



Top Ten

Ideas for Connecting with the Public Library

1. Go to the public library that serves the students in your community and introduce yourself. Extend a handshake and put a face to a name – that’s always the first step!
2. Invite the public librarians to visit YOUR school library to see the kinds of resources you do have (and don’t have) available so you can begin the partnership of sharing.
3. Invite the public librarian to set-up a table at your school’s Kindergarten registration, offering library cards, program information, books and or bookmarks, raffles and prizes.
4. Invite the public librarians to come and booktalk to certain grade levels on a certain theme. Invite the teachers to help plan the theme based on what they are teaching at the time. Provide bibliographies of the titles to the teachers. If your school library doesn’t have the book, send the children to the public library.
5. Work in tandem with the public librarian to arrange for author visits and cost sharing if possible. Perhaps the public library may wish to host a community event night with an author who came to your school for the day?
6. Connect to the celebrations or events that your local public library hosts. If the public library is having some sort of incentive (such as the stamping of a passport in this example) see how the school library connection can play into the reward. Can students return to school and get incentives for sharing their experience?
7. Plan to include your public librarian as guest readers on Read Across America Day. Unless they are doing storytime sessions, they mostly check out books to the children instead of reading to them in a classroom setting. Plus, they’ll talk up your library ☺ They can probably put you in touch with costumes for book characters and the like since they may use those services during larger events.
8. Are you within walking distance to your local public library? Perhaps students are already boarding a school bus to another community location (such as a trip to the fire department) and they could make a second stop? Is there a group of seminar or other identified students that could travel to the library with a teacher to do special research? Time for a field trip!
9. Do you host after school book clubs? Need a guest speaker or another library “expert” to help with a booktalk of materials available at the public library? This is a great way to connect!
10. Invite the public librarians to be part of professional development in your district to showcase all the FREE resources offered at the local library or from the state library.