Roles of the Media Specialist

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Introduction

I’m Whitney Fletcher and I have been teaching Kindergarten for eight years. The experience gained from teaching will help me be a successful media specialist. My goal as a media specialist will be to create and maintain the love of learning in all students while establishing life-long learners.
Information Power

According to Information Power, there are four different roles of the media specialist.

- Teacher
- Instructional Partner
- Information Specialist
- Program Administrator
Teacher

I believe that the role of a teacher is the most important role of a media specialist. As a teacher the media specialist must...

- Know and understand the Georgia Performance Standards being taught.
- Know and understand the Information Literacy Standards and how integrate them into the content standards being taught in the classroom.
- Have the ability to present these standards at a variety of levels and in meaningful way.
- Create lessons that encourage students to use higher order thinking skills.
Instructional Partner

To ensure student learning a media specialist must collaborate with other staff, teachers and parents. To accomplish this goal a media specialist must…

- Collaborate with teachers to create lessons that will utilize the best materials and skills of both the teacher and media specialist.
- Be knowledgeable in all content standards and be able to connect them to the Information Literacy Standards.
- Collaborate with teachers and staff to create a media program that meets the needs of all students, teachers and staff.
Information Specialist

To make certain that students and teachers are receiving the materials and resources they need to be successful a media specialist must...

• Be knowledgeable of the resources included in the media center collection.
• Have all materials and resources organize all for circulation.
• Encourage teachers and staff to collaborate with media specialist to ensure the Information Literacy Standards are being embedded into the curriculum.
• Be available to assist students and staff with reference or resource needs.
• Promote the library media program as an exciting and welcoming one.
Program Administrator

The media specialist also has the role of administrator when creating and maintaining a successful media program. To be a successful program administrator a media specialist or program must…

• Support the overall school’s vision, mission and school improvement plan.
• Be essential to the success of the school’s instructional program.
• Be up-to-date with information and decisions made at the district level to ensure that the program is meeting the vision, mission and goals of the county.
• Regularly keep staff and teachers informed about Information Literacy Standards and learning and teaching techniques that may enhance student learning.
• Be an active participant of professional organizations to remain up-to-date with any new trends or teaching techniques.
Other Roles of the Media Specialist

• The media specialist should be knowledgeable of the technology available and be able to assist in simple troubleshooting.

• The media specialist should provide programs and services for parents to learn about the curriculum and technology their students are using when learning.

• The media specialist should work to connect the school with the community by providing opportunities for the community to participate in student learning.
Conclusion

A media specialist has many roles to fulfill to ensure a great media program. With hard work and the support of the school’s administration, teachers and staff the media specialist will be able create an exciting and welcoming media center where Information Literacy Standard will be learned in conjunction with content standards.