



OPEN TOGETHER

LIBRARIANS AS COMMUNITY ACTIVATORS

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EveryLibrary
Institute



LIBRARIANS AS COMMUNITY ACTIVATORS

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Hi, I'm Chris

- Director of the School Library System for Genesee Valley BOCES since 2004
- Rural educational services agency outside of Rochester, NY
- 22 Districts, about 21k students K-12

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Topics for today



Social Connections



Public/School Partners



Reading Together



Celebrating Local

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES ARE
NOT JUST ABOUT READING**

But right now it's kind of a big thing for connecting.



Img Search: Alone

There is a high level of overlap between "alone" and "sad" in images.

Flip the Images

Building positive connections through community interactions.
Physical Distancing with Social Connectivity



“We know that strong, secure bonds with our teachers are really important in social-emotional development. To suddenly lose out on that under such strange and unprecedented circumstances can be really hard on kids.”

JAMIE HOWARD, A SENIOR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST IN THE ANXIETY DISORDERS CENTER AT THE CHILD MIND INSTITUTE

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/55595/staying-in-touch-why-kids-need-teachers-during-coronavirus-school-closings>

Ideas for How to Meaningfully Connect Remotely

1. Send weekly or daily email blasts to students and families. Video messages can enhance the sense of connection as well.
2. Build a virtual classroom journal, website or blog with daily prompts to which students can respond.
3. Establish office hours where students can call (either by telephone or virtually) a trusted adult such as a teacher, counselor or other staff.
 - For secondary schools, consider using the teachers' first classes as the way to organize students for the day's activities, such as setting goals and intentions.
4. Set up daily or weekly meetings or advisories to establish a time to connect with a group of students.
5. Moderate a classroom chat or discussion board.
6. Record and share video or audio clips with your students to send important announcements, resources and celebrations (e.g. birthdays).
7. Attend a virtual field trip as a community:
 - [Travel Example](#)
 - [Museum Example](#)

CO Dept. of Edu. Gets It

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools/wellbeing>



School Library Ideas

- Lunch with the Librarian
- Open office hours - wait for the ding
- Staff book club - don't forget teachers
- Ask students what they are reading and how they are doing
- Library projects that encourage connecting with others

StoryCorps - Connect with Great Questions

- What's the biggest way your life has changed because of the pandemic?
- If you could ask anyone from your life, living or dead, for advice on getting through this, who would it be and what would you ask them?
- For future generations of your family listening to this years from now: Is there any wisdom you'd want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?

<https://storycorps.org/participate/storycorps-connect/>



STORYCORPS
Connect

TOOLKIT
2020

Reach all your students' families

In their home languages to build strong partnerships

Hundreds of thousands of teachers and parents already use TalkingPoints.

SIGN UP FOR FREE



Talking Points App

<https://talkingpts.org/>

Seesaw

Training and PD

Resources

Schools and Districts

Sign Up Free!

Log In

Engage families in conversation centered on student learning

Connect families to see student work and celebrate progress. Up to ten family members can stay in the loop using the Parent and Family app (iOS, Android) or on web

View Communication Features



Seesaw: Share and Connect

<https://web.seesaw.me/>



Public/School Connections

- Holes in Fences or Building Bridges
- Step One: Assessment of current needs and capabilities
- Step Two: ??????
- Step Three: Success for both school and public libraries!



ALL PLANNING IS LOCAL

Observations of Libraries from my Travels

- In rural Western New York, school libraries tend to have more resources than public
- In other states, public libraries provide the digital resources for schools
- The secret right now is to identify excess capacity and shift it to the library type that has the most need of additional support



Digital Access

Public Library Connect lets school users on Sora access their local public library's digital content from Libby even if they don't have a library card. But they should totally get a library card!



<https://company.overdrive.com/public-libraries/public-library-connect/>

EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION

PUB ► SCH

Work together on programming for school-age children with an early kick-off to summer reading programs

SCH ► PUB

Schools have a communication conduit that can help public libraries share what services they have

SCH ► PUB

Provide cross-training to public library staff on how to use school tech tools for parent support

SCH ► ACD

Reach out to first year college students as a friendly, local face to help with BI and other support

TOGETHER

Present a united front to the local elected officials that proactively advocates for funding of all libraries


[TAKE ACTION!](#)
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Save School Librarians

Take action to support school librarians and libraries across the United States.


[SIGN UP](#)

[SIGN UP](#)

saveschoollibrarians.org

Mike Parchinsky, EveryLibrary



Reading Together

While Still Apart

“Our librarian has been recording stories for our students...As a parent, I can personally attest to the magic of having a familiar figure read to your child. My kids light up when a new video gets posted. It's such a testament to the power of books as a community builder. Right now, read-alouds (my amazing principal does them nightly as well) are a major part of what is keeping us together as a school.”

**JULIA GUTHRIE, A FOURTH GRADE TEACHER AND THE 2018
NEW JERSEY NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=school-librarians-can-help-during-crisis-but-some-fear-being-shut-out-coronavirus-covid19>

First Lines. Made for Twitter

- Welcome to Yawnee Valley, an idyllic place with rolling green hills that slope down to creeks, and cows as far as the eye can see. *The Terrible Two*. Mac Barnett and Jory John
- You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings. *Frankenstein*. Mary Shelly
- So, in order to understand everything that happened, you have to start from the premise that high school sucks. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*. Jesse Andrews
- Here's a weird news item—a bus flips over, a bunch of kids are taken to the hospital, and the driver...disappears? *The Mighty Odds*. Amy Ignatow

And Here is Why You Should!

- Public health experts from the CDC say that book circulation is safe. Use a 24 hour quarantine for books, or 72 hours for an overly cautious approach
- Schools are already doing food distribution, so this isn't an additional contact.
- We can set up systems for safety

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/LocalStory/Why-You-Shouldnt-Do-Curbside-During-COVID-19-Backtalk>

Why You Shouldn't Do Curbside During COVID-19 | Backtalk

by Katelyn Attanasio
Apr 22, 2020 | Filed in [News](#)



Views in this piece are my own, and do not represent the views of my employer.

I recently received a message from the director of a small library system, who decided to close their branches after seeing my #CloseTheLibraries posts on social media. Three weeks



after deciding to close, they found out that the literacy center near them was an outbreak site. Had they not closed, they likely would have had an outbreak as well. After tweeting about this, I received a dozen direct messages and replies from library staff asking about providing curbside service as a stopgap measure.



Creative Reading

Bored in Lockdown?
Love to read? Why not
have a "Blind Date with a
Book?!"

Or you could pass out
books with meals pre-
wrapped and based on
genres.

https://www.reddit.com/r/mildlyinteresting/comments/g8js2g/one_of_my_neighbours_is_giving_a_blind_date_with/

We've Got This... Local Celebrations

- Work with journalism or yearbook clubs to create a local record of this amazing time
- Connect with local authors for a story walk (be safe!)



Local authors Nina Laden and Kevan Atteberry

popupstorywalk.org





Bring the Fun!

- airconsole.com - video games online, but watch out for some NSFW content (CaH)
- boardgamearena.com play board games online with no installs
- tabletopia.com - app based board games

Best Board Games for Zoom/Meet



Just One

GIVE CLUES TO GUESS WORDS
[HTTPS://BOARDGAMEGEEK.COM/BOARDGAME/254640/](https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/254640/)



One Night: Werewolf

YOU KNOW, WEREWOLF!
[HTTPS://BOARDGAMEGEEK.COM/BOARDGAME/147949/](https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/147949/)



Deep Sea Adventure

PRESS YOUR LUCK TOGETHER
[HTTPS://BOARDGAMEGEEK.COM/BOARDGAME/169654/](https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/169654/)



Fake Artist To Ny

USE THE WHITEBOARD
[HTTPS://BOARDGAMEGEEK.COM/BOARDGAME/135779/](https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/135779/)

PLAY THIS AFTERNOON!

Reverse Pictionary

- Active player picks the thing and then gives directions to other player(s) on what to draw.
- The other players draw based on directions while they are trying to guess what they are being told to draw.
- Active player can give shapes, textures, orientations, directions...no things and no air drawing on camera!

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