

Library Media Center
Carroll Magnet Middle School

Subject: Proposal for Reader Leader Corps @ Carroll 2015-2016
Building the Library Program and a Collaborative Culture

As part of a larger vision for the Carroll Library Media Center, I would like to recommend a Reader Leader Corps at Carroll to build capacity in the library & reading program at Carroll. This Reader Leader corps would be a class offered in our upcoming "Lead Electives" for 2015-16 school year and be one per grade level, (or if not all three grade levels, at least one). This Reader-Leader class would be attached to language arts teacher(s), as this is a natural fit with their specialty.

In an effort to build capacity as a collaborative library program, I would work alongside the teacher(s) to co-teach innovative book promotion, projects, Battle of the Books / Book club, and other initiatives in learning (including technology). This proposal takes into consideration what I have learned and reflected on our formative Reader-Leader corps initiated in 2014-15 school year. The small group of students I worked with throughout 2014-15 helped shape and refine the possibilities and opportunities to build Leadership in school as well as capacity in the library. This is a really important opportunity to seize in order to turn around our library & reading program, particularly in light of the fact that our library is going through a massive upgrade (and I am the only person at the helm of the library reading program.)

Benefits for our students.

- This will be an important opportunity to serve students who are higher level readers (possibly AIG students – though not necessarily) and need more support to higher level instruction and project creation related to literature. These students will read a combination of Battle of the Books titles as well as other popular literature in a Book Club format. They will also work with Ms. Deaton to build up the library events and activities, taking a very helpful role as READER-LEADERS at Carroll.

Benefits for our language arts teachers

- This will give teachers an opportunity to work on unique creative projects related to literature at a higher level than a core class, incorporating a variety of technology too.
- They will be able to engage in collaboration with the library program and help model a collaborative culture and use of the library so that it is a dynamic place to "wonder, discover and create".
- This would give the participating language arts teacher(s) a chance to be a part of the Battle of the Books / Book Club and help support the reading program at Carroll in other unique ways as well. From assisting with support of the various library activities, to working with Ms. Deaton as we progress through the library upgrade for the next three years.

Benefits for our library – reading program

- **READING PROGRAM** Carroll MS at present has a modest library circulation. We need more than just furniture and technology... we need the passion of teachers and students engaged in the fundamental habit of reading. In spite of a number of very positive developments (silent sustained reading program, increase in genreified book displays, new website, fun atmosphere, greater circulation freedom, quarterly events and numerous activities, and an approx. \$10K annual book grant), we are still NOT seeing the steady climb in circulation expected a year ago. While the circulation doubled from 2012-2013, we saw a big dip because of the introduction of the tablet in Jan 2014. A strong library and reading program are essential to academic success. The fundamentals of reading, writing, as well as creativity, collaboration and innovation are part and parcel of a strong library program.
- **EVENTS & ACTIVITIES** I am hoping that a Reader Leader Corp will assist in building up the participation of library programs and events, by having a critical mass of students involved at some level. And most importantly involving a collaboration with ELA teachers in the library program, which would then spread out among other faculty.
- **LIBRARY UPGRADE** As the only staff person dedicated to the library facing a massive upgrade (175K in books) I would love to engage in a collaborative effort with teachers and students (help /assistance with collection “focus groups” to processing, unpacking, and shelving). With the help of “reader-leaders” I will be able to better serve our school community with more opportunities to support project-based learning and collaborative planning. Taken all together I believe that we will be more capable of achieving the task of a 21st c. transformation of the library.

This big vision for the Carroll school library is to lay a foundation for the creative and collaborative culture at Carroll that will help usher in 21st century learning using all kinds of media, from books to technology. In order for me to fulfill my role as the librarian – as a librarian, school leader, and teacher - I hope to see our students and teachers help co-create the space in the library as a creative, collaborative and innovative space. While new furniture and technology may help lure them in, the truth is it takes relationships and positive passion to make the transformation real.