



THE LIBRARY AT
I.S.303 ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION
AND
RACHEL CARSON HIGH SCHOOL FOR COASTAL STUDIES



SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE FINAL PRESENTATION

Mandy Feddern

About Me



1

22 years as a NYCPs Educator

2

2nd year as a Librarian

3

Small Campus
2 schools (MS and HS)

Program Analysis

Below Basic/Basic in almost
every aspect of the rubric

A chance to build a program
that meets the needs of both
schools, and build a bridge
between them

Offered me a cleared path
forward

The Library at I.S. 303 and Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies

Mission Statement

The Library at I.S. 303/Rachel Carson High School seeks to empower students to become critical thinkers, lifelong readers, skillful researchers and responsible users of information. By providing opportunities to engage in collaborative learning and supplying resources that meet our students' diverse needs, we aspire to create a welcoming environment that supports the educational journey of every student and contributes to the overall success of our school community.



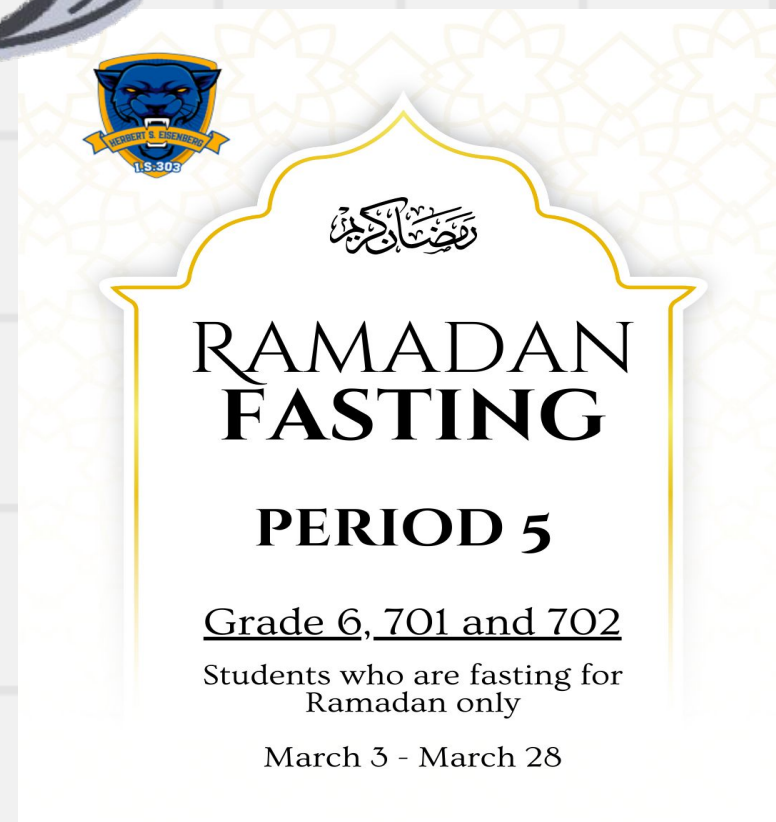
Vision Statement

**Envision.
Engage.
Educate.
Empower**
.



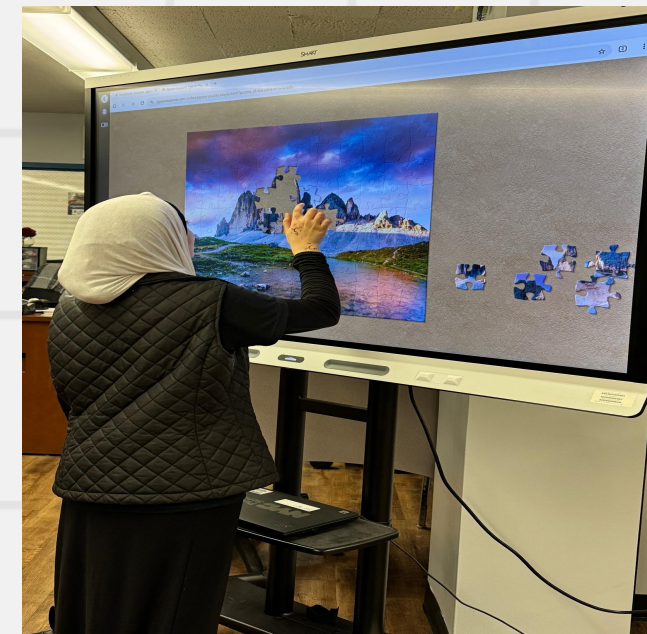
A1.1 – Develop Opportunities

Develop opportunities for students to understand differences and commonalities between their own experiences and the experiences of others through instruction, programming, and reading promotion.



Fasting in the Library

This year we offered the library as a welcoming space for students who are fasting during Ramadan. By creating what the middle school students call “The Ramadan Room,” we continue to reinforce our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive community.



[Autism Awareness Resource Page](#)

[Women's History Month Resource Page](#)

Resource Pages and Collections

For example, in honor of Women’s History Month, we added a **Women’s History Resource Page** and an **Autism Awareness Resource Page** to our library website. We also curated a **Destiny Collections and Carousels** for our digital catalog to showcase influential figures and stories.

A1.2 Create a Program

Create a program or lesson that engages students in learning about and taking action on climate change, climate justice, sustainable practice, etc.



RGHS Book Drive - January 2025

This year, I collaborated with a Rachel Carson High School student named Saneya to organize a school-wide book drive to promote environmental responsibility by giving gently used books a new life and to provide greater access to reading materials for those in need within our community. We successfully collected over 500 books, which were donated to elementary schools in our neighborhood and given out at school events to families



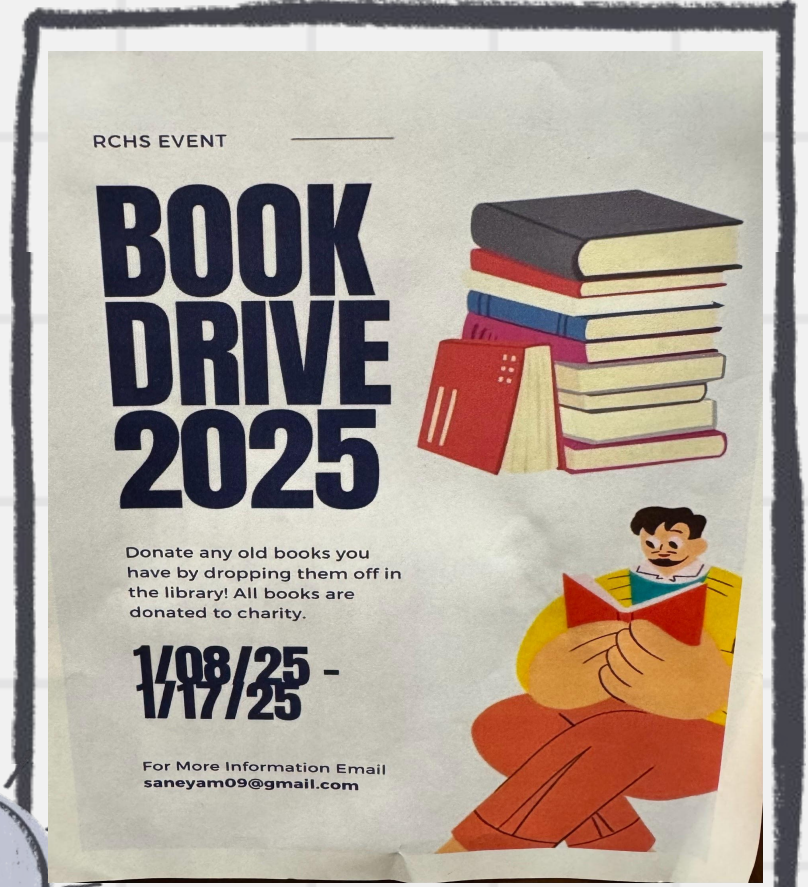
I.S. 303 Career Exploration Fair - March 2025

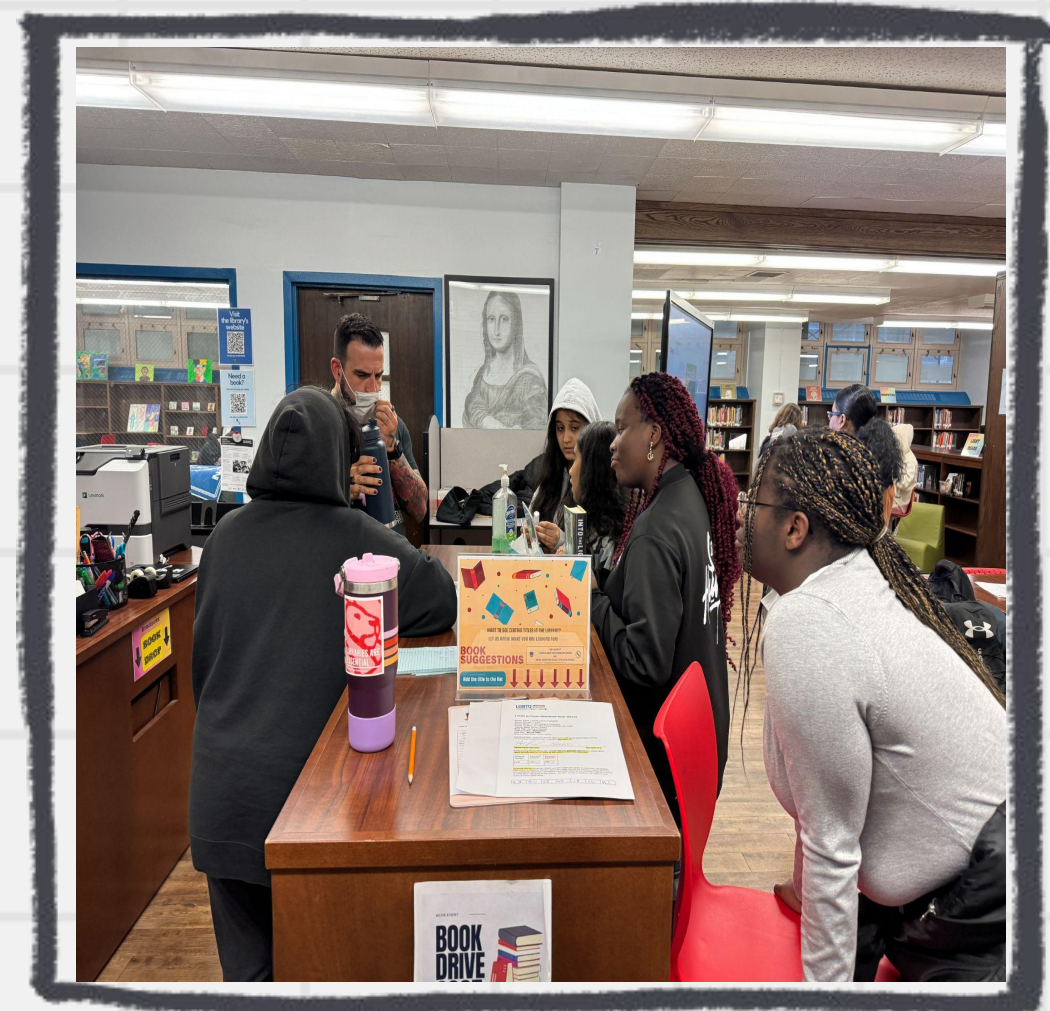
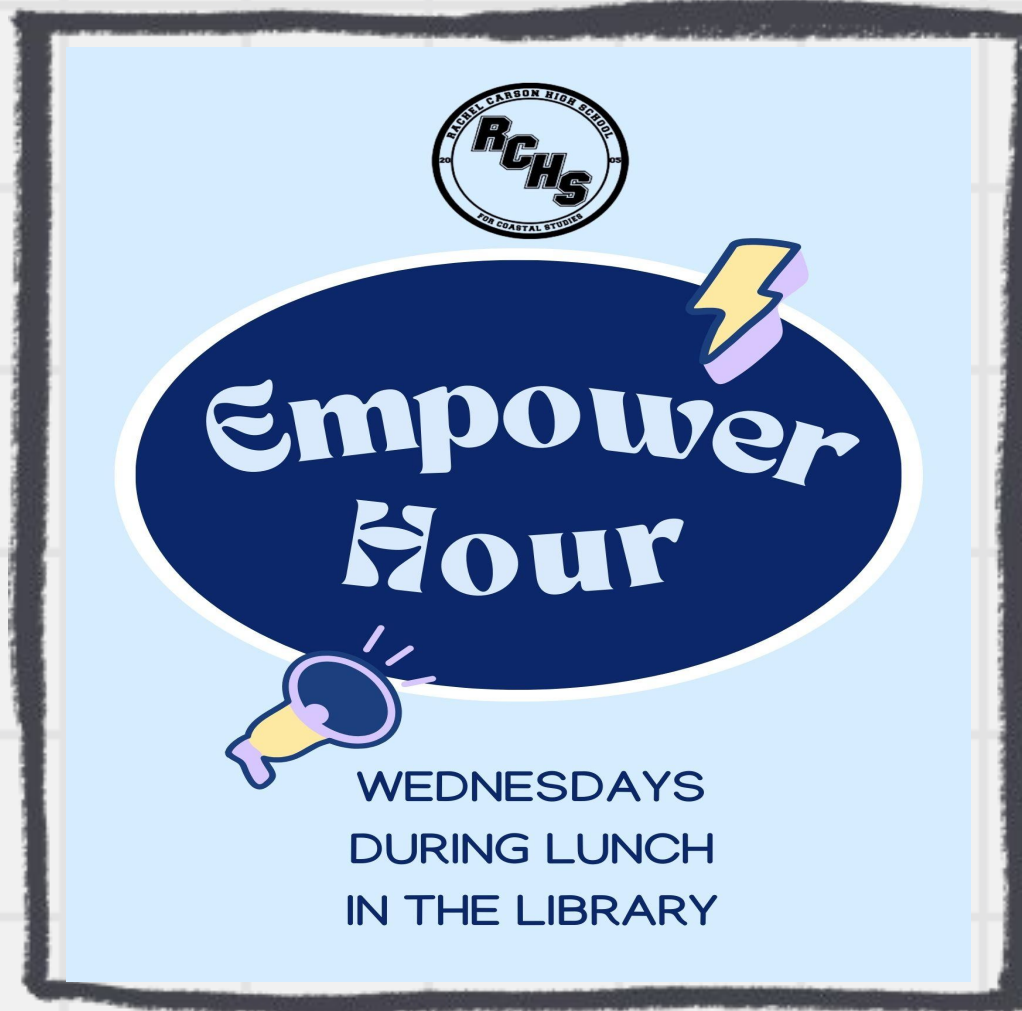
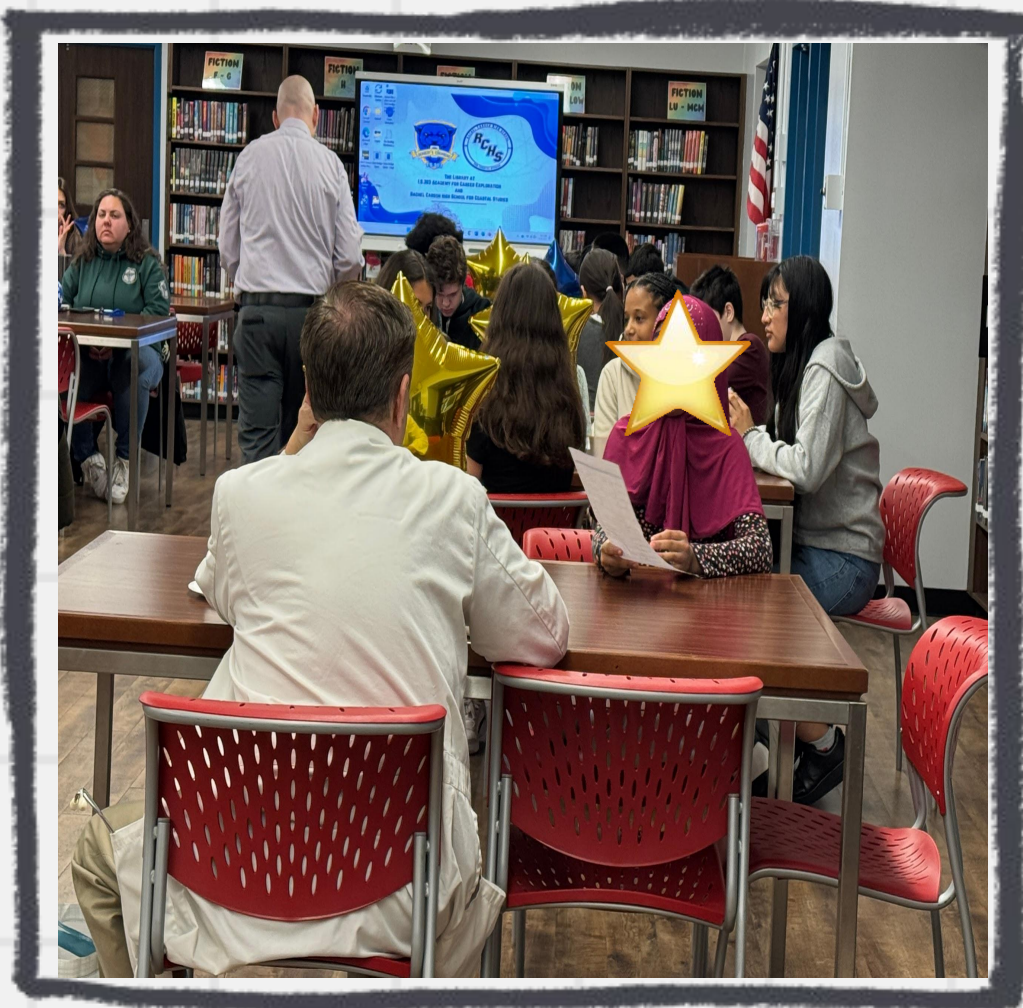
Serving as a member of the planning committee for this event provided an opportunity to collaborate with middle school teachers from various disciplines, and allowed for discussions about future collaborations. Providing space in the library for students to interact with our visitors in a relaxed atmosphere, allowed for deeper conversations and engagement.



I.S. 303/RCHS Lambda Literary LGBTQ Writers in Schools Program

This was I.S. 303's first year participating in the program, and it was an incredible experience for both students and staff. Prior to the visits, we spent time reading *Jasmine is Haunted* by Mark Oshiro (I.S. 303) during lunchtime book clubs. On March 26th, Mark spent time engaging with students and generously answered questions and provided insight into what it's like to be an author. This truly was one of the best experiences we have had in the library this year.



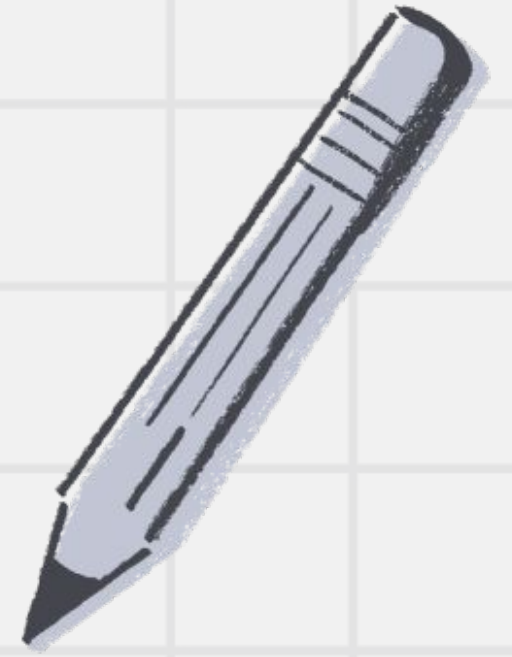


A1.5 - Instructional Partnerships

This year, I had the exciting opportunity to collaborate with our art teacher, Rae Powers, to launch our school's first-ever Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition. Our collaboration allowed us to support students effectively, ensuring they had the resources and encouragement needed to bring their stories to life. The experience was not only rewarding for the students but also a valuable learning experience for us as educators. We are already looking forward to refining and expanding the program in the future!



in the core content areas.



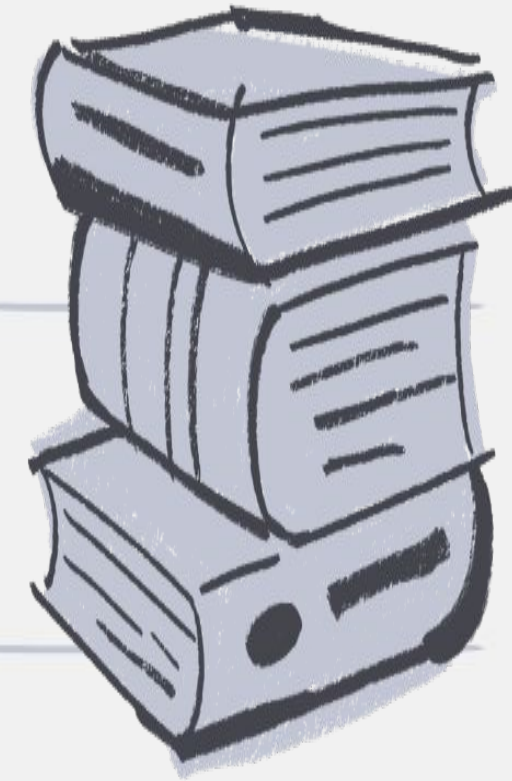
EJK Bookmaking Competition

Jaleah's Artist Statement: "I often see a lot of hate. These words can be playful or a genuine dislike among people but can be heard in or outside of school. Kids often struggle to regulate their emotions and don't realize how much their behavior can affect the mental state of others. I structured my book around the waves of emotion that consume the receiver, emotions that they often keep bottled up."



I.S. 303/RCHS Collection Data

We have curated a number of **Destiny Collections and Carousels** for our digital catalog that showcase influential figures and stories. We will continue to create, update and advertise collections and digital resources as the year progresses.



Also included is our most recent collection analysis, which highlights how we are continuously working to update our collection and raise the average age to make our titles more current and contemporary.

B.1 – Curated Collections

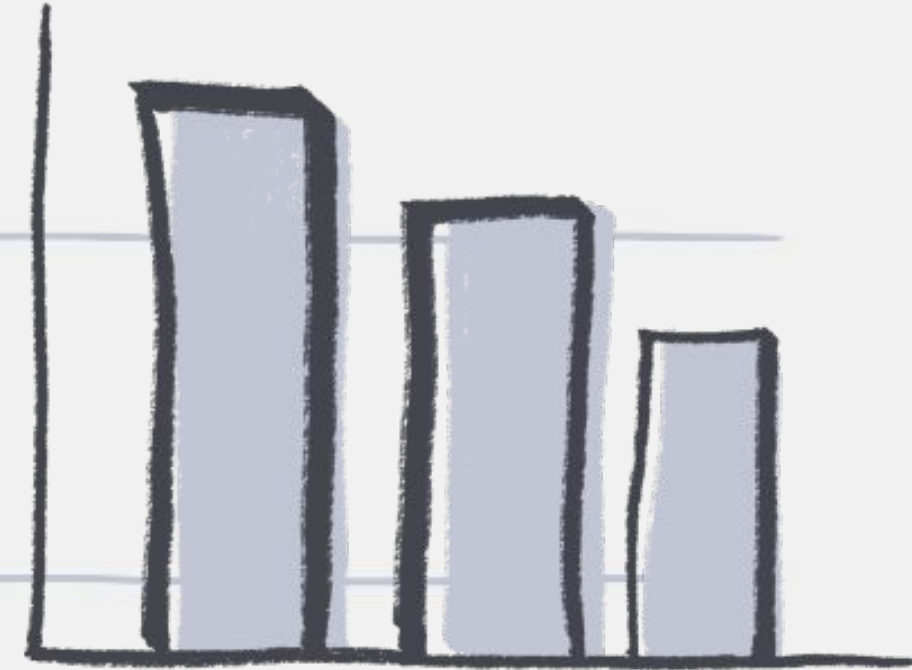
Provide access to a curated collection of resources in multiple formats that represents diverse perspectives (race, culture, abilities, body size, gender, sexuality, politics, religion, etc.)

Titlewave Analysis



In February 2022, prior to the library's reopening and the first major weeding conducted by OLS, the average age of our collection was 2004. At this time, the number of books in the collection was 6,555. We reopened the library in September 2023 and conducted our first major inventory in January 2024, with the assistance of OLS. This inventory also served as a second major weeding event, leaving our collection with 2,998 titles, and an average age of 2011.

In the spring of 2024, in addition to our NYSTL budget both schools generously provided additional funding to purchase library books for a combined total of \$7,000 and as of today, our collection now contains 4,104 titles, with an average age of 2013.

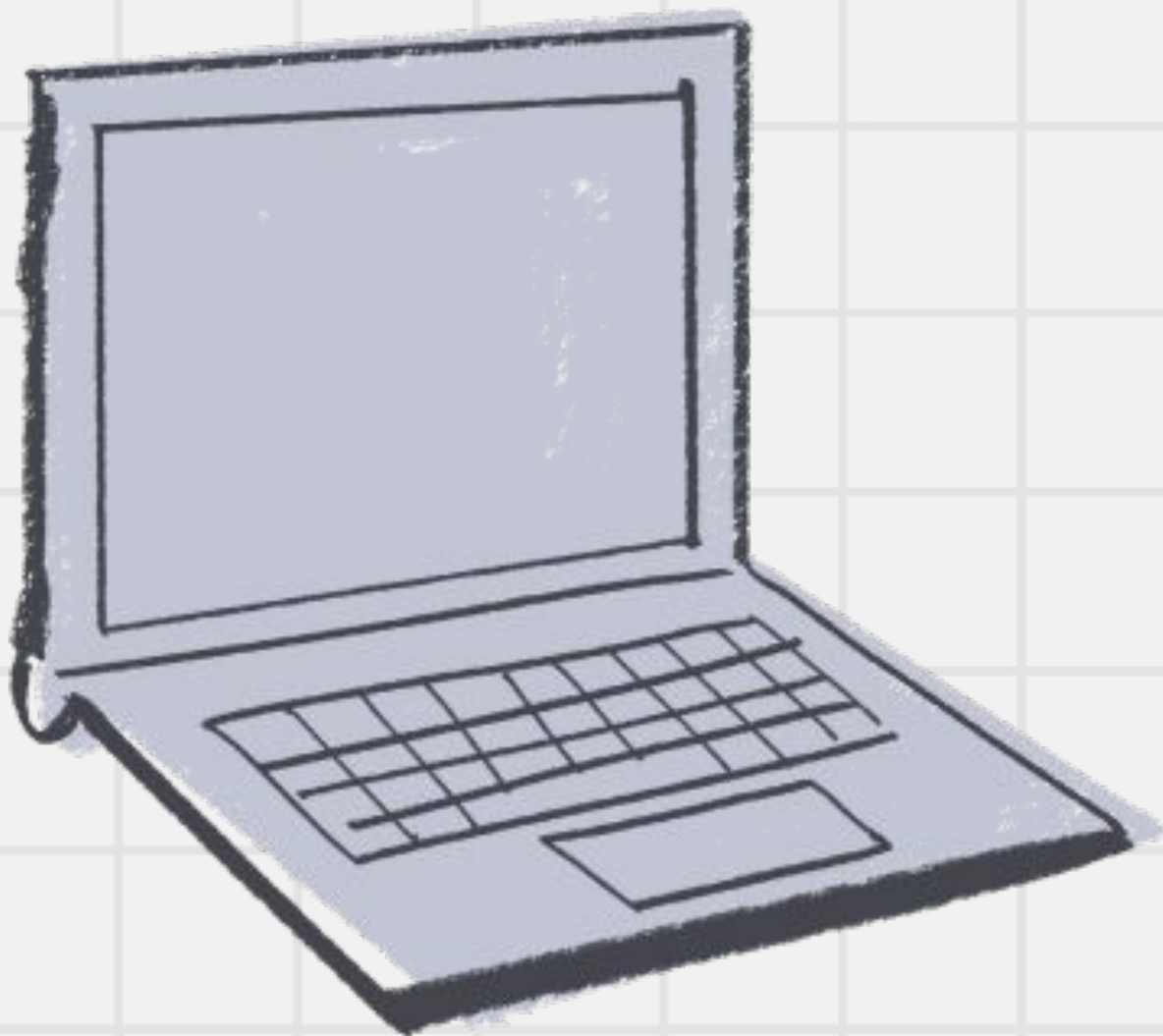


B.2 Library Budget

Manage the library budget in a way that is consistent with district collection development policy and that maximizes its impact in terms of the library program's vision and mission.

B.4 - Digital Spaces

Leverage digital spaces to provide equitable access to library resources



[Our Website](#)

The Library at I.S. 303 and Rachel Carson High School is committed to providing equitable access and resources for all. The library website has been updated in an effort to enhance user experience and accessibility. The site now features additional pages and sections to ensure that our patrons can easily find and utilize the wealth of information and services the library offers.



[Library Instagram Account](#)

Finally, there has been an increased effort to update our Instagram account and Destiny homepage more frequently. By creating content and collections to feature in these digital spaces the goal is to utilize them in a more strategic fashion that will increase library usage and drive traffic to our other digital formats.



Increased Parent Communication

In addition to these upgrades, I.S. 303 families are now receiving a quarterly newsletter meant to keep them informed about events and happenings occurring at the library. The first newsletter was released in November 2024, and the second is slated to be released at the end of March 2025.

[Fall Library Newsletter](#)

[Spring Library Newsletter](#)



C.1 – Professional Relationships

Develop professional relationships and practices with district, building, and community partners (community members, local businesses, cultural organizations, public, academic, special libraries, and other school libraries).

Library Advisory Committee:

As part of the VITAL Libraries Grant process, I was responsible for forming a library advisory committee aimed at developing professional relationships between the library and the school communities that it services. Throughout the entire VITAL Grant process, we held frequent meetings in which we created a Mission and Vision statement, identified items to purchase that would benefit the students of both schools, and planned events. Being a new librarian, as well as being new to the campus, the LAC pushed me to build strong professional relationships and identify best practices early in my tenure at I.S 303/RCHS. Committee members helped me understand the culture at each school, and were integral to introducing me to staff members and inviting me to participate on various committees.

I.S. 303 Arts Committee:

This year, I was invited to join the I.S. 303 Arts Committee by its chairperson. Throughout the year, we met to plan various events both for the students and for parent engagement. Throughout the year, the arts committee collaborated with various staff members and organizations to contribute to numerous events such as a *Cookies, Crafts and Cocoa* and *Bridgerton* themed tea party for families, numerous Spirit Weeks and theme days, a Talent Show, Poetry Slam and a Broadway Jr. production of *Madagascar*. The Arts committee was also extremely helpful during the planning of our library's VITAL Grand Re-Opening event.

C.4 – Professional Organizations

VITAL to Learning: The Library at I.S. 303 Academy for Career Exploration and Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies Celebrates Its Official Grand Reopening, Courtesy of the VITAL Libraries Grant

On January 23, 2025, the library at I.S. 303 Academy for Career Exploration and Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies celebrated the grand reopening of our school library—the culmination of our year-long journey as recipients of the VITAL Libraries Grant. The event was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony that unveiled our newly upgraded



actively engage in professional organizations

Mandy Feddern '23

Librarian

Transitioning from a classroom teacher to a school librarian, Mandy Feddern was seeking a new challenge and a change in her professional life. The M.S. in library media program at Fisher prepared her for this rewarding role. Feddern loves working with students, fostering a love of reading, and developing their critical research skills. “It’s incredibly rewarding to see students discover



Sharing Times 2.0 - April 2025 Issue
[VITAL to Learning: The Library at I.S. 303 Academy for Career Exploration and Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies Celebrates Its Official Grand Reopening, Courtesy of the VITAL Libraries Grant](#)

St. John Fisher University
[M.S. in Library Media Success Stories](#)

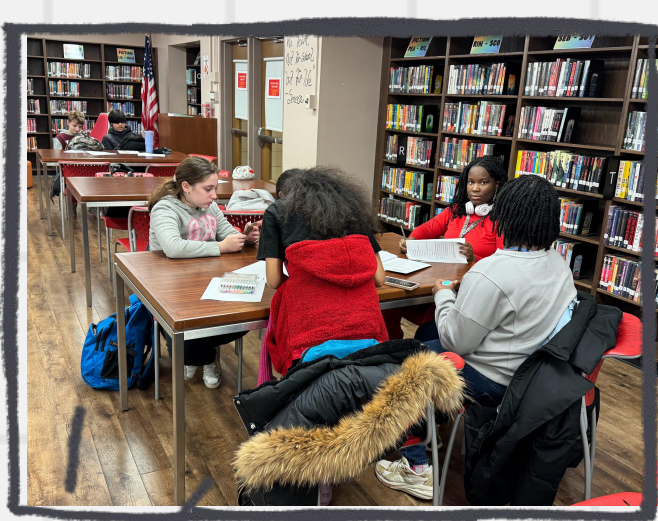
C.2 – Action Plan

Develop an action plan for accomplishing long term goals that aligns with the vision, mission, and core values of your library program and that aligns with other initiatives in your school, district or community.

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Final Reflection



01

SLCP has helped me streamline my focus and give me a “starting point” to design programs and initiatives in a way that is manageable and realistic.

02

The greatest impact has been in the way that I’ve been able to develop professional relationships that lead to opportunities for collaboration. VITAL and SLCP have definitely helped me accelerate this aspect of my librarianship.

03

Students in both schools are seeing that the library is more than books. They want to come in and use the “other stuff” and through those interests, I’m able to gauge what works and what doesn’t, and where I can build.

THANK
YOU



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**



**NEW YORK CITY
SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Connect, Create, Lead