Technology Integration with Mrs. Marianne Green

Winder-Barrow Middle School

Media Specialist

Professional Background

- Received Master's Degree from the University of Georgia

- Taught 7th and 8th grade language arts for 3 years

- Served as Media Specialist for 28 years

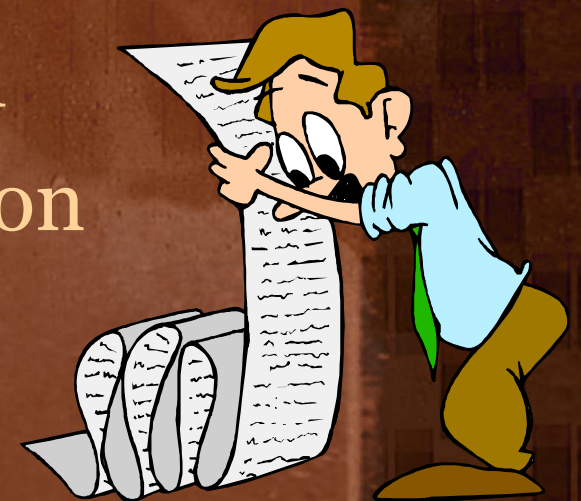# Responsibilities as Media Specialist

- Coordinate school media committee
- Administer and maintain a center and program that fosters learning
- Ensure effective organization of the media center and its resources
- Provide instructional leadership in the use of information resource and literature
- Maintain school equipment inventory

More Responsibilities as Media Specialist

- Plan with teachers on how to integrate literature, resources, and literacy skills into the curriculum

- Select and order resources

- Provide information about and comply with copyright laws

- Purchase and manage textbooks, teacher resources, and workbooks

Even More Responsibilities as Media Specialist

- Serve as contact person for technology support staff
- Schedule the usage of the computer lab
- Provide orientation for students and staff
- Collaborate with students and teachers on material production

One thing that struck me was how much the role of media specialist within the school has changed with the onset of the internet and the wave of technology.

In the 28 years that Mrs. Green has served as Media Specialist, she has seen a change in the role of the library being a place of print information, where technology was limited to audio and video in its basic form to the media center being a place where information comes in all forms – text and electronic.

"Before (the internet), I dealt mainly with print resources and now there are thousands of resources at our fingertips. Helping students determine which tools to use to respond to a specific request is our most important service."

How does technology affect the learning process?

"Technology engages the student more in the learning process. An engaged student (will be) a motivated student, and a motivated middle schooler will reach success."

What are the important factors for technology integration?

"Technology in isolation is not the answer. It has to be integrated into the curriculum to be effective. Using technology for presenting a multimedia presentation on a researched topic, as an example, helps develop organizational skills and critical thinking skills.

If a student has a purpose for using technology then his attitude and enthusiasm will make the learning process richer."

Technological Literacy

"A set of skills a person needs to participate intelligently and actively in today's society – to be able to locate and effectively use the most appropriate tool to retrieve and use the information needed."

What are some obstacles you have encountered when trying to integrate technology?

"Money and having enough computers for the students. (Another obstacle is) keeping it working correctly (since we don't) have a tech person in the school."

An additional obstacle to using technology in the school is the dependency on so many other factors. Mrs. Green shared with me that she was out last Friday, and our curriculum server was hit in a lightning storm.

Upon returning to school on Monday, the electronic materials that accompany the science and social studies textbooks were unavailable to the teachers. As the technology of the school is part of Mrs. Green's responsibilities, she was bombarded with this technological issue and had to set many of her normal duties and responsibilities aside.

In education, we rely on our technological resources, and when they are unavailable, a teacher can easily feel that she is stranded on a raft in the middle of the ocean.

Do you have a technology success story?

"We used a private [wikispace](#) for a book club. Since our club meeting time was limited, the wikispace enabled us to communicate our viewpoints and discuss our book club books in detail. The students were engaged and were in charge of their experience online. Our members shared posts, photos, and ideas for projects. We were able to spend our meeting time creating our own book using publishing tools."

"The internet is a mountain of knowledge, and the media specialist has to act as a guide to find the best routes to the top."

M. Green (personal communication, September 2, 2009).