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| **Student name: Tracy Richter**  **Library Media Center site visited: Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School (Howard County)**  **Library Media Specialist mentor interviewed:  Dawne Royo**  **Date of site visit:** **2/26/13** | | | | |
| **Teacher Role** | | | | |
|  |  | **QUESTION** | **NOTES/RESPONSES** | **REFLECTION** |
|  |  | What types of hands on activities are most engaging and best for teaching literacy and media skills? | Students respond extremely well to online games and YouTube videos. Basically, anything on the computer is a great motivator for my students. I also think that relating content to real-life gets them very engaged in the lesson because it makes them think critically and it is meaningful to them. For example, for website evaluations, I gave them a bad website example about a topic I am researching (not really, but they think it is true), and they will act like they can’t believe I picked that website and how it doesn’t have anything to do with my topic. That is when I say “Exactly! So you all should not be choosing websites for your research paper that have nothing to do with your topic. That is how I want you to evaluate your websites, like how you just evaluated mine.” Of course, for Kindergarteners and the younger grades, activities like finger plays, and things like that are engaging for these types of skills. | She had so many good ideas and great examples in response to this question. I have found in my previous experience in my internships that technology truly does draw the students into the lesson as well. I have also found that making lessons meaningful and giving them an important job to do, makes them feel like they are helping and that their work is not just “busy work.” I loved her example of the website evaluation. It really made the students think about website evaluations and why certain websites shouldn’t be used for a research paper. If they wouldn’t let her use a website for her research paper, then they shouldn’t be using “bad” websites for their own papers either. |
|  |  | What are some of your best sources of help for lesson planning, instructional ideas, student research? | The document repository for Howard County is a great website to go to. It contains approved and evaluated lessons that have been created by teachers in the county. SOS Information Literacy website is a great place to find lessons, as well as the AASL Lesson Plans on their site, especially for the Common Core State Standards. I go to blogs to find ideas, for example my favorite is Cari Young’s Blog “Centered School Library” and then the other people that are apart of her blog, are good resources to go to as well. | I found in my internships that it was so hard to create lesson plans from scratch on short notice. Therefore, I was happy to hear of numerous sites that contain a myriad of teachers’ lesson plans that I could modify for my own use. I am definitely interested in the AASL Lesson Plans, because they will focus on the skills that I will be teaching in my library and they are aligned to the CCSS. After visiting several blogs that were introduced to me in this course (ISTC 601) I know that they can be useful places to go to for resources, and Cari Young’s Blog sounds like another great one to use! |
| **Instructional Partner Role** | | | | |
|  |  | **QUESTION** | **NOTES/RESPONSES** | **REFLECTION** |
|  |  | Describe your use of Collaborative Planning and delivery of instruction. | I meet every week with the technology teacher and we plan our lessons together. We work very closely together and structure our lessons around similar topics, depending on the grades’ content for that week in their regular classes. Usually, if I need to talk to a teacher about the content they are teaching in class, I will visit them before school or after school, run into them in the hallways (if it is a quick question), or meet with them at lunch. I meet with teachers formally if there is formal training that is necessary, for example the animal research paper that the 5th graders just finished. We integrated that content into our lessons and organized our planning together at a pre-arranged meeting. There is also a school Wiki, where teachers will post their long-range plans. I use that most of the time to find out what is to come in the upcoming weeks. | I was surprised to hear how closely the technology teacher and the media specialist work together to plan their lessons. I just assumed that they planned their lessons separately and had different content to teach. I think it is great that they can plan together and give ideas and suggestions for how they will each teach the content to their classes. I was also glad to hear about a school Wiki! That sounds like such a great and useful resource for the media specialist to gauge what she should be teaching in the future and plan accordingly. I was actually unaware of how much the media specialist teaches to the content that is being taught the students’ general education classes. I was glad to hear about this because it makes it very smooth for the students to incorporate their learning from their regular class, into the media center as well. |
|  |  | In what ways have you participated in team/grade level /department meetings, and what was your purpose for participation? | I am the team leader for the related arts team at our school, so I attend and lead all of those meetings. I also attend grade level meetings as needed. For example if I need to learn about certain content that they will be teaching. I go to department meetings and other meetings to promote my voice as the media specialist, and ensure that we are not forgotten. I can include my thoughts and ideas for various topics of discussion. | I was glad to hear that she attended numerous meetings for the school to advocate for the media center. I was also impressed that she was the team leader for the entire related arts team at the school. Therefore, she not only advocates for the library, but for the other related arts teachers as well. |
| **Information Specialist Role** | | | | |
|  |  | **QUESTION** | **NOTES/RESPONSES** | **REFLECTION** |
|  |  | What resources are a must for your professional library? | I have many resources in my professional library that I consider a “must”: -“Adventures of Super 3: A Teacher’s Guide to Information Literacy for Grades K-2” by: Nelson & Du Puis  -“Destination Collaboration” 1 & 2 by: Carter & Du Puis  -School Library Monthly Periodicals  -“A to Zoo” by: Lima & Thomas | I was so excited to hear about all of these resources, because I can definitely use them for my future as well. I looked online for some these resources and found out more about them. I learned that “Adventures of Super 3” is a book filled with information literacy and technology skills lesson plans that help teachers teach problem-solving strategies to young learners. “A to Zoo,” is a great reference book for media specialist because it lists children’s books by topics, authors, subject, etc. So if teachers ask you for a book that introduces students to types of animals, the media specialist could use this book to find the books that would be best for that subject. |
|  |  | How do you find out about new resources to use in the library or media center? | Howard County has a book bonanza meeting for school librarians in the county. At this meeting, we all choose a book to talk about and we meet in groups and have book talks. That way we all learn about different books that we could use as references or for our professionally libraries. Also in the Fall, the “Best of the Year” list comes out on the database that we can look at for new resources. I also like to look at the School Library Media Connection website to find new resources. | I loved hearing that about the meetings and conferences that could be available to use to find out about new materials and resources that we could use in our own libraries. The School Library Media Connection sounds like a great place to go more frequently for updates on new resources. |
| **Administrator Role** | | | | |
|  |  | **Question** | **Notes/Responses** | **Reflection** |
|  |  | Do you have before and after school hours? If so, how do you manage it? If not, why? | In elementary schools, there are usually not after school or before school hours. We pretty much stick to the routine of the school day. If there is a need for the library to be used after school for a meeting or club, then that is fine. For example I will sometimes meet after school with my “Battle of the Books” group. | It did not surprise me that in an elementary school there were not any after school or before school hours. I can see that it is more likely to have those hours at a middle or high school due to more independence of students and the fact that there isn’t as much of a routine to stick to. But I love that she is willing to stay after for clubs or let other groups use the library if necessary. |
|  |  | Which one of the library media specialist's roles do you find most challenging? Why? | I find the administrator role most challenging, simply due to the fact that there is not enough time in the day! I spend most of my time teaching and I try to find more time to do the tasks of the administrator but it can be difficult. Therefore, I sometimes stay later or come in early to do those tasks or I take it home with me. I try to take home the task for the administrator as much as possible. For example ordering books; I can do that from home. | It was interesting to discover that her most challenging role was the administrator. I didn’t know what to expect with this question, because it will vary from librarian to librarian. I can see that most of their time is spent on teaching and that there isn’t a lot of time for her other roles. Whereas in middle or high schools, they don’t spend a lot of time teaching but they may have plenty of time for the administrator role. Taking tasks home with you is a good option for managing those tasks, I think. |
|  |  | What are your effective classroom management strategies and ideas for the Media Center? | In August, you have to set the expectations right away! They must be clear and concise, and there shouldn’t be too many of them. My expectations are, to come into the media center quietly, use a quiet voice, put materials back where you found them, leave the library as you found it, and respect the materials. I also assign tables to the students during my instruction and move their seats if problems arise. I also have a large rug for the students to sit on in the media center for instruction, so that they don’t start crawling under the tables and losing their focus on the lesson. | This was very good advice. In my previous internships for general education, that was one of my biggest struggles: classroom management! I think it is very important to set clear expectations for the students so they know what is expected of them and the consequences if these expectations are not met. One of the most important expectations that she uses is respecting the materials, in my opinion. The library is not just for them, but for the entire school. The materials are expensive and they should treat them like they are their own materials, otherwise they won’t have such a nice collection to choose from when they use the library. |
|  |  | What is the key to success in administering the library media program? | Always be approachable! The library is a place for staff members to get answers. They need to know that they can come to me with questions, and they should want to approach me with them. If I don’t know an answer to something, I make sure to tell them that I will find out more about it and get back to them. If teachers have requests I make sure to let them know that I will get back to them in a reasonable amount of time. I also have them write down their requests, so I can keep track of them and not forget about anybody. | Her response to this question is so important for me to remember for my future as a media specialist! Being new to a library will be difficult and I will have to present myself in a way that makes people want to ask me questions and form a professional connection. I also love the idea of having the teachers write down their requests. I can tend to be forgetful, as I think most people do, and writing down requests will help me keep track of who wants what and it ensures that I won’t forget about anyone. |
| **SUMMARY REFLECTION:** What major insights did you gain from this field experience?  How might you use these insights in your own current or future practice? | | | | |

I gained many insights from this field experience that I believe I would use in my future as a media specialist. My past experiences in schools have only been in the role of a student teacher, under the direction of a general educator. Therefore, this was my first experience focusing strictly on the role of the media specialist, and I was really excited to learn all I could from Ms. Royo and how she ran her media center. I was very interested to hear about what kinds of activities she used that were engaging and what classroom management strategies she used while teaching. Setting clear expectations for the students was an important suggestion to remember for when I start my job as a media specialist. If the students know what is to be expected of them in the media center, then they have no excuse for not abiding by them. If you give the students too many expectations to follow, they will forget about them and will be more likely to not abide by them. Therefore, the ones that she used, I think are the most important ones for any library, and I will definitely use them or something like them in my future media center. She also gave me a myriad of resources that would be useful for me in our profession. From using YouTube videos for engagement, to reading books that focus on strategies for teaching information literacy and technology skills, I will always keep the list of these resources she gave me handy, so I can utilize them in the future. I also will take her advice, about being approachable to the staff and being flexible with your time, with me as well. Making professional relationships and collaborating with teachers is one of the most important roles as a media specialist and making yourself approachable and useful to them will only strengthen those bonds. I will also remember the importance of being involved with department meetings and team meetings in order to advocate for your role as a media specialist and allowing your voice to be heard. Knowing that every day will bring unexpected challenges and rewards, the school library media specialist must remember to always stay positive and flexible, and be willing to help anyone who asks for their assistance. This interview made me very hopeful and excited for the future. I will never forget my first experience learning the “ins and outs” of this particular school media center!

**ISTC 651.101 Information Literacy & Access Field Observation**

**Fall 2013**

**Student Name:** Tracy Richter

**Date & Time of Visit:** September 27th, 2013 @ 8:15 a.m.

**Name & Location of Visit:** Murray Hill Middle School (Howard County)

**Name of Librarian:** Gwyneth Jones

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|  |  | **Librarian Teacher Role** | | | |
| Date | Level | Question | Response from Discussion | Your Reflection | |
| 9/27 | Middle | How do you most effectively manage large or multiple groups in your library? | I separate those who have problems making bad choices. I make sure that those students are not in the line of sight for each other so they are not as tempted to distract themselves or others. I also make sure to never disrespect students if I make them move or call them out on making bad choices. I also don’t tolerate others who make fun of those who do make bad choices. | Classroom management is a very hard thing to achieve, and it is something that I have struggled with in the past. However, advice like this, I can really take with me for my future. I too believe in not belittling students. Therefore, those who do need to think about the bad choices they have made, I will just address it briefly or privately, depending on the situation, and move on, not allowing other students to comment or draw attention to that person. | |
|  |  | In your opinion, what library skills should a middle school student have before entering a high school? | They need to be good curators and evaluators of information. They  Need to be able to get what they need, use it, and judge it. They also need to have citizenship and ethics when using technology or for their everyday life, when interacting with others. | As a potential future school librarian in a middle or a high school, this is valuable information to have. If my students do not have some of these critical skills, then it is my job to fix that. They will need these skills for their future in school or in their professions, therefore, for them to acquire these skills now, is crucial. | |
|  |  | What learning experience do you provide for a 45/90 minute period with middle school students? | I help teach or co-teach with other teachers for a lot of multimedia research. For example, I created a Mentormob playlist about the gods and goddesses of Greek mythology for an English class. I made the research fun for the students because I made the playlist like a reality show of the gods and goddesses. They were excited to learn about them and they were able to learn about and find the resources they need to learn even more about them for their English research. | I got to see the Mentormob playlist that Ms. Jones made for the students and I was very impressed! I had never heard of Mentormob before and I found out that it is an easy way to have students follow along at their own pace to learn about a topic or how to find resources on a topic, through a step-by-step slideshow. You can input video clips too, which engages the students even more in the lesson. I could definitely see myself using this tool in the future for when I teach my students about how to find information about a topic. | |
|  |  | How do you promote literature with your students when you don't have a set library schedule to meet with all students? | I update my blog and website for the school regularly. I promote literature there and encourage students to keep reading! I also encourage students to come to the library and check out the selections we have for them. The displays of literature I have around the library also draws the kids into reading. | I love the fact that she is so tech savvy!! Her website, twitter site, and blog are all updated frequently and are quite impressive. I will definitely try to use these kinds of tech tools in my library to gain students attention even when they are not in school. If I continuously update it, they will be more likely to check out what is going on in their library, once you start to slack off with the updates, students loose interest fast. I hope to be as advanced with technology as she is when I am a media specialist!! | |
|  |  | Are you using an information literacy process model, e.g., Big Six to teach research? Is information literacy integrated with curricular content? | I use a hybrid of all of them. I am inspired my inquiry and I want my students to be inspired the same way.  I get things from Big 6, Common Core, Big 3, etc. I integrate information literacy into all of the content that I teach in the library or with the teachers from any of the academic areas. But no, I don’t follow one information process model; I use what works best for me and my students. | I really admire her philosophy of using a combination of them all. I am not a master at any of these models by far, but when I get more ingrained with them, I could see me doing something similar. Why follow only one method, when you can pick and choose items that are most important for you and your students, from all of them? I feel like this is a really well-rounded approach to teaching information literacy and I will keep it in mind when I become a school librarian. | |
|  |  | How do you encourage reluctant readers to come to the library? | I have a lot of materials available in the library to use that can help with literacy skills. For example I let them know that we not only have books, but we have playaways and CD audio books. Those options may entice reluctant readers because they may just not like the act of reading, this way they can listen to literature. | I think it is so important to offer a variety of materials in your library to appease a variety of learners. Some students simply do not like to read text, so listening to text through audio books may be a great way to get students interested in reading. I will definitely remember this when I am doing my own collection development in my library. | |
|  |  | **Librarian Instructional Partner Role** | | | |
|  |  | Question | Response from Discussion | | Your Reflection |
|  |  | Describe your use of Collaborative Planning and delivery of instruction. | I go to most of the department meetings to hear about what is new in their classes and see how I can assist them the most. I also schedule times with individual teachers who ask for assistance and who might want to co-teach a lesson with me in the computer lab or the library. I also have a comment sheet where teachers can write down a tech problem they are having or if they want to schedule something with me on the desk in my library and I get back to them when I am available. | | I loved hearing that she went to department meetings to get involved with all of the teachers and promote the use of librarians and the library. I have to remember to do this and make time for meeting in the future, because that is how I will get connected with everyone in the school and not be the “invisible librarian.” The comment sheet was a good idea, in case you are busy when some comes in to discuss something with you, that way you can answer questions when you have some free time, and they aren’t waiting around for you to answer them. |
|  |  | How do you collaborate with your staff to integrate information and technology literacy outcomes with the subject area content outcomes? | I work really closely with each of the departments and I am always aware of what content they are working on in their classes. I stay up-to-date on the curriculum and make myself available for collaboration if they need me. I provide them resources to use in class through the PD Staff Wiki for them to use in their classes too. | | I think knowing each of the departments curriculum would be vital to stay up-to-date with. You can collaborate a lot easier with staff if you already know what they are going to be working on. It may take some time, but after years go on, and you work with the content more and more I think it will be easier to stay up-to-date with it in order to match content area outcomes with technology literacy. |
|  |  | How do you work with teachers to develop lessons? | I usually bring the technology piece into the lessons. I work them closely to seamlessly integrate technology tools into their lessons. When teachers come to the computer lab with a class that I have helped incorporate technology into their lesson, I co-teach the lesson with the teacher. | | This reminds me to stay up-to-date on technology tools and how to incorporate them into lessons. Teachers will be looking to me to integrate technology into lessons, and I want to be an expert on how to do that, so they will want to come to me for their future lessons too. |
|  |  | How do you teach your students to evaluate resources? | On our Learning Wiki, in the Research Databases page, I have a section that lists resources that students and teachers can use in their classes that meet certain standards. Some of those standards are evaluating resources, so I have available a lot of interactive online resources, like WebQuests and using Hoax sites to show them how to evaluate them and how to choose proper sources. | | Evaluating resources can be difficult to do and it takes a lot of practice to learn how to do it naturally. Therefore, providing students WebQuests or examples of bad websites is a great way for them to make this task meaningful to them. If you just lecture them on how to do it, they won’t learn it because they won’t see how it will benefit them. So, applying it to real life and using examples can be a great way to make this learning authentic. |
|  |  | In what ways do you encourage teachers to work with you as an instructional partner? Get examples of forms, communications, etc. | I use the Staff Wiki a lot to communicate with teachers and add new how-to videos or write-ups to it to help answer some questions. I also have the sheet that I talked about earlier that teachers can use to communicate or touch-base with me if I am unavailable when they come in. I also make myself seen throughout the school, so people remember to come to me for help. I also give them gifts periodically and I always make friends with the first-years and take care of them. | | I liked that she makes herself seen throughout the school. I think that is really important as a librarian, because I can see some getting comfortable with just staying in their library all-day and not leaving it to walk around the school. If teachers know you are there and encourage a partnership, they will be sure to come to you in the future. I also thought her idea of taking care of the first-year teachers first is a great one. That way they know to come to you for help in their future years and you have made a good first impression with them. |
|  |  | When do you usually collaborate with teachers (planning, after school, etc…)? | Whenever we find some time to work together. It might be a set meeting that we scheduled, at department meetings, or before or after school. I use a Google calendar for people to set-up appointments with me too. | | I can see it being very hard to collaborate times to meet with teachers. I like the idea of using a collaborative Google calendar. That way, teachers can choose convenient times to meet with you online, rather than having to search you out. It can also really help with organization and keeping all of your appointments in order. |
|  |  | **Librarian Information Specialist Role** | | | |
|  |  | Question | Response from Discussion | | Your Reflection |
|  |  | How do you acquaint students with the telecommunications policy and ethical use of the Internet? | I hand-out copies of each at the beginning of the school year to remind them or introduce them to the students. I also will remind them during first computer lab visits. | | I think when student use the go into the computer lab for the first time that year, is a great time to remind them of these policies. These are important policies for them to know about, so reminding them every year is crucial for them to become digital citizens. |
|  |  | What resources are a must for your professional library? | I have shelves of professional resources in my library. The teachers know where they are so they can check them out whenever they need to. I also have personal professional resources, like School Library Journal and other library books, periodicals, internet source, etc. | | I really like that she has a professional library available for the teachers to use as well. That is another great way to promote the library in your school: by offering teacher professional resources. Subscribing to some periodicals/ journals is another good idea for my future to stay up-to-date on current issues in my profession. |
|  |  | What staff development are you providing for your teachers? (For example, how do you encourage their use of the databases provided by the system?) | I mainly focus my staff development on the Wiki for teachers. That way, the teachers can remotely find “how-to” guides, new tools to use, or other materials focused on professional development whenever they need to. I offer databases to use on the Wiki and encourage them to refer to the Wiki often to answer any of the questions, because mostly I get the same questions. If I don’t have an answer to a question, I will figure it out, and let them know, in addition to posting the solution to the Wiki in case anyone else has the same question. I also just became a Google certified teacher and have had a professional development meeting on all the aspects of Google and how to use its features. | | I love the idea of constantly updating the Wiki for the staff to use as a reference and a professional development tool. Many people do have the same questions, so solving the problem and posting the solution online is a great way to inform everyone of a problem and how they can fix it themselves. I also think it is important to constantly stay up-dated on new technologies, like she did with becoming a Google certified teacher. Not only is she enhancing her learning, but she is sharing her knowledge so that others can improve their teaching as well. |
|  |  | Which databases are most useful to students? To teachers? | In our school’s learning Wiki I have all of the resources that I think students and teachers can find most useful. If something is not useful, I don’t add it to the Wiki. For example some that I do find especially useful are Gale Student Resource Center and SIRS. | | Accumulating a multitude of resources for everyone in the school to use is a critical part of this profession. Therefore, determining the best ones, incorporating them in a Wiki format so everyone can access it, and having a brief description of the resource can help you with, would be incredibly useful for everyone. I definitely want to emulate this format on my future library website/ wiki. |
|  |  | What sources do you consult for evaluations of materials? | I look at a lot of book review websites and “best of…” lists in order to evaluate materials. I also use journals or periodicals that offer reviews or suggestions for materials. | | It is so important to consult various sources to evaluate materials so subscribing to periodicals or journals is great advice. Looking for the best sources is crucial for sticking the library with credible materials; this will be an important task for me to do. |
|  |  | How do you find out about new resources to use in the library or media center? | I am active on Twitter and my blog. I am constantly reading other posts and tweets from other professionals in my field. I look at websites, journals, and other modes of information to stay current and find new resources to use in my library. | | I am going to have to push myself to become more active in blogging and tweeting for my profession. It is a must nowadays, and I need to remember that. I am not a huge fan of using it for personal reasons, but I can definitely see its worth professionally and need to improve my knowledge on social media to stay current and learn about new resources that I can use in my library. |
|  |  | **Librarian Program Administrator Role** | | | |
|  |  | Question | Response from Discussion | | Your Reflection |
|  |  | How do you promote the library as being the center of a school to your colleagues and administration? | By being seen in the school, by up-dating and staying active on our Twitter, blog, and websites, and by encouraging and welcoming anyone to come in the library anytime they want to (as long as they have a pass)! I go to meetings to promote my services, stay friendly and accommodating with the staff, and just try to be as welcoming as possible, so that everyone knows me, knows what I do, and that I am always willing to help. | | It is so important for the library to be the center of the school, and her suggestions on doing this are great things for me to remember to do in the future. Sometimes I can be an introvert, but I know that if I want my role to be seen as useful and the library to be seen as the center of the school, I need to get out there and be “seen.” I need to know everyone in the school and promote my services so they will come to me in the future for help or suggestions. |
|  |  | Which one of the library media specialist's roles do you find most challenging/ consumes most of your time? Why? | I find the tech coordinator to be the most time consuming part of my job. Teachers and other staff in the school are constantly asking me to fix a tech problem or to get them a new piece of equipment. It is not challenging, but it is time-consuming because they come at all times of the day to ask questions and it can distract me from my other duties. Instruction can be challenging because you always have to try to implement tech and figure out how to get the students excited to learn, but I also find those tasks to be the most fun and rewarding too. | | I do have to remember that if being a tech coordinator is another role that a school librarian has, and it is good to know ahead of time that it can be time consuming. Therefore, finding ways manage this role; will be important for me to figure out. I like how she uses a sign-up sheet for teachers that need certain equipment, so that she can accommodate them throughout the day when she has some free time. |
|  |  | What is the library media budget, where does it come from, how is it determined, and how is the money spent? | The budget comes from the county and the tax payers. I have around $6,000 to spend on materials for the library or for tech equipment for the school. For example, right now I am trying to decide on whether or not to spend a large part of that money on a new video camera for the students news show. They are expensive, so I have to decide to purchase that or if there are other materials that are more important to have. | | This is another task that will be a big one in my future. That seems like a lot of money, but I know with student suggestions and technology materials, that money can be used up fast! Therefore, evaluating sources to find the best books and making priorities for certain materials will be a critical aspect to handle. I don’t want the money to go to waste, so I need to find the best materials and use the money wisely. |
|  |  | What is key to success in administering the library media program? | By being flexible with your time and schedule and having humor. It needs to be a fun place to go to and humor and laughter is a great way to go. Also, you just need to get things done. If you have a list of things to do, GET IT DONE. It is all about the kids though; they are the first priority in my library. | | I think this is some great practical advice for any school librarian. I need to remember even if I get really busy and stressed, to still be flexible and most importantly friendly with everyone. I need to always remember to put the students first and meet their needs before my own. |
|  |  | What are your effective classroom management strategies and ideas for the Media Center? | Separate the students that make bad choices. If two students are egging each other on, separate them from each other and don’t put them in each other’s line of view. Don’t tolerate disrespectful behavior. Find your own method of classroom management that works for you, and stay consistent. Gain respect from the students. | | Classroom management can always be a struggle; at least it was for me in my elementary education internships. This is good advice for me to have; I need to find my own way that works and say consistent with it. If I stay inconsistent students will not respect me as much; the students need to respect you, and I must remember that. |
|  |  | How do you perform collection development? Do you solicit input from students, teachers, and parents? | I always ask students and teachers for suggestions on what books or materials should be in the classroom. I have a Google form on the library’s website for them to fill out and send to me so that I can take their interests into consideration. I also look at a lot of “best of…” lists and book reviews to make collection development decisions. | | I love that she gets suggestions from the students! I mean it is their library, so why not take their suggestions into consideration. This will be a great way to find out what books are popular and get them into the library so that students will want to come in and check books out. |
|  |  | **Conclusions**  **I learned so much from this site visit! One of the main reasons I wanted to visit Gwyneth Jones and her library is because her website and blog are so impressive. She has also won a lot of award for her blog and being a “Mover and Shaker” for the School Library Journal. I knew she would be a great person to visit. I hope to be as tech savvy as she is someday. I have not gotten into Twitter or blogging, but she has inspired me to get involved; it’s a must. Her Wiki has so many resources for students and teachers, I hope to emulate her format and the amount of resources that she has in my future school library Wiki. I also learned how important it is to stay current and up-to-date on new technologies and resources and share it with my school community frequently. That way they will remember to continuously check my site and stay involved. I got a great glimpse into the life of a middle school librarian, which was great for me because I have never visited one before. I learned that a large part of her job is being the tech coordinator for the school and help teachers with tech issues and troubleshooting. I love the “how-to” guides that she provides on her Wiki to help other teachers that may have the same problems. She uses things like comics and other interesting visuals that are exciting to look at and easy to follow the steps to take. I like that a middle schools’ librarian has a more flexible schedule to collaborate with other teachers to co-teach classes or plan lessons, rather than teaching set-schedule classes like an elementary school librarian has to do. I like that aspect of middle school librarian and being there for tech help too, this is making me lean more towards an interest in a secondary school library. This was a very useful observation for me and this was a great model of a thriving library for me to observe.** | | | |