

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Date:**       **October 26, 2020**

**To:**         **Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.**  
                  **Superintendent**

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

**Subject:**   **EBook Platform and Public Library Partnership**

**Background**

Use of ebooks in our schools has been inconsistent both in platform and available content. This year, District 39 Librarians have made a concerted effort to adopt a single district-wide ebook platform, Sora from OverDrive. In addition to using a consistent ebook platform, we are increasing the amount of digital content available and explicitly teaching our students the skill of checking out an ebook. While access to the physical public library or our school learning commons is limited, and since every student has access to an iPad or Chromebook, providing a way to checkout ebooks and audiobooks has become more important than ever.

**Public Library Partnership**

Selecting Sora from OverDrive made logical sense as most public libraries use Libby from OverDrive. Libby is the product targeted for public libraries while Sora is for school libraries. Both are compatible with each other. As we teach students the skill of checking out an ebook, that skill is transferable to almost all public libraries. In addition, we partnered with the Wilmette Public Library who has generously given access to their digital collection by using Public Library CONNECT by OverDrive. From Sora, students can search both the District 39 collection and the Wilmette Public Library collection and checkout an ebook from either entity just by logging in with their district Google account. No public library card number is needed. This also includes our Glenview students who would normally be Glenview Public Library patrons. Those students may now checkout books from the Wilmette Public Library. District 39 Librarians have been communicating with the public library staff to answer any questions they may have as well as provide enough information to address any questions from the community since we share the same constituents.

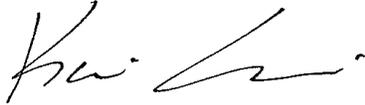
**Funding**

There was and will be an ongoing dollar commitment from a district level account to help support a robust ebook collection. A percentage of the school library budgets was committed to purchasing digital content this year and will continue to be used in future years to have a balanced collection of both digital and print content. Knowing that the demand for ebooks is greater right now due to inconsistent access to both the school learning commons and public libraries, the District 39 Educational Foundation has graciously provided a special gift to increase our collection size during this potentially high demand time.

**Conclusion**

Making sure students have access to high interest and high quality literature has always been a priority and has become ever more important during these times of inconsistent access to books. Students, as well as staff, will now be able to check out books from the palms of their hands whether in school or at home. More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/D39ebooks>.

**Recommended for presentation  
to the Board of Education**



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**Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.**

**Superintendent**