Partnerships Amid Budget Challenges

How a Public Library and School District Combined Forces to Put Students’ Needs First
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Our Agenda

I. Introductions

II. Overview of Cranston community, public library & school district

III. Cranston Public Library and Partnership with Tutor.com

IV. How Cranston Public Library and Cranston Public Schools Combined Forces
   a. Library card blitz
   b. Promotion (lib guides, videos, parent outreach)

V. Q&A
Presenters

Susan Rose
Library Program Supervisor, Cranston Public Schools

Emily Brown
Youth Services Coordinator, Cranston Public Library
Cranston

- 2nd largest community in RI (population: 80,000).
- A diverse intersection of rural and urban communities
- 6 independent libraries that formed a branch system in the 1960s.
- Schools: approx ~10,000 students.
- 2 high schools, 4 middle schools, 16 elementary schools, + additional programs.
School/Library Partnership

- Projects:
  - Summer Reading Promotion
  - Literacy nights
  - Professional development
  - State book awards
  - Library program flyers on school listserv

- Points of contact:
  - Director to Superintendent
  - Coordinator to Supervisor
A Little History

- Tutor.com was offered by the state library until 2016.
- After state cuts, CPL considered how the service fit our mission.
  - CPS had been vigorously promoting service for years, and teachers had integrated into their resources. CPS librarians were panicking!!!
Mission Statement

“The Cranston Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and strengthen the community.”

- Bring teachers, students, and families together
- Bring information to students at their point of need
- Establish the library as a resource not limited by time and place
- Embrace new systems of delivering information
Combining Forces: Commitment

- Director and Superintendent agreed to fund
- Public library marketing staff created promotional tools
- Public librarians promoted to school librarians
- School librarians promoted to principals, teachers, families, and students
Combining Forces: Access

- Library card problems and how to solve them
- Application forms and transportation
- Protecting student information
- Unintended (positive!) consequences
Combining Forces: Promotion

- The power of video
- Reaching people online
- Visiting lunches and parent nights
Tutor.com Orientation

http://guides.rilinkschools.org/thunderbolts
LibGuides

Cranston High School East
Library Media Center
889 Park Avenue Cranston RI 02910

Need help with homework? Try Tutor.com!

All students now have access to Tutor.com through the Cranston Public Library's website. From 2:00-10:00 daily, students can connect with a live online tutor and receive individual homework help in any subject area.
Custom Parent Info Page

All CPS students now have access to Tutor.com through the Cranston Public Library’s website (this service was formerly available through AskRI.org). Students just need to type in their Cranston Public Library card number to access Tutor.com. Library cards are free and can be obtained at any library throughout Cranston. Tutor.com is available from 2-10 pm every day, and students are connected via chat with live tutors in the subject area in which they need help. Students receive individual, personalized assistance at no cost through this service, and no personal information needs to be entered by the student. In addition, Tutor.com provides test prep, essay editing, and practice problems and quizzes. More information about tutor.com can be found on the Cranston Public Library’s Website.

AskRI.org

AskRI.org is RI’s free statewide database system. It includes all of the resources listed below and is free of charge for all RI residents. Check it out - It’s great!

World Book Web – Includes Encyclopedias for all ages. Also includes World Book Digital Libraries: Living Green, Early Peoples, Inventions & Discoveries, and Dramatic Learning

Mango Languages – An online language-learning system for learning English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese, Greek, Italian, Russian and more.

Heritage Quest – Genealogy Resources

Learning Express – Practice tests, exercises, skill-building courses, e-books, information for school & work. Includes AP practice exams, PSAT & SAT practice exams, e-books on test taking skills, and more.

A to Z Databases – Research United States Businesses

http://guides.rilinkschools.org/thunderbolts/parents
Park View Middle School

Slideshare presentation

Extra Credit opportunity

http://guides.rilinkschools.org/parkview/cpv_tutor
Park View Middle School
Elementary School Promotion

http://guides.rilinkschools.org/bobcats

http://guides.rilinkschools.org/allstars
What We Have Done:

- District wide newsletters sent to all schools through assistant superintendent listserv
- Public Librarian visits to schools to promote Tutor.com in combination with library card drives
- Promote, promote, promote!!!
What We Will Do:

- Library Leaders Challenge to focus on public library cards for every student
- School Librarians using school Open House as opportunity for library card sign ups/Tutor.com introduction
- Public Librarian visits to schools to promote Tutor.com in combination with library card drives
- Promote, promote, promote!!!
What We Will Continue to Do:

- Promote the Cranston Public Libraries at every opportunity
- Value our partnership
- Communicate regularly and frequently through supervisors (Emily and Sue) and branch librarians with their local schools
- **Promote, promote, promote!!!**
Questions?

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