

STACIA WAGERS

Library Media Specialist
Shenandoah Valley Elementary School
Parkway School District, Chesterfield, MO
2016 Shenandoah Valley Elementary Teacher
of the Year
@staciawm



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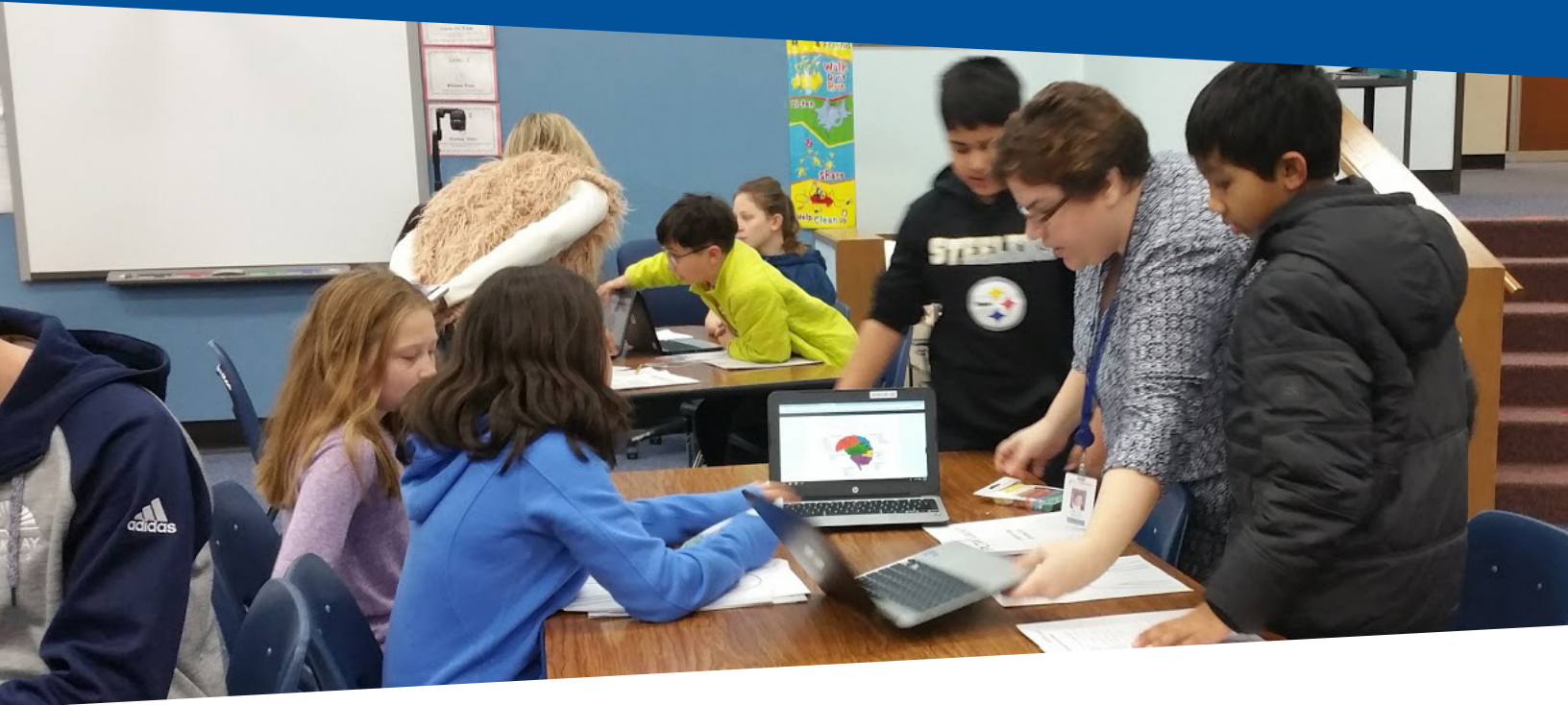
Innovation Coordinator: Instructional
Technology, Information, and Library Media
Parkway School District
ISTE Board of Directors President-Elect
NSBA #20toWatch
@billbass

Building Partnerships While Helping Students Access Appropriate Materials

After using Follett Destiny® Library Manager for five years, along with Follett Destiny Discover®, Stacia Wagers, Library Media Specialist at Shenandoah Valley Elementary School, thought she had everything she needed. "Discover gave us everything the student is looking for – books, eBooks – on one screen. It's great with all students, but especially the younger ones."

Each year, Wagers's Follett representative, Gina Donato, hosts professional development events at Parkway School District, during which Wagers learns of what's to come in Destiny. "Because of these yearly meetings," Wagers said, "I always know what's ahead for us in Destiny, and it's clear Follett is listening and responding to customer needs." That is how Shenandoah Valley became a pilot school for Discover. "I was one of the first schools to use Discover," she said. "I love the layout, and it's so user friendly."

Since she has been so happy with Library Manager and Discover, she has been eager to try any new products associated with it. So when Donato introduced her to Collections by Destiny®, Wagers jumped at the chance. "Because I trust that Follett is always student first, I trust in the products I learn about, and I was eager to try Collections," she said.



Wagers explained some of the challenges that take place in an elementary school library. “Sometimes, it can be tricky working with early grades,” Wagers shared. “I want to customize to various levels of readers while creating no self-consciousness as to who reads at what level. Also, different teachers want students to have different things, and each collection site needs to be accessible to make it easy to find what they need.”

When Wagers was introduced to Collections, she said, “I didn’t even realize what was possible. I watched and explored with Collections and said to myself, ‘This is exactly what I’ve needed!’”

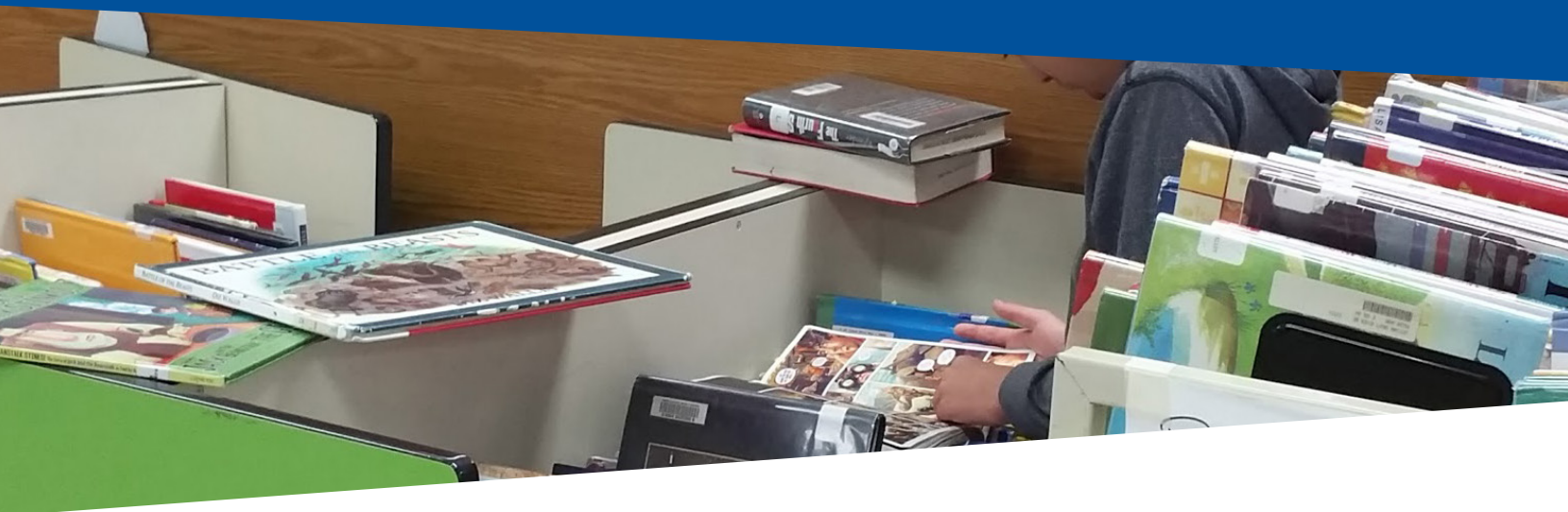
Wagers also likes to include database articles and other resources – all grouped by ability level. “While we were operating well before Collections, we didn’t realize how much better it could be with a tool that makes customization easy and saves teachers so much time.”

Wagers was among the first at Parkway Schools to dive in and use Collections to its fullest capability. As she explains, using a tool like Collections makes her better at her job – it allows a teacher or librarian to provide appropriate resources for students. “That’s what’s important to me – that each child can find what they want on their own. Our students really enjoy how easy it is to find the resources they need. I love that users can add video, eBooks, articles, OERs, and documents in one place. It is so easy to share with teachers and students. As educators, we want to empower students as creators, and when resources are easily accessible, students can focus more attention on creating than on endless searching.”

“Before we had Collections, I felt like pieces of resources were scattered all over the place. This gives me the ability to put it in one place for you. It’s a one-stop shop at a higher level.”

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District Librarian Shenandoah Valley Elementary School



“Destiny Collections has given our librarians more opportunities to create instructional partnerships with teachers and coaches as they work to curate digital resources from around the internet. Because of its flexible and adaptive nature, this valuable tool allows us to better meet the needs of our students, creating a more personalized approach to instruction and resources.”

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Innovation Coordinator:
Instructional Technology,
Information, and Library Media
Parkway School District

Bill Bass, Parkway’s Innovation Coordinator, explained that Collections allows students to anticipate what they want and need before they even get to the library. Collections builds excitement and teaches research skills to all – even the youngest students can search visually via topic icons, animals, and other visual cues. “Research begins earlier now,” said Bass. “That keeps collection development going at a faster speed and makes Collections even more necessary. It’s adaptable to varying levels of reading and different groups.”

Wagers shared how Collections helps make each teacher more efficient and saves time, while enabling better communication. “For teachers, it comes down to time,” said Wagers. “I can show the students in the library how to access info, but I can also communicate and collaborate with teachers in a new and different way. Instead of a teacher saying, ‘Go to the library and have Mrs. Wagers show you something,’ Collections allows them to see ahead of time what is available, whether it is an article or a Lightbox™ title.”

Endless possibilities exist for how Shenandoah Elementary School can grow using Collections, according to Wagers. “As a Librarian, I can use Collections to curate digital resources and tools in one location. For example, we recently had major changes to our ELA curriculum. Most teachers will tell you curriculum change can cause great anxiety. This allows me to support my teachers and students with their curricular needs today and in the future. Destiny Collections lets me compile book resources, database articles, and web resources in one location, saving teachers time and making resources easily accessible for students. This is a game changer for educators.”

Wagers is excited that other Destiny tools yet to be developed will also help her library soar into the next level of excellence. “With Destiny, I feel the tools just keep getting better. The products Follett offers librarians help support our Future Ready goals. With these awesome tools, I’ve made so much progress in five years!”