

SCHOOL LIBRARY GUIDE TO CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

COLLABORATE WITH TEACHERS TO MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

Classroom libraries are valuable resources that support student reading and learning. As a school librarian, you can collaborate with teachers to enhance these collections, ensuring they complement the school library and promote a culture of reading throughout the school.

1. Understand the Classroom Library

- **Discuss Goals:** Have conversations with teachers to understand the purpose and goals of their classroom libraries. Are they focused on independent reading, supporting specific curriculum units, or building a love of reading?
- **Collection Development:** Offer advice on developing a collection that has variety. Share your expertise in curating books that reflect students' interests, cultures, and reading levels.

2. Coordinate Resources

- **Avoid Duplication:** Work together to ensure the classroom library complements rather than duplicates the school library's collection. This coordination helps broaden the range of available resources.
- **Rotating Collections:** Suggest rotating books between the classroom and school library to keep students' reading options fresh and varied.

3. Support Teacher-Librarian Collaboration

- **Book Talks & Read-Alouds:** Partner with teachers to offer book talks or read-aloud sessions that introduce students to new titles available in both the classroom and school library.
- **Professional Development:** Provide teachers with resources or training on topics like creating an engaging reading environment, using digital tools for reading promotion, or selecting high-quality texts.

4. Promote a School-Wide Reading Culture

- **Collaborative Reading Programs:** Co-create reading challenges, book clubs, or themed reading weeks that involve both the school and classroom libraries, fostering a unified reading culture.
- **Shared Displays & Bulletin Boards:** Work with teachers to create displays that highlight books from both the classroom and school library, encouraging students to explore all available resources.

5. Leverage Technology

- **Digital Tools & Resources:** Introduce teachers to digital resources like eBooks, audiobooks, and online reading platforms that can complement their classroom collections.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Use digital tools to share lesson plans, reading lists, and instructional resources that integrate classroom and school library collections.

By collaborating with teachers, you can help create a cohesive and comprehensive reading experience for students. Your partnership ensures that classroom libraries are vibrant, varied, and effectively integrated with the school library's resources, enhancing the overall learning environment.