

Project Description

The project we have chosen to focus on is the revitalization of our school library. We want to provide students with a safe, calm space where books are readily available to read. By replacing the outdated textbooks, we can help students from grades 6 to 12 become interested in literature. Studies show that reading improves overall mental health and by creating a quiet area for reading, studying, and meetings, we can improve the emotional health of students at Federal Hocking. A regular librarian will be essential to the success of the library and we are hopeful that a librarian can be acquired as an internship position, volunteer, or Kids On Campus member. The expected outcome of this project is that the library will be utilized daily, in all aspects of learning. Students who are taking college courses can work in the library and teachers can grade or find books for their lessons too. Every Friday, the school participates in Sustained Silent Reading(SSR) and we have seen a lack of interest and participation throughout the school. By supplying quality books, we are hopeful that students look forward to checking out a new book while gaining an appreciation of literature.

Area of Need

For many years, our school library has had outdated, dry textbooks that do not pertain to the learning going on in our school. Because we have no librarian on duty, students never check out books because of inaccessibility and they are not inspired to read.The library is used for meetings and studying but it is sparsely furnished and lacks welcoming conditions. At Federal Hocking, the percentage of students achieving proficiency in reading and language arts is 55-59% (which is lower than the Ohio state average of 64%) for the 2018-19 school year. Federal Hocking test scores show that slightly more than half (57%) of students are proficient in reading. Teenagers who read in their leisure time know 26% more words than those who don’t and books can enhance vocabulary and sentence structure used in tests like the ACT. Fed Hock’s average ACT score is 24 and with intellectual books, we can boost that percent. Studies show that even 6 minutes of reading a day can significantly improve a child’s reading performance. Students at Federal Hocking would immensely benefit from a stocked library where their brains can grow and wonder and learn.

Methods

- Established that our goal is new books for our library.
- Took inventory of all books
- Wrote grant expressing need
- Selected every book we want to see on our shelves with this grant’s funding
- Removed outdated, yellow books from shelves and boxed up to go to recycling
- Received box of books and wrote property name on inside of each one
- Installed check out system complete with a barcode scanner
- Shelved books and encouraged students to read them!

Results

To determine the success of this project, we plan to monitor the books checked out each month from the library and reinforce SSR Friday’s so students are encouraged to use the library’s books. The library will be open to staff and students during lunch and during advisory time where they can check out books supervised by a teacher or a student trustee. We will deem this project successful if 10 or more books are checked out every month.



Community Partners

We are partnering with John Carroll University, AmeriCorps, ServeOhio, Hopewell, Alex Depue and the CRUSH organization, student trustees, and staff at Federal Hocking.



Conclusion and References

This project will be sustained through the diligence of a librarian and the orderly system established to organize the books purchased with this grant. We are hopeful that student and staff will begin utilizing the resource of books during advisory and lunch time. Federal Hocking’s library is significantly improved and rejuvenated.

[Reading Books Can Benefit Your Mental Health](https://www.niche.com/k12/federal-hocking-high-school-stew-art-oh/academics/)
<https://www.niche.com/k12/federal-hocking-high-school-stew-art-oh/academics/>
[Federal Hocking High School \(2022 Ranking\) | Stewart, OH](https://comfyliving.net/reading-statistics/)
<https://comfyliving.net/reading-statistics/>