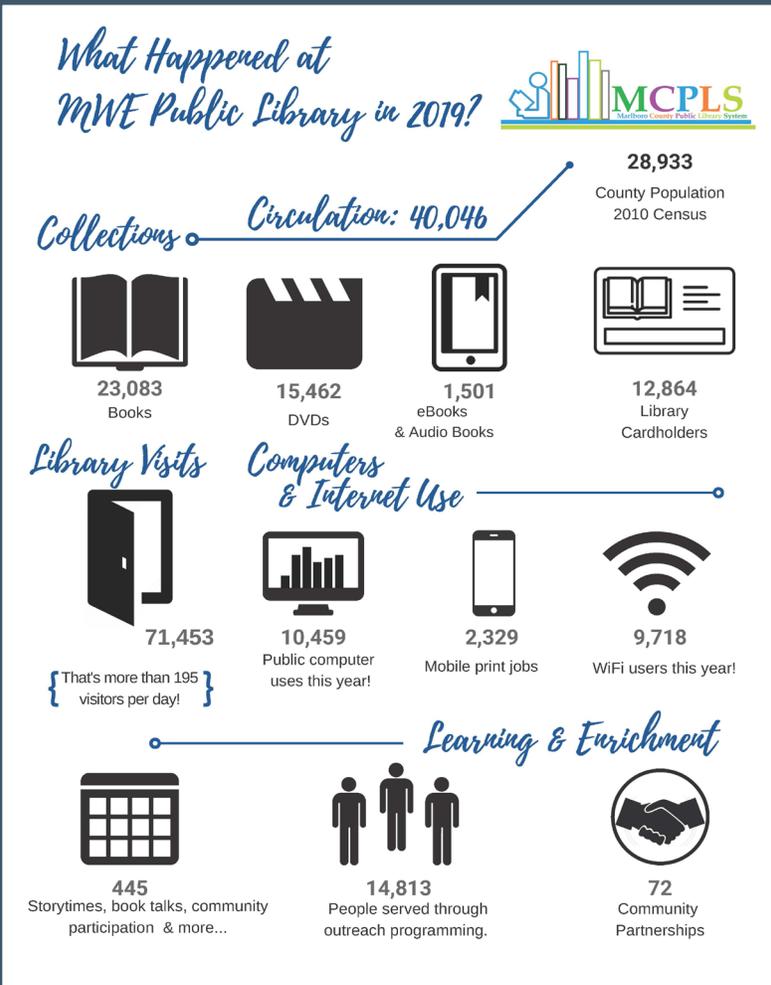
## Media Center—J Paul Truluck Middle School

319 Carlisle St. Lake City, SC 29560  
<http://www.jptms.florence3.k12.sc.us/>

The media center for JPTCASMS serves middle and high school students in Lake City, SC.

The school is part of a specialized track program from the MSAP grant for students interested in the Arts and Sciences. These funds have allowed the media center to purchase a wide variety of titles to serve this age range and specialized interests. In addition to reading and literacy, the library is undergoing renovations to make way for a makerspace and media production room to support the STEM and project-based curriculum of the school.

As a result, students get a wide range of experiences to explore and research. The media center has also received new furniture and cutting-edge technology such as new Clear Touch panels to aid in instruction and professional development. It is exciting to see the growth of this library as it continues to evolve to meet the needs of the 21st century learner. Shared by Holt Hill •



## North Hartsville Elementary

110 School Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550  
<http://nhe.dcsdschools.org/>

**2020-2021** - In our library we spend a lot of time building the world-class skills that are an integral part of the Profile of a South Carolina Graduate.

Growing students' ability to think critically, problem solve, be creative, and persevere lend themselves well to STEM challenges.

Even though Covid-19 restrictions make it more difficult this year, we are still finding ways to engineer.

Here a student tests a "roller-coaster" designed and built from file folders, construction paper, and index cards.

The students were challenged to build a multi-level coaster with two or more support columns with different tracks that allowed their marble to turn at least three times.

Their finished products were so creative!

**2019-2020** - In our school library students work every day to develop the World Class Skills outlined in the Profile of a South Carolina Graduate. Students have opportunities to grow creatively, problem solve, collaborate, and explore technology in new ways.

Some of the projects our students participate in include engineering various devices with cardboard, coding Spheros and Ozobots, learning how to solve a Rubik's Cube, and creating book talks using technology like Flipgrid.

Each year, students display the power of school-wide collaboration as they create mosaics that include 225 Rubik's Cubes like this one of Jackie Robinson. Also shown are 4th grade students preparing to retell a story through the power of green screen. Shared by Michelle Turner •

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***"Even though Covid-19 restrictions make it more difficult this year, we are still finding ways to engineer."***

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American Library Association

# South Carolina Library

## Funding Facts

South Carolina’s libraries are institutions with programs and resources to help every community member succeed. Our libraries are also digital anchors – connecting individuals to computers and broadband, technology classes and expert, trusted staff.

**The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** is the only federal program exclusively for libraries, administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Each state determines how best to use these grants based on local, not federal, priorities.

### QUICK STATE FACTS

- **228** Public Libraries
- **36,406** Children and Young Adult Programs Offered
- **4,290** Public Access Internet Computers
- **23,388,837** Annual Circulation

### LSTA Funding History in South Carolina

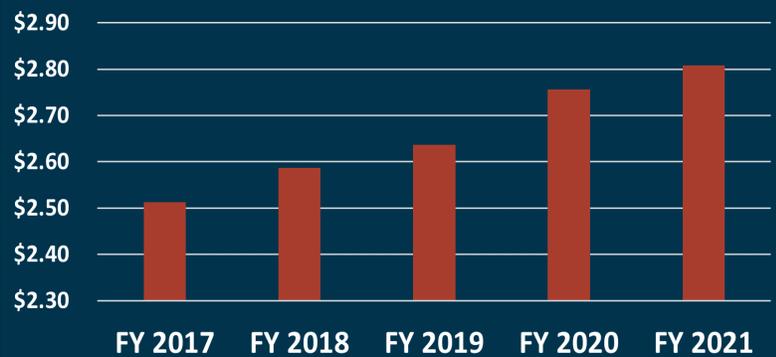


Figure 1: in millions. Source: IMLS

### LSTA funds are at work in libraries to:

- **Support jobseekers** and the local economy through career planning programs.
- **Improve the health literacy** of the community, including with COVID-19.
- **Provide resources** and support for children, families, the elderly, veterans, and those facing homelessness.
- **Help bridge the homework gap** and digital divide.
- **Develop and stimulate** programs using new approaches and technologies.
- **Advance small businesses** by building targeted resources, offering classes and expertise, and boosting entrepreneurship.