ISTC 789.102 Practicum in Library Media

Journal 3R

Throughout my placements, I have realized how important it is to identify stakeholders for the school library, and to promote the services and resources we have to offer them. Some stakeholders, from within and outside the school, include administrators, teachers, parents/ PTA, county board members, public libraries, and businesses. I have seen first-hand how impactful these stakeholders can be for the school library, and as a future media specialist, I will not forget about how they can help my library program be more successful.

My initial plan to include these stakeholders and keep them involved in my library program, is to keep them informed. Providing weekly/ monthly newsletters, updating the library website, or talking with them in-person, about the current or upcoming events in the library, will help keep them informed about how the library is helping the students succeed. For example, when I created my reading promotion program in my middle school placement, I was able to talk with the principal about my proposal, and he was very excited to see it happen in the school. He was then able to get the PTA on-board and they were able to finance the prizes (iTunes gift cards and an iPad mini) for the program. If I had not talked with the principal and promoted the importance of reading for enjoyment amongst students, we might not have been able to purchase the prizes, which motivated the students to participate in the program. Additionally, getting the teachers involved with the program helped encourage students to read and they started bringing their classes down to the library every week to pick out new books to read.

At the beginning of the school year, I would also make sure to go to numerous meetings (e.g. team meetings) to make sure that the teachers saw me as a collaborator and to make them aware of the services and resources I can provide to them. I would continue to attend these meetings throughout the school year to stay up-to-date on the curriculum, and what they are teaching their students so I can collaborate with them as much as possible and incorporate what they are teaching along with my instruction as well. Attending PTA meetings throughout the school year would allow me to get involved with the outside community, to ask for parent volunteers. And to promote the learning that their students are getting in the library. Additionally, each week/month, I would provide staff members with professional development opportunities about technology tools or other resources in order to promote the services of the library. I would also form a relationship with the public library, so students can be aware of the resources they have to offer as well. For example a great way to collaborate with them is to have them help students get their own library cards or promote their summer reading programs. At the end of the year, I would make sure to send letters of appreciation to those who helped the library program at my school, and show them what the outcomes of their help did for the students. Including goals for the upcoming school year in the newsletter and website, as well as asking for feedback or additional goals from the stakeholders, would keep them involved and get them excited about what the library will offer the following school year. I believe that the library is in the center of the school, and getting as many people involved, to promote its services and resources, will help my program grow and allow students to achieve success.