STEM: Why Collaborate?

By Jeannie Standal

Dear STEM Teachers:

When you think of collaboration, do you consider working with your school librarian? If you think of your library as a place only for those history and literature related subjects, you may be missing out on a wonderfully productive opportunity.

Your school librarian has a wealth of information in the library from print sources to databases and beyond. In addition, many school libraries have space for large and small group work difficult to arrange in a classroom.

With school and public libraries embracing the maker movement, a maker day is an excellent opportunity for science teachers and librarians to collaborate for a full day of maker fun and learning for students. There are fun, easy to set up, and easy to afford projects for every level.

Many libraries are already working with students to make library book trailers. Why not adapt that idea to science and math ideas? Work with your librarian and students to make Vines (see Practical Applications) illustrating principles in action or demonstrating equations in action in the physical world.

Remember, technology is a major element of the library. There are many ways for the STEM related classes to make good use of the school library! Check out the links to more learning (opposite top) to find ideas and projects that will work for your class. Then walk down the hall to the library and let the collaborating begin!

“Where teachers experience librarians as instructional colleagues and technology integrators, students are more likely to excel academically.”
—Idaho School Library Impact Study, 2009