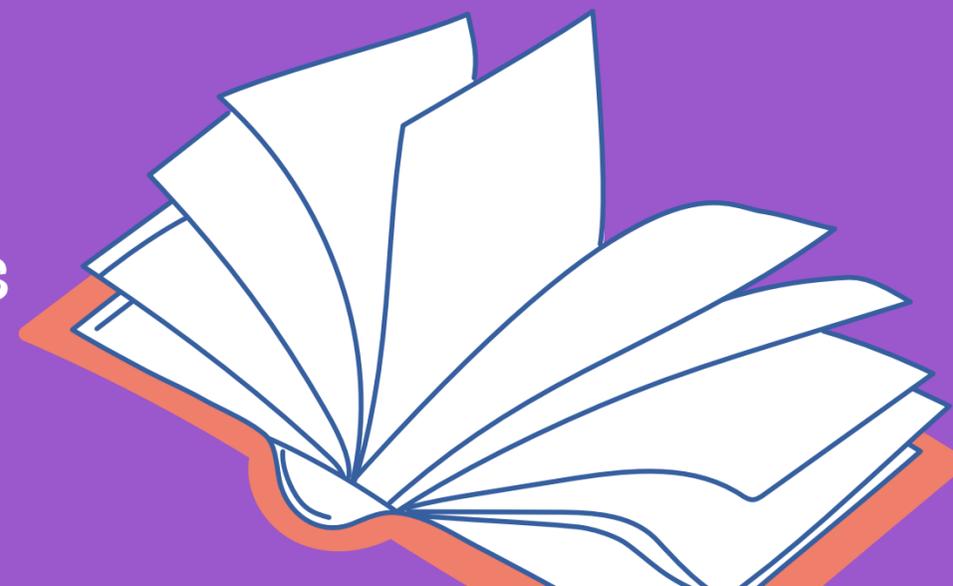# IS 61
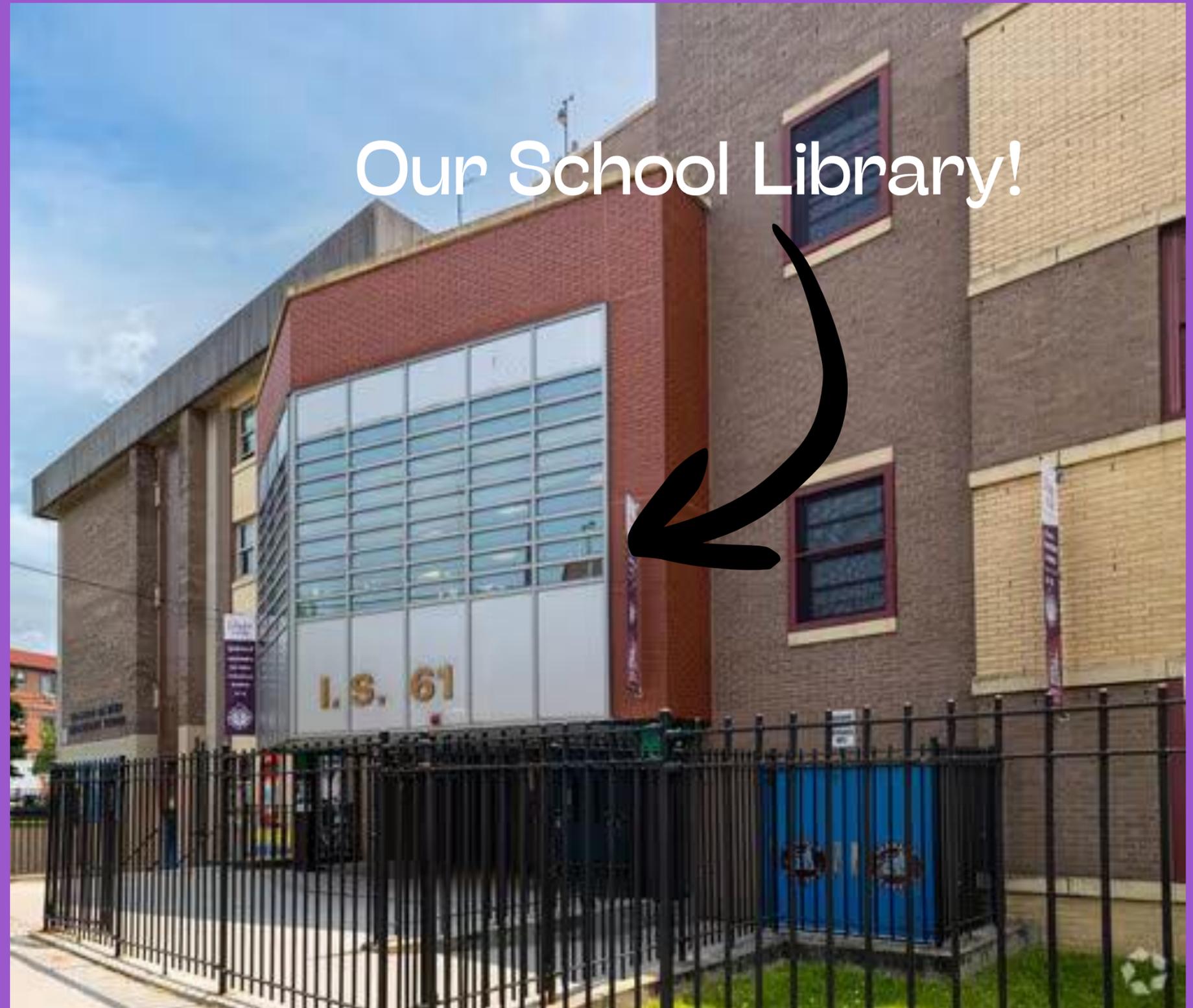# Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Loriana Donovan-Avlonitis

MLS MA

IS 61, Leonardo DaVinci Intermediate School

- IS 61 is located in Corona, Queens.

- It is one of the largest middle schools in New York City, with 2,000 students.

Our School Library!

I.S. 61

Library: The Space 2024-2025

IS 61, Leonardo DaVinci Intermediate School

- 1956 Students
- 50 | 50 Male to Female
- 2% Black / African American
- 94% Hispanic
- 4% Asian
- 1% White

- 45% English Language Learners
- 17% Students with Disabilities
- 96% Economically Disadvantaged

Student Demographics

The Library

Collection (still growing!)
- 3,370 Physical Books
- School Yearbook Collection
- Ebook + Digital Resources

Circulation
- 2024-2025: 3,133
- 2025-2026 (so far): 1,799

Our school library was not utilized as a school library until the 2024-2025 school year, and had not had a librarian for over 15 years!
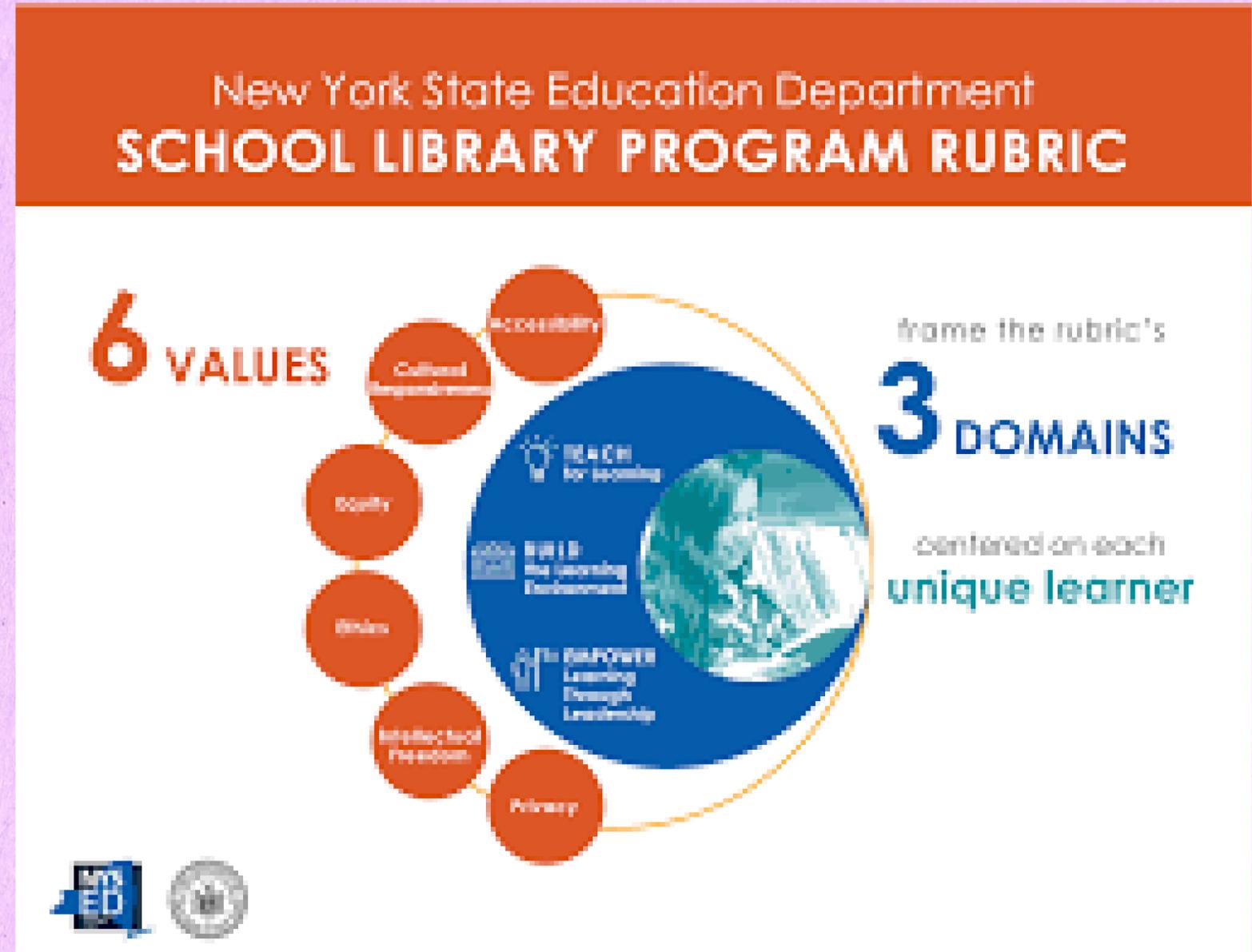
Teach for Learning: Instruction, Literacy and Inquiry
Building the Learning Environment: Access
Empowering Learning through Leadership: Outreach

New York State Education Department
SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM RUBRIC

6 VALUES

Accessibility
Cultural Responsiveness
Equity
Ethics
Intellectual Freedom
Privacy

frame the rubric's

3 DOMAINS

TEACH for Learning
BUILD the Learning Environment
EMPOWER Learning Through Leadership

centered on each
unique learner

Critical Skills are being taught occasionally by the school librarian in an isolated manner

Benchmarks in the library are unclear, assessment is erratic

Learners do not assess their own learning

Teaching for Learning: Literacy and Inquiry

Classroom Teachers seldom collaborate with school librarian on assessment of information, digital literacy, and technology benchmarks.

Few opportunities to foster independent reading

Learners occasionally have opportunities to direct inquiry learning

Building the Environment: Access

Library has a partially flexible and partially fixed schedule

Faculty and learners are not aware of resources

Resources and technology are not consistently accessible

- **School community does not recieve updates on library resources and servives**

- **Limited library advocacy plan**

- **Impact of library resources is minimal**

Our Mission Statement

"The IS 61 School Library exists to foster a love of reading, critical thinking, and creative exploration in all students. Our mission is to provide equitable access to diverse books, digital tools, and hands-on learning experiences that reflect and empower our multilingual, multicultural school community. The library is a welcoming space where every student can find their voice, expand their world, and thrive."

Answers to these issues

Create Curriculum that addresses instruction and literacy gaps

Encourage and develop independent reading program through beanstack

Utilize library interns to be advocates for the library, through student leadership meetings and library communication such as instagram, the website and our upcoming newsletter

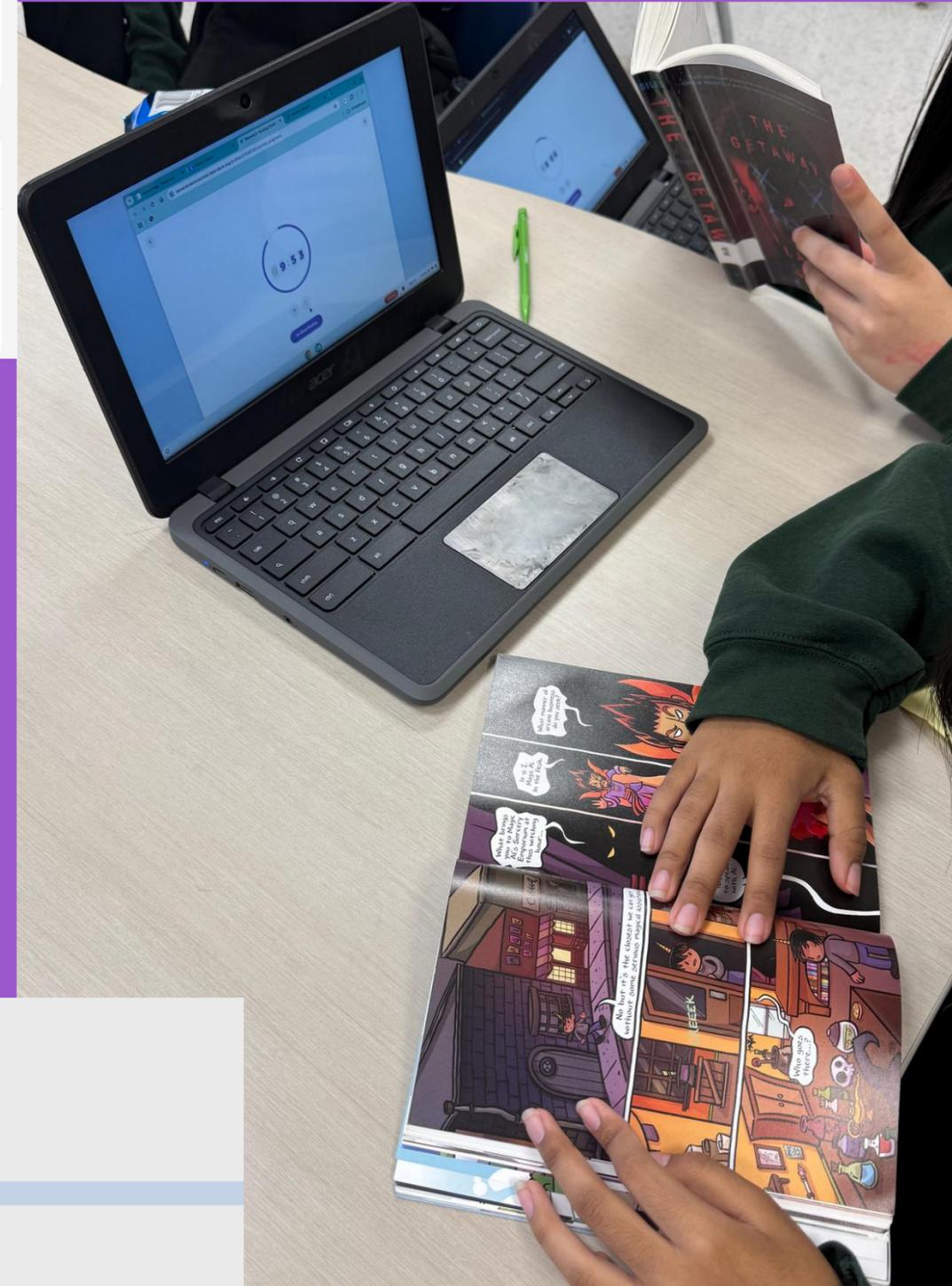Leaning into Academy competition model by utilizing library data for academy points

Collaborations with science, math, and ELA departments, hope of expansion to others

# Create Curriculum that addresses instruction and literacy gaps
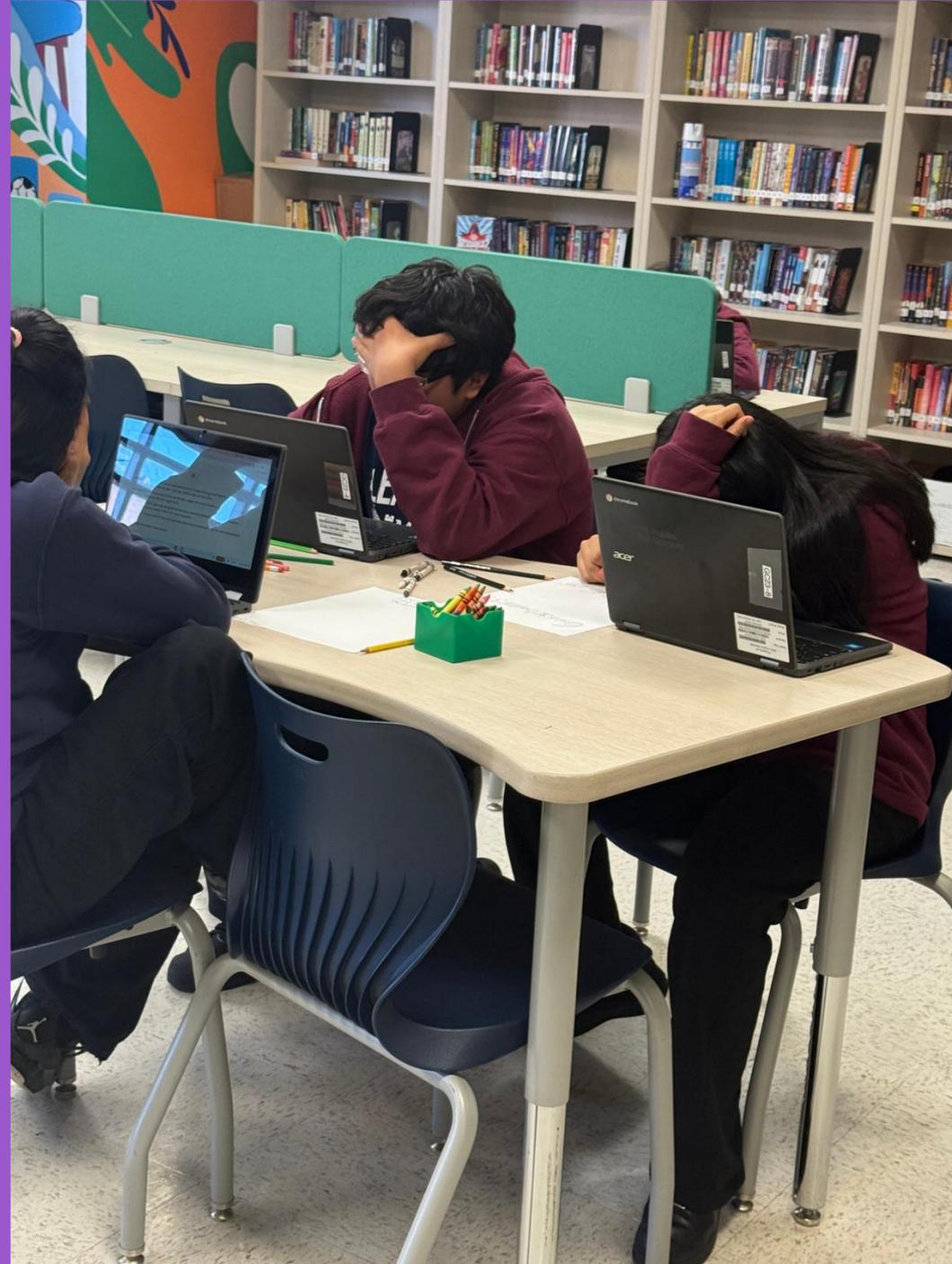
Encourage and develop independent reading program through Beanstack and collection development

Active Readers	New Registrations	Challenge Completions	Completed Activities
348	2,178	126	144

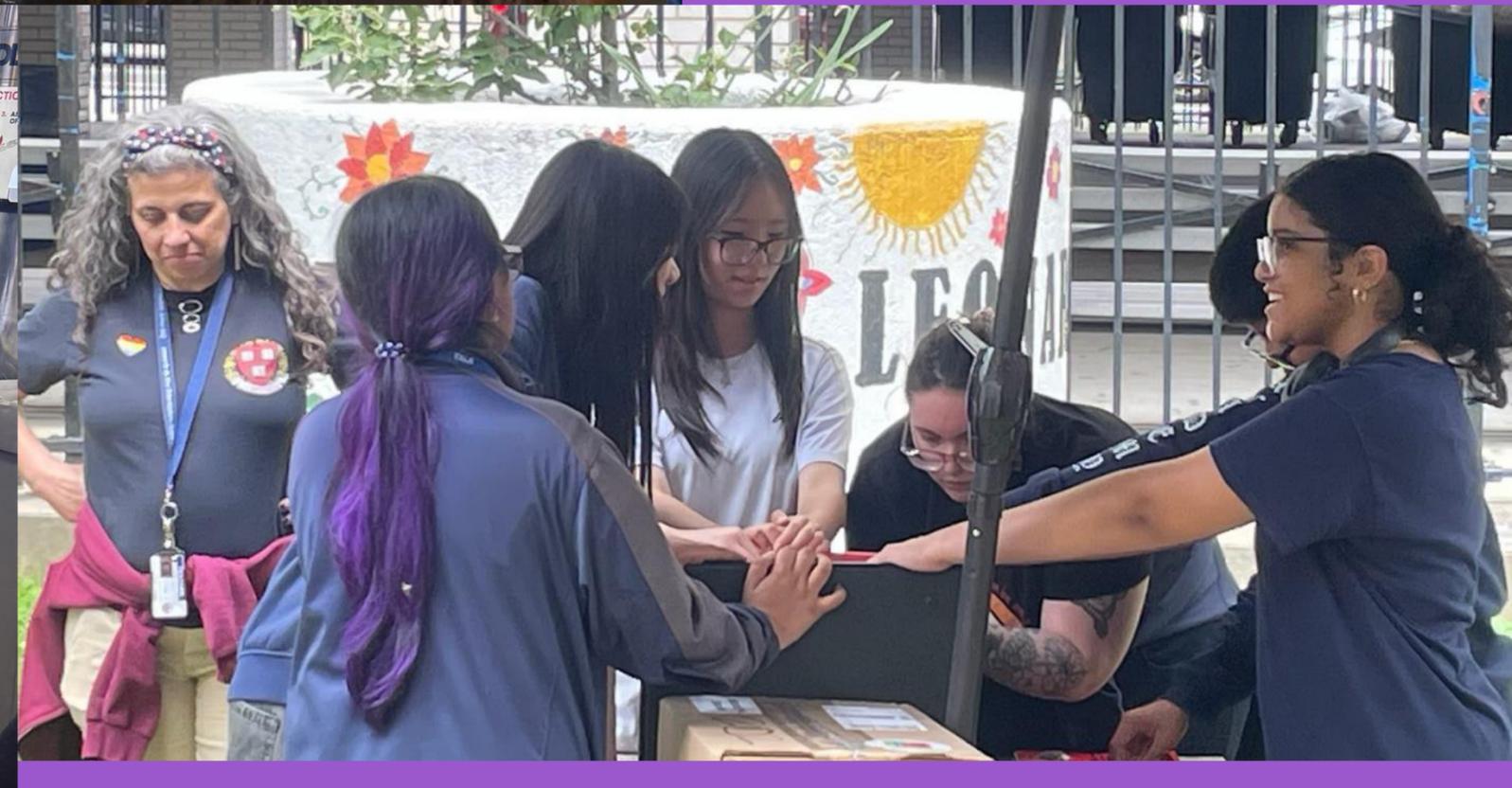| Rewards Redeemed	Badges Earned	Reviews Submitted	Books Read
0	5,285	87	904

149,444 / 900,000 minutes
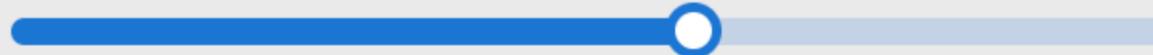
Utilize Library Interns for Student Advocacy

Leaning into Academy Competition Model

| A (Academy)	B (Check-ins)
Academy	Visits
Harvard	266
Stanford	247
Yale	235
Princeton	183
Cornell	97

Library Visits by Academy this year

December Reading Challenge so far:

- Princeton: 12 active readers, 18,825 minutes read
- Harvard: 37 active readers, 6,416 minutes read
- Yale: 23 active readers, 3,539 minutes read
- Stanford: 6 active readers, 1,784 minutes read
- Cornell:

December Reading Challenge Rankings (interns)

- 4th place, Denisse (Princeton) -- stayed the same
- 5th place, Jorge (Harvard) -- stayed the same
- 6th place, Gael (Harvard) -- stayed the same
- 8th place, Eva (Stanford) -- stayed the same
- 9th place, Yaretzi (Yale) -- stayed the same
- 10th place, Adriel (Yale) --stayed the same
- 11th place, Ronny (Harvard)   -- stayed the same
- 12th place, Alitza (Princeton) -- stayed the same
- 14th place, Yudith (Harvard) -- stayed the same
- 15th place, An Qi (Yale) -- stayed the same
- 17th place, Alexandra (Stanford)   --stayed the same
- 19th place, Vanessa (Stanford) --**moved up two**
- 21st place, Ada (Yale) --moved down one
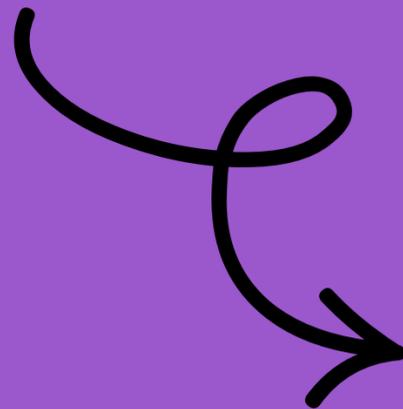- 24th place, Dylan (Harvard) --stayed the same
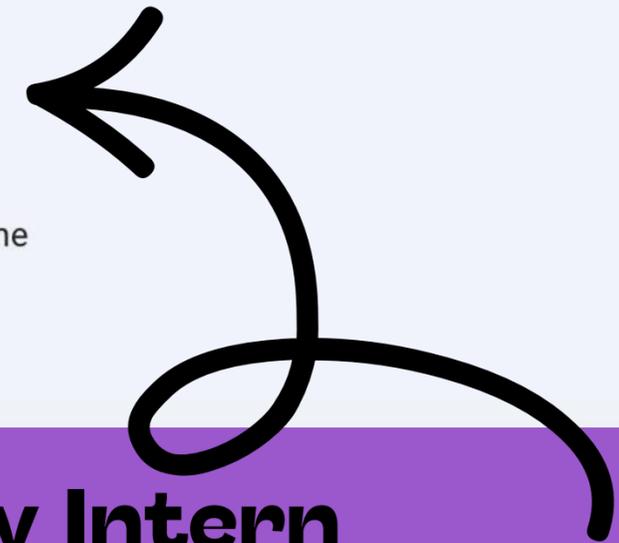
Library Intern Google Classroom Page

Collaborations with other disciplines

Little Free Library in School Garden

3D printed earrings for Pi Day

Students setting up hydroponics station

Collaborations with other disciplines

- Co wrote grant with Ms. Mittel, one of our science coaches to recieve yearly funding from H.E.A.R.T. (Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers) for Food Justice

- Co wrote grant with Ms. Parker, one of our math coaches, to recieve the Mathical Collection Development Award from SLJ

- Collaborated to create "Library Intern" as one of the school student leadership jobs

- Collaborated with Admin and science / math department to support our hydroponics station in the library through the Green Our Planet Hydroponics Grant

Looking Ahead: SLI

Sustainble Libraries are the only path to long term student success

Future Goals: expanding library impact to more students and discplines, increasing school library advocacy, foster partnerships in the community, and encourage sustainable practices / programs in our school and school library