

Tamarac Secondary School Library Media Center



2007-2008 Highlights

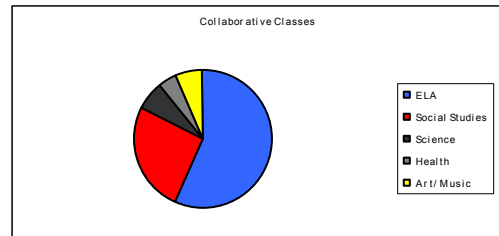


- Use of technology to interest and engage students.
- Integration of Web 2.0 tools into the curriculum.
- School-wide emphasis on education about plagiarism and correct citation format.
- Creation and introduction of Tamarac Secondary School Research Guide.
- Continued collaboration across all content areas.



Curriculum Highlights

During the past school year the library has been very busy. We have hosted over 800 classes doing research using books, encyclopedias, periodicals, databases and the internet. Classes taught by the school media specialist in conjunction with classroom teachers focused on such areas as research skills, information literacy, technology integration and appreciation of reading and literature. While the greatest number of classes were taught in conjunction with the ELA teachers, there is collaboration across the curriculum.



The [Tamarac Secondary School Guide to Research](#) was created and introduced to several classes doing research projects this year. In conjunction with this, there was an increased emphasis educating students on how to avoid plagiarism and to format of citations correctly in a bibliography. Every single student in the Middle School had multiple opportunities to practice creating correctly formatted bibliographies in conjunction with research projects for different classes.

While traditional research skills are always taught and emphasized, the addition of Web 2.0 tools into these lessons has provided a new outlet for student creativity and engagement. Listen to a 7th grade student created "[book commercial](#)" showcasing a favorite book. Several Web 2.0 tools were also used by an 8th grade English class reading and researching information about [Newbery authors](#) to create a persuasive presentation.

One highlight of the year was the 3-week interdisciplinary 7th grade unit focusing on the Civil War. The program was cross-curricular with battlefield casualty statistics analyzed in math class, technology of the war studied in Science class. Civil War music has been played in music/chorus, event flyers were designed in CAD, Rounders was played in Phys. Ed., the Civil War newspaper was written and researched in both English and Social Studies class and Civil War cooking/



etiquette was taught in FACS class. The "total immersion" unit culminated with a nighttime exhibition for the community and the unveiling of the 7th grade newspaper which is filled with articles and images created by the students.

The Collection

From September 2007 through the month of June 2008 the library had circulated close to 3,500 items from our collection. This is an 3% increase from last year, and can be attributed to an increased number of ELA classes visiting the library for a booktalk. A booktalk is a brief oral presentation by the librarian that contains enough of a book's plot to get a potential reader interested but does not tell the most important parts or reveal the ending. It is meant to encourage independent reading. Similar to a movie trailer, it tells just enough about the story to attract a reader. Booktalks integrate technology designed to meet the needs of different types of learners—the use of video, images, songs, sound and active role-playing are all utilized to engage and interest students in books. View an example of a booktalk [here](#). Another 800+ items have been used by researching classes during reserved class time in the library.



Over 350 new items were added to the collection. Collection development will focus on updated the non-fiction section of the library in several sections where the majority of the looks are outdated. The chart of these sections is on the last page of this report..



The Space

The Tamarac Secondary Library Media Center is truly “the heart of the school” and a warm and welcoming place for students. The weekly average of student visits to the library from study hall to engage in research,

, homework or independent reading is over 1,000. As one senior stated “I love coming to the library. I always get so much work done!”.

We also provide tools such as digital cameras, card readers, markers, paper, and poster board for students. The library is also one of the most popular locations for “on-the-spot” interviews, filming and research for the TV Studio production students. The large area and many technology tools allow us to host many events such as the philosophy forum, meteorologist presentation, author book signings and professional development opportunities.



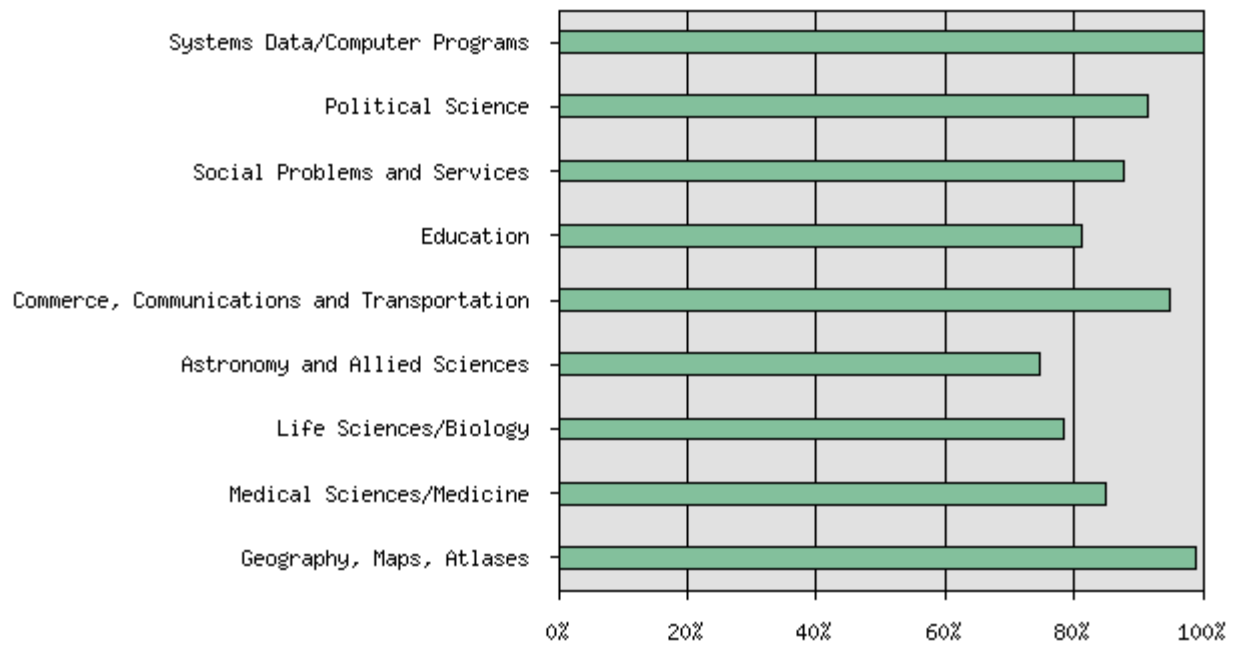
Additional Activities

In addition, I hosted 3 library science students from SUNYA doing field experience for their class in Young Adult Literature. Each student was here for 25 hours observing and interacting with our students.

I presented at the Questar III School Library System Liason meeting on ways to integrate Web 2.0 tools into lessons. This was a three hour hands on workshop for approximately 25 fellow school library media specialists.

Continuing as a member of the Technology Committee, I also presented two classes during our “Technology Conference Day” for fellow teachers at Tamarac. These classes were well attended and demonstrated how to easily make a music video and digital storytelling.

There was also a focus on community outreach efforts. Sharon Zankle, the Brunswick Town Historian, came in to speak with students. In March Elementary Librarian Janice Toomajiaan and I presented a lively update and overview of the [Tamarac School Media Program](#) to the PTSA.



Percent of Collection Beyond Age Range