

Good Library Practice

The mission of the library media center program is to "enable students to become independent, information literate, life-long learners." To achieve this mission, the Simsbury Library Media Centers embrace an open access/flexible scheduling philosophy.

Open access means that students continue to use the Library Media Center (LMC) on a regular basis to exchange books, receive guidance in selecting appropriate materials and use library resources. This encourages reading and is good practice. Teachers and Library Media Specialists (LMS) plan for circulation of materials and think about how the LMC can ensure all students will use the center on a regular basis.

Flexible scheduling means that the LMC is used according to need. It reinforces the collaborative work of teachers and LMS in planning authentic learning activities. Collaboration to teach information literacy skills is good practice. Allowing services and resources to be available to all at anytime is the mutual goal of LMS and teachers.

Benefits:

- Teachable moment - When students have information need
- Collaboration of teachers and LMS - integration of curriculum and information literacy
- Students become independent and life-long learners.
- Students develop responsibility for their own learning.

Works Cited

The Information-Powered School. Chicago: American Library Association,
2001.

Dickinson, Gail. "Everyday is Library Day: Making the Case for Good School Library Practice." School Library Journal, March 2002: 13.