

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Examples of Activities



Here are some ways in which libraries and schools have partnered to increase participation in summer reading programs and increase access to books for underserved children:

In the Spring: Promotion

Combined staff and/or Parent Organizations

- School provides incentive if goal is reached
- School-wide contest to increase participation from last year, reward in fall
- Post a chart of each successive year's participation numbers, set school-wide goal
- Summer Reading Theme day (dress up, special events, food, etc.)
- School sends flyers home (paper or electronic)
- Poster contest w/theme- display posters at school, then at library over summer
- Family Event (BBQ, swim party, carnival, etc.), hosted by school (or school and library), sponsored by local business, library attends to register and provide info
- School staff (principal, teachers, librarian) collaborate with public librarian to plan reading incentives for SRP at library (smaller communities)
- Displays and decorations about summer reading/theme
- School webmaster posts summer reading events on school website, including links to library, library catalog, events, summer reading registration (also consider putting on District website)
- Teachers/staff/principal put on a play about summer reading
- Advertise summer reading on school marquee/reader board
- Include article in school newspaper
- Each class makes part of a special summer reading banner that will be displayed at the library
- Promote at Book Fair

Principal

- Promote during daily/weekly announcements to classes (intercom, video)
- Promote in parent newsletters
- Send personal notes to parents (smaller schools)
- Use of student call lines (automatic calls to each family from principal)
- Set up Reading Buddy program for over the summer

School Librarian

- Celebration in library last week(s) of school
- Hand out info regarding registration, program schedule, library card applications
- Lunch and book talks
- Read themed books during last week(s) of school
- Customized reading logs, gameboards, record sheets with reward in fall for completion
- Glogster, Prezi, Animoto and other alternative presentations
- Utilize digital photo frames for booktalks, trailers, etc.
- Raffles with SRP registration

Teachers/Specialists

- Librarians give names of summer readers to teachers so they can compare IRI scores from spring to fall

- Promote program within classrooms- to kids, to parents
- Register students at parent-teacher conferences (spring)
- Intervention teams, Title I teachers, reading specialists work directly with families to register children
- Set up Reading Buddy program for over the summer

Public Library/Access to Kids

- Library makes presentation to teachers and staff, parents
- Library table at recess last week or so of school, sign kids up
- Library table at parent-teacher conferences
- Library table and/or special activities during Family Reading/Math Night/Title I Night
- Library table/presentation at Track and Field Day, Science Fair, other end-of-year events
- Library includes summer reading registration information during kindergarten registration
- On-site registration
- Raffles with SRP registration
- Small libraries combine resources to promote to shared schools

In the Summer: Involvement

Combined staff and/or Parent Organizations

- Plan special “school social” days at library
- Arrange transportation to library each week
- Establish “Little Libraries” on school grounds

Principal

- Attend summer library event(s)
- Be a guest reader
- Use student call lines to remind and encourage students to read and participate in SRP
- Ask children to leave voice mails with number of minutes read each week
- Send postcards to families each week with a fun book activity or challenge and reminder to keep reading. Students return completed cards to library or school for drawings.
- Send letter or email to parents
- Send weekly texts to parents

School Librarian

- Attend summer library event(s)
- Be a guest reader
- Open school library a few hours each week so students can check out books

Teachers/Specialists

- Attend summer library event(s)
- VISTA volunteers work with students at school or library
- Be a guest reader
- Send letter or email to parents
- Send books to students through mail

Library/Access to Kids

- Library outreach during scheduled summer school

- Bookmobile visits school weekly/monthly
- Outreach to parks, swimming pools, community centers on a consistent basis
- “Participation” in SRP is not dependent **only** on attendance at on-site library programs

In the Fall: Recognition

Combined staff and/or Parent Organizations

- Special event/lunch
- Publicize names of summer readers in school newsletter
- Names of summer readers on special display
- Publicize statistics of summer reading participation (for students, parents, teachers, administration, school board) on school bulletin board, website, newsletter, etc.

Principal

- Recognize students at assembly
- Lunch w/principal (or some other special treat)
- Publicize participation statistics on website or in district newsletter
- Performs special activity or task if goal is met (kiss a pig, do The Hustle)

School Librarian

- Recognize students at assembly
- Lunch w/librarian (or some other special treat)
- Ask summer reading participants to share about the books read and prizes earned
- Make special bookmarks with names of summer readers
- Display photos of summer reading programs and student participation on digital photo frame

Teachers/Specialists

- Librarians give names of summer readers to teachers so they can compare IRI scores from spring to fall

Library/Access to Kids

- Recognize students at assembly with certificates
- Recognize school staff who attended programs or starred as a guest reader
- Present school with their set of hardcover titles
- Make special bookmarks with names of summer readers

Year-Round Contact:

- Monthly storytimes (even in junior high)
- Attend staff meetings regularly
- Share booktrailers, etc. with school library- add public library’s name
- Attend family events
- Attend special school events
- Family Reading Week partnerships
- Teacher events at library
- Teacher cards, courier service
- Use of library community room for school meetings, etc.
- Read-to-Dog programs at school
- Storytimes or programs in school library after school
- Promote Tumblebooks™ (to parents at events, or bookmark library’s page on school computers)

- My First Books (kindergarten only)
- Read to Me Jumpstart (Kindergarten registration)
- Booth at Book Fairs
- Sports teams partnerships (Steelheads Hat Trick program, etc.)
- Reading programs or contests with local businesses