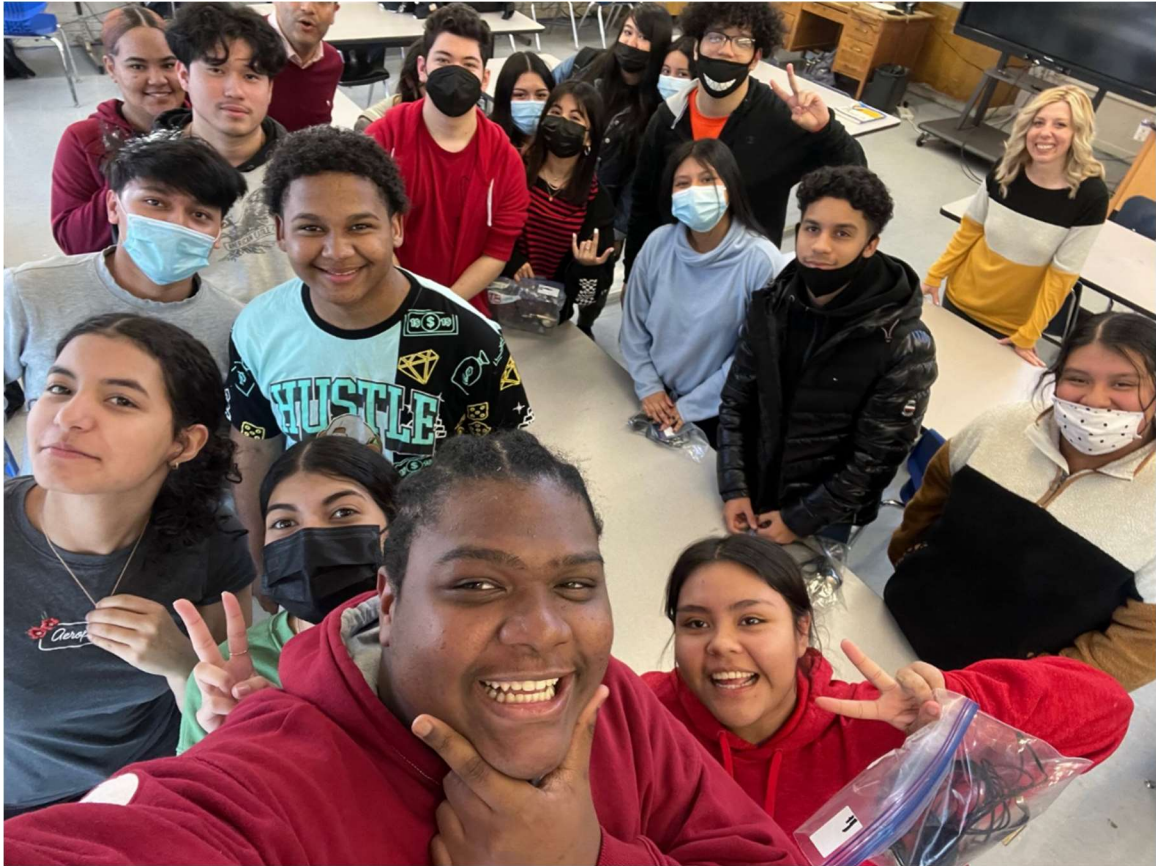




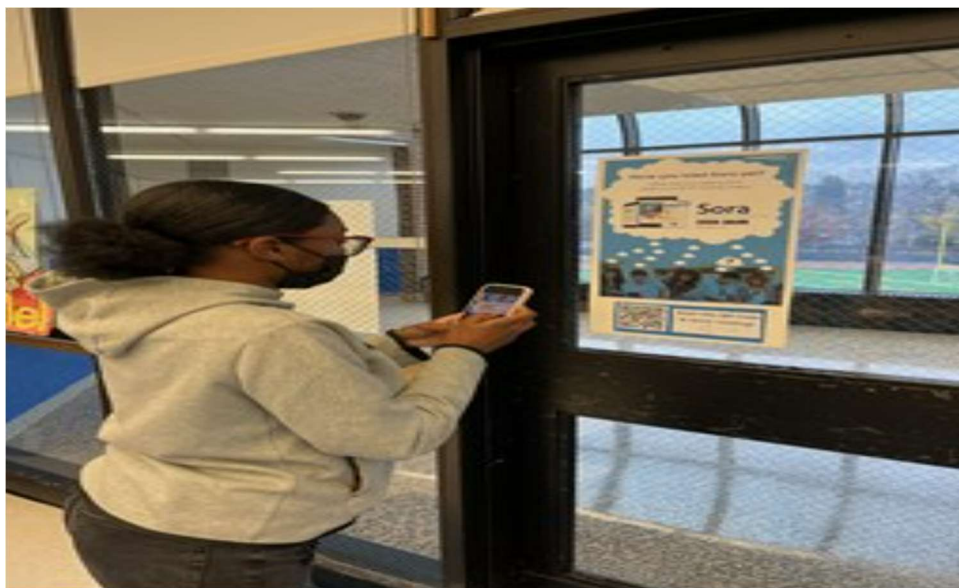
**Yonkers Public Schools
School Library Initiative
Annual Report – June 2022**

**Highlights of the
2021- 2022
School Year**

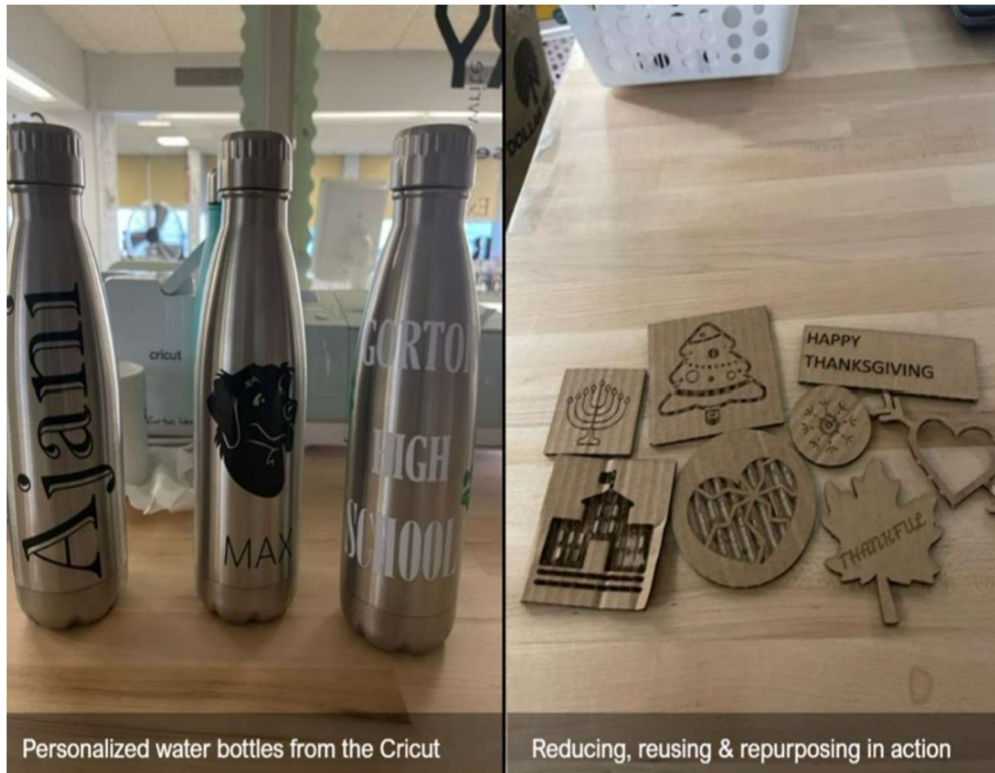
- The number of SLMS doubled from seven to fifteen.
- Twenty elementary school libraries were opened.
- Library Services received grants for social & emotional learning for district wide implementation and building digital resources.
- Library Services provided three PD sessions to School 22.
- The SLMS partnered with a teacher to help create & support a Pre- Teaching Magnet
- Scholars recycled books into book art, paper sculptures and centerpieces
- United Way donated 6,047 books to the magnet
- Elementary libraries held the Hour of Code
- Seventy-six primary students participated in YMA's 100 Books in a 100 Days Challenge with forty-five scholars read 100 books in a 100 days and five children read over 100.



- Sora was built out with more eBook access and diversity of titles for all students.
- Students used QR codes to access literature and informational text.
- eBooks usage rose significantly.



- Library orientation/instruction occurred with classes/teachers, online database for research, library catalog, Clever resources, IXL, Achieve 3000, Smarty Ants and cross reference search on Gale database.
- Fab labs were further developed in all the district's high school libraries with GlowForge laser printers, 3D doodle pens, Cricuts, mug press heaters, sewing machines, knitting looms, electric circuits and raspberry pi.



Personalized water bottles from the Cricut

Reducing, reusing & repurposing in action

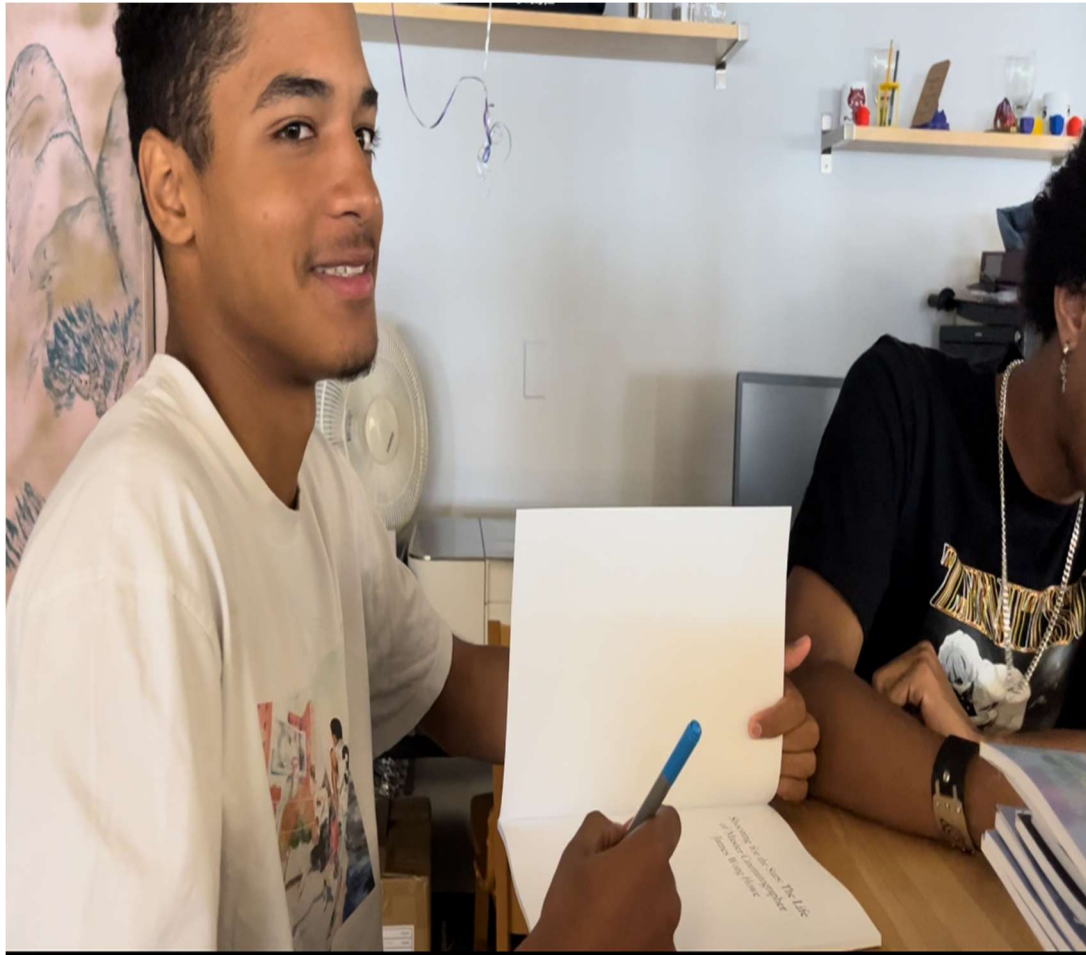
- Student service learning and social & emotional learning was facilitated at both the elementary and secondary level where children made earrings from wire and beads to donate to a domestic abuse shelter.
- SLMS fostered STEAM teaching with Merge Cubes, Ozobots, 3D printing, 3D doodle pens, Makey Makey Banana Piano, drones, Spheros at the elementary level.
- Two SLMS maintain websites for three elementary schools.
- SLMS makes digital films about school wide events for sharing with children and promotion purposes.



BookFlix and One More Story

- SLMS taught in the Saturday Academy.
- SLMS facilitated in the MBK program, created high school IDs, formed the school's first student government.
- The School Library Council met five times and consisted of various stakeholders - administrators, school librarians, YPL librarians and a Yonkers parent.
- Several school librarians updated the Book Challenge Policy and participated in NYCDOE PDs.
- At Gorton High School, 3D printing training, laser printing training, Cricut mug press training, college counseling, technical vocation school presentations and Stick Together Mosaic (social & emotional activities) were held.

- Gorton senior, Justin Lagual, illustrated and published a culturally responsive nonfiction storybook that is available on Amazon. Justin then did a virtual read aloud and illustrator visit with three elementary library classes. His book is titled [Shooting for the Stars - the Life of Master Cinematographer James Wong Howe](#).



- The librarians curated resources and created learning library lesson plans for special learning opportunities and celebrations for both the elementary and secondary level. These were shared district wide.
- The librarians supported district wide reading initiatives and helped onboard both staff and students to the new programs.
- All school librarians provided small and large professional development to their learning communities.



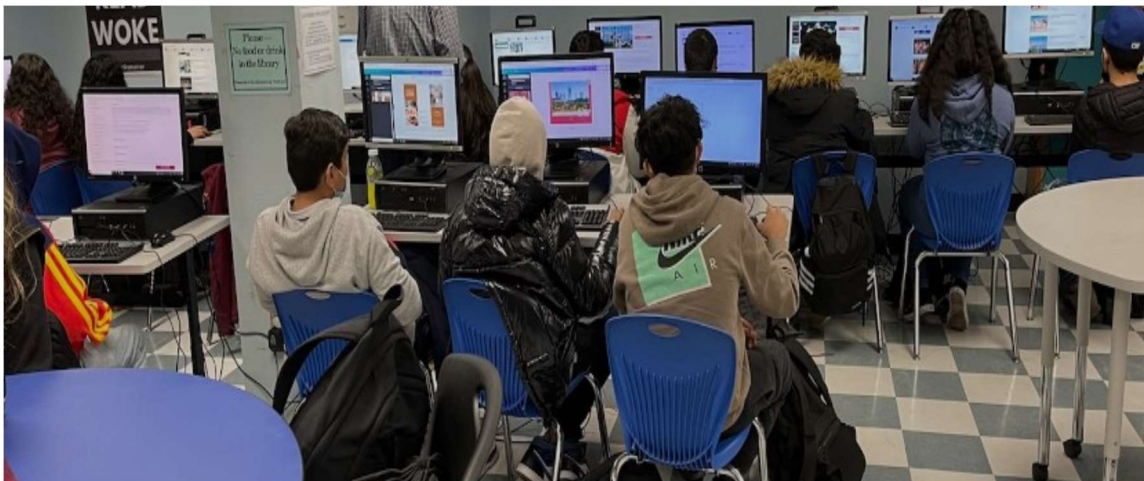
Special programs conducted inside the library include:

- ❖ Author visits
- ❖ Earring creation workshops
- ❖ Poetry slams
- ❖ IB Research Day
- ❖ Women's History Month Panel
- ❖ Makerspace PD for staff
- ❖ College fairs & college counseling
- ❖ YPL events
- ❖ Administration of the NYS Driver Permit test
- ❖ Credit recovery
- ❖ Academic award ceremonies
- ❖ P-Tech student development
- ❖ Laser printing PD for teacher
- ❖ African American, Hispanic Heritage & Asian Pacific Heritage lunch celebrations
- ❖ Whitney Museum virtual visits
- ❖ MSK career development
- ❖ Stick Together Mosaic social collaborative activity
- ❖ Hosted Department Representative PLCs

- ❖ District & school wide meetings
- ❖ Teacher PDs
- ❖ Girl Empowerment meetings
- ❖ Trained community service students in the facets of the library
- ❖ Hosted Westchester County Legislator Virtual Enterprise classes
- ❖ YPIE events & Senior FAFSA Day
- ❖ Assisted Guidance Dept. with senior classes & Naviance/Common App events & scholarship data
- ❖ Assisted & proctored Seal of Biliteracy
- ❖ African American Men of Westchester Business Olympics
- ❖ CODA Harris Project for Mental Health Awareness
- ❖ Junior College Day
- ❖ Lunch time book clubs
- ❖ Read Woke Challenge
- ❖ AP, ELA, Benchmark, NYS Science, NYSESLAT & MAP testing
- ❖ WCC & FIT programs
- ❖ Hosted Scholastic book fairs

Library Visits and Usage Patterns

Please see the [infographic link](#) included to view all data pertaining to circulation, computer usage, high school sign in and the number of classes taught on a flexible schedule.





Professional Development Provided by SLMS

- ✓ IXL
- ✓ Achieve 3000
- ✓ Benchmark
- ✓ Taking Running Records
- ✓ Nearpod
- ✓ SeeSaw
- ✓ BookCreator
- ✓ Clever
- ✓ Office 365 & Add Ins
- ✓ NOVEL databases
- ✓ TurnItIn
- ✓ Copyright & Plagiarism
- ✓ Teams (Features & Updates)
- ✓ Coding (Tynker / We Do)
- ✓ e-Books (BookFlix, One More Story, Sora)
- ✓ Canva
- ✓ Genial.ly
- ✓ Bitmoji Classrooms
- ✓ School Wires

- ✓ Build Books & Resources with DonorsChoose
- ✓ e-Portfolios

Programming

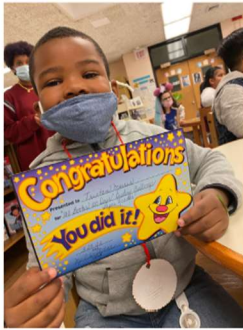
Student voice was the main objective of our librarians, their teaching and their outreach this school year. Our school librarians have been taking the time to assist our scholars in exploring real issues that are relevant to their lives and future as well as their communities. Focusing on creating library learning commons that are an environment where children are action oriented, purposefully and meaningfully engaged, intellectually challenged and passionate about coming into a learning space, our school librarians are helping our scholars grow into their own and become more independent as they develop student agency.

Through various activities like being responsible for the assembling of furniture, building hydroponic towers, growing organic veggies in the library, making t-shirts for different teachers' classes, establishing an entrepreneur club (creating products, selling them /managing funds and determining different products for fab lab purchases), knitting beanies for premature babies, creating digital publications, students are learning through hands on work. They are failing, problem solving, regrouping and learning.

At Gorton, Brenda Francis-Knowles fostered strong student agency by taking risks and asking for help. Under the pretense of helping her, children have not only found their voices and developed strong identity, but are also advocating on issues that are important to them. The students there go in on all their free periods and lunch to work voluntarily. They are always pushing out new ideas, looking for ways to improve the school learning community and learning how to take the bull by the horns.

Carol Westphal at YMA has worked relentlessly at supporting a new pre-teaching magnet and implemented reading challenges. The children there not only have a love of literacy, but can teach any adult how to navigate the various eBook platforms the district has.

YMA Readers are Leaders



Kory Skipper-Miller (101)
Journey Rezk (107)
Amber Calvello (115)
Lucas Bojaj (104) and
Lilleigh McIntyre (199)
received high honors
for surpassing our
"100 Book Reading Challenge."



Lincoln's Karen Loia has diligently exposed her scholars to a myriad of learning opportunities enabling them to think critically while being creative, too. From author visits, DMV permit testing and maker endeavors, the library has become a space that is highly sought after and Library Services witnessed teachers fighting for their time.

Media Literacy was taught and supported through various PDs. Nicole Taylor-Wernham is participating in Project Look Sharp's trainings and has been turnkeying lessons, videos and other resources obtained to both elementary and secondary SLMS, as well as content teachers at YMHS.

Saunders' Jim Riley has been busy actively participating in NYCDOE PD for building more equitable and diverse collections. He is also helping to head potential book challenges with Carol Westphal by writing policies and having procedures in place.

Ann Marie Levy at Roosevelt has strongly supported her learning community by providing various PDs to staff on all of the district's new

reading initiatives, as well as supported her guidance department and students at risk of failure.

Riverside's Dr. Dan started student government in order to not only teach kids the democratic process, but help them to understand the power they have to make positive change.

Tia Knuckles at Pal Prep focused on STEM implementation through coding and environmental water challenges with middle school students.

Library Services' elementary librarians have taught the information fluency continuum, fostered an appreciation for literature, taught design thinking and making prototypes through Tinkercad and the 3D Makerbot, taught programming through Ozobots, Spheros and Makey Makey devices as well as provided numerous coverages for absences.

In considering the best interests of our students and how to really reimagine learning, elementary principals need to reflect on their librarians fixed schedules (prep coverages). Principal DiMaria of Museum 25 utilizes her librarian in a flexible schedule meaning not as a prep schedule, but in teaching collaboration with the classroom teacher present. This model has demonstrated to be much more effective and also to transform schools. The classroom teacher is supporting content as the librarian teaches skills. Children develop more astute awareness, produce reflective work and are more reflective in their thinking as they are engagement. Please take time to consider how you can best implement this model.





In order to bring more resources and learning opportunities for our children, both elementary and secondary librarians have utilized Donors Choose. Additionally, teachers at Gorton and School 22 received PD and funding on several projects this year. Library Services provided PD to Gorton teachers last year. See below to see what the Gorton learning community has done.

Gorton High School



\$75,258

RAISED USING
DONORSCHOOSE



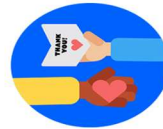
101

PROJECTS FUNDED



16

TEACHERS FUNDED



258

DONORS



6

PROJECTS FOR
BASIC SUPPLIES



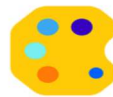
29

PROJECTS FOR
TECHNOLOGY



11

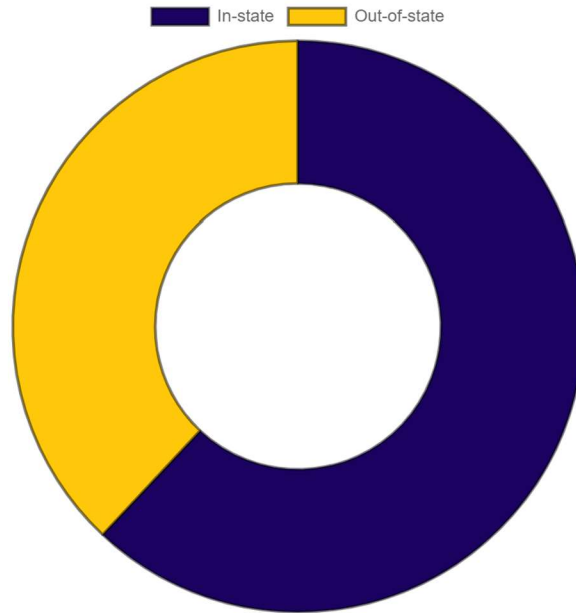
PROJECTS FOR
BOOKS



18

PROJECTS FOR ART
SUPPLIES

Gorton High School has received support from **160 individuals** from New York and **98 individuals out-of-state**.



Please inquire about Donors Choose PD if this is something you are interested in.

Library Learning Commons' Annual Reports

Please click below to view annual reports for the high school libraries.

[Gorton Library Learning Commons Annual Report 2022](#)

Lincoln's is attached as a MP4 file.

[Pal Prep Library Learning Commons Annual Report 2022](#)

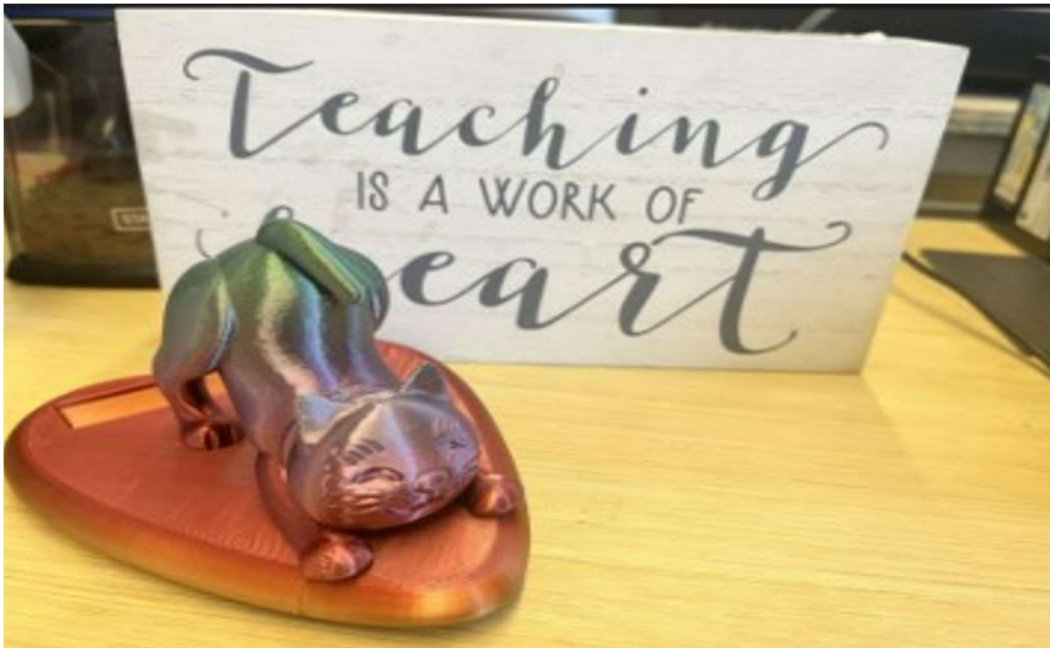
[Riverside Library Learning Commons Annual Report 2022](#)

[Roosevelt Library Learning Commons Annual Report 2022](#)

[Saunders Library Learning Commons Annual Report 2022](#)

[YMA Library Learning Commons Annual Report 2022](#)

In addition to these ongoing efforts, a blog for the library is maintained that details and highlights library happenings and accomplishments at: <http://mswongswonders.wordpress.com>



Goals for 2022-2023

- Library Services' goals are to ensure EVERY school in the district has a school librarian and makes it to the library at least once a week for check out. Additionally, we seek to increase circulation with the Sora platform.
- Library Services will continue developing the eBook collection and other digital resources for access around the clock from smart devices
- Library Services will continue to develop a stronger diverse and inclusive collection.
- Library Services plans to continue grant writing and to collaborate with CBOs.
- Library Services plans to implement Ted Talks at the secondary level.

- Library Services will continue building more student voice and agency with student service learning projects, fab lab clubs and student created videos, podcasts, music, eSports and other transdisciplinary learning opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Wong

Acknowledgements

I want to thank Principal Grandoit for helping his staff become more equitable and getting them onboard to obtain student YPL library cards without a SLMS present in his building. I want to thank Principal Mazzola and Bonnie Moncada for their continual support of summer reading artwork and Mr. Huggins for design guidance. I want to thank all the administrators who push out resources to their staff, especially Principal Coiffi, Principal Sayegh, Principal Cartica and Principal Nadar as their staff have reached out to me. I want to thank Miriam Santiago for operational help. I especially thank the custodial staff and Buildings & Grounds/maintenance for all their help. I want to thank Jeri Fierstein for her continual directional support, Ms. Judon for guidance and Mr. Wright for his advice and wisdom. I want to thank Dr. Mike for his assistance in the fab lab and for facilitating PD. Special thanks to Karen Loia, Manny Ramos, Tamara Bayon-Jimenez for supporting Justin's project and getting books into the hands of our elementary kids. I want to thank Dean Vazquez for always utilizing the library and connecting students to the right opportunity. I especially thank Justin Lagual for being so relentless, incredible and following through. I wish we could clone him! I want to thank Principal Shaggura for embracing the vision and facilitating Gorton's library to truly become library learning commons. I want to thank all the school library media specialists for going above and beyond.....and especially Mariana Sugrim for doing the website, Dr. Dan for continual tech support and the infographic, Carol Westphal for taking the reading program to the next level and Brenda Francis-Knowles for building student agency. I especially thank Dr. Quezada and the Board of Education for promoting greater equity, literacy and student service learning opportunities by hiring more school librarians.