

INFORMATION ITEM

Date: February 24, 2020

To: Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Superintendent

From: Tony DeMonte
Administrator for Technology, Information, and Safety

Subject: Library Partnerships

Background

Our students are served by two public library systems. Wilmette Public Library serves the majority of our families while Glenview Public Library serves a smaller portion for those families residing in Glenview. We have historically partnered on a programmatic level with our school librarians collaborating with the school liaison librarian from the public library. We recently held discussions on a larger scale about how we can expand our partnership by sharing our resources to better meet the needs of our shared constituents in more efficient and collaborative ways.

Our school librarians have a long-standing goal for all D39 students to have a public library card. We have discussed ways to help support this goal get closer to reality. In recent discussions with staff at both public libraries, we identified a way to bridge the library card gap by working together.

Data Sharing

In looking at the required information needed for a child to obtain a public library card, and comparing that to our registration information, we overlap for the majority of questions. With the explicit permission of our parents and using information already gathered through our online registration process, we can eliminate the need for parents to prove residency at the public library and streamline the library card application process for our students.

In the permissions section of our online registration process, parents will be asked the question if their child currently has a library card. If “no” is selected, another question is presented asking if they would like D39 to share information with the public library for the purpose of creating a card. If they select “yes”, a library card will be created for their child by the library and parents are advised to visit their respective public library to pick-up the card in a couple weeks. The public library may also contact our parents for pick-up if library cards are completed sooner. Each library's disclaimer language was added to our system so our parents are signing off in the same way as if they did this process at the public library. Behind the scenes, our database staff will regularly provide the public library circulation staff a data file, which will include only the necessary and approved information for the creation of a library card.

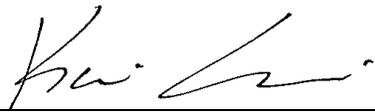
For this upcoming school year, we are only piloting this process with Kindergarten students. We want to ensure the success of this process by starting with a limited student population as we refine the process on both sides. If successful, next school year we will extend this option to the parents of all students.

Benefits

Our school librarians' goal of every student having a public library card becomes closer to reality. With more students having a public library card, this will hopefully encourage the love of reading outside the school day while concurrently extending access to the myriad of resources available to students through our public library system. Not only does a library card provide the means for book checkout, but the library card number also provides access to online databases to help support research for homework. Parents benefit as they do not need to submit duplicative information or provide proof of residency, creating a savings of time for both parents and our public library systems. With explicit consent provided within our registration system, parents will only need to bring their ID to pick up their child's library card at the public library. The public libraries benefit as they will hopefully see an uptick in card creation, an increase in use and their staff time can be allocated to celebrating a child receiving a library card instead of the time being spent with the logistics of card creation. Card creation will be done before library card pick-up.

We are excited about this new partnership and look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with public libraries to support student learning and growth while also ensuring collaboration and efficiency among governmental agencies.

Recommended for presentation to the Board of Education,



Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.
Superintendent