Collaboration Ideas:

- Don’t just think of collaboration as helping to design or teach a lesson. It can be:
  - Asking for faculty input on collection development
  - Asking for faculty input on PD you can offer
  - Technology assistance during projects/special events
- Start small— even if it is just a bellringer, co-teaching for just a few minutes gives the students opportunities to see more than one teaching style and it solidifies the idea in their heads: you are a librarian AND teacher. Plan to collaborate on one lesson per month OR choose one teacher a year and ask if you can tag along for a year— see what types of lessons/units can be developed in one year. If they have a grade level meeting or CPT, see if you can attend it, just to learn where your instruction might fit.
- Look over your curriculum. See where you have some flexibility and go for it. One example: if your curriculum has internet safety as part of your scope and sequence, seek out the guidance department and work with them on a presentation where you are the lead teacher and they are the co-teacher.
- If fixed schedules are an issue, create a Google Doc that asks content teachers to write a few sentences of what they will cover that month. Read through what they are doing and do simple things like pull books to support a specific topic or plan a special research lesson to support what students are learning in the classroom.
- Go beyond the idea that collaboration is easiest with ELA and social studies. Science, Health, foreign language and art have many other places you can jump in.
- Use your special interests as a way to teach as well. Example— one of our art teachers was working on a photography unit and I was able to help students take photos for their final project- not because it had anything to do with the library but just because it fit my personal interest. However, I used the library, used library computers and examples on the wireless projector to help.
- If you don’t know where to start, try the UBD method. Ask a teacher what final product they have for a unit and work backwards to see what ways you can fit yourself in. Examples- ordering ILLs, teaching one specific skill like MLA format or a tech platform, helping to grade a specific portion of a project, use of the library space and you as an extra set of hands.
- Communicate often via email, text, staff meetings, in person.
- Schedule teachers to bring classes in on a regular basis and use that opportunity to brainstorm ways in which you can collaborate and build on current lessons they are teaching.
- Have fun with it!