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

chris@playplaylearn.com  @DrChrisHarris
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


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

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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/
Reach all your students' families

In their home languages to build strong partnerships
Hundreds of thousands of teachers and parents already use TalkingPoints.

Talking Points App  https://talkingpts.org/

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

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!

### EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION

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<td>Work together on programming for school-age children with an early kick-off to summer reading programs.</td>
<td>Schools have a communication conduit that can help public libraries share what services they have.</td>
<td>Provide cross-training to public library staff on how to use school tech tools for parent support.</td>
<td>Reach out to first year college students as a friendly, local face to help with BI and other support.</td>
<td>Present a united front to the local elected officials that proactively advocates for funding of all libraries.</td>
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**everylibrary**

**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

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.

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/q8ja2g/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!)

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/254468/

One Night: Werewolf
You Know, Werewolf!
https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/147949

Deep Sea Adventure
Press Your Luck Together
https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/169454

Fake Artist To Ny
Use the Whiteboard
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!

Connect: chris@playplaylearn.com | @drchrisharris

EveryLibrary Institute

HALO