

SHS Trojan Media Center News

November 2012
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Salutations!

Vince Johnson, II

While the school year is well into swing, I am a bit behind on offering an introduction. My name is Vince, and I will be your Literacy Technician for the Saginaw High School Media Center.

I come to Trojan-land from Merrill Park Elementary, where I was the Home School aide for the last 5 or 6 years (it gets easy to lose count...). I have been employed with Saginaw Public Schools since 1997, when I started as an Accelerated Reader aide at what is now Ruben Daniels Middle. From there, I served at Longfellow Elementary and ISDC (as the Library Aide, for those of you who remember the videos). I guess you could say that I have come full circle now; I started in a Media Center and now I have returned to one.

The staff here at The High has been very welcoming and supportive. I am enjoying my new post and look forward to a successful year as a new Trojan.

Media Center Hours

The Saginaw High School Media Center is open 7:45 am – 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. In keeping with District standards, the Media Center opens 15 minutes after the start of the day and closes 15 minutes after the end of the school day. Please do not send students or bring classes to the Media Center until it is open.

Media Center Operations

No students are allowed to the Media Center without a pass. All students are welcome to come to the Media Center



for books, using tables for quiet study, or the computers. Please do not send more than four students at a time. Any student(s) coming to the Media Center without permission will be refused access.

Students may not be in the Media Center unattended, nor is the Media Center in operation when the Literacy Tech is absent (this is in keeping with SPSD Standards for Media Center Operations).

During testing days, please do not send students to the Media Center with passes during class.

Students are not to have food or beverages in the Media Center **at any time**. This applies to candy and unsealed items as well. Repeated violations will result in Media Center privileges being suspended.

Student Access to Computer Network Resources

– All students are given access to the SPSD network, provided a use and consent form is on file in the Media Center. Students caught using the District's network resources irresponsibly will be subject to having

Network privileges revoked, and possibly other disciplinary actions.

Lunch – The upper classmen typically are allowed to come into the Media Center and use computers, check out books, and enjoy a peaceful social atmosphere. This year, I will be trying something new in having a day for Freshman to have the same privilege. On Wednesdays, starting November 7, 2012, the Media Center will be closed for first lunch and open for second lunch to allow the 9th grade Media Center access for lunch. Since the lunch period can be a little bit noisier, sending students to the Media Center with passes is discouraged.

Check Out – Students are allowed to check out a maximum of four books from the Media Center. They are fined for late books and are responsible for replacing damaged/lost books. This year, students checked out their literacy books through the Media Center, and they are responsible for the book.

Printers – At this time, there is one ream of printer paper in the Media Center. If projects require printing, please bring paper with your class. There is also a color printer for use, but there is a per



copy charge for color prints. The color printer is not available on the Media Center network, and print requests have to be sent to me by email.

Resources – The Media Center still has butcher paper (long paper rolls), Ellison dies, construction paper, and some colored pencils and markers for use in the Media Center. Due to the limited amount of construction paper, students will be charged for any more than three sheets. Also, colored pencils, Ellison dies and die press, and markers are not available for check out.

Media Center Reservations

The Media Center computers, study tables, and the conference rooms can be reserved for use by class and staff. A calendar showing the schedule is on Google calendars. If you cannot access the calendars let me know.

If you need to use the Media Center on days when it is closed due to the Literacy Tech not being present, please contact me so that we can make arrangements.

You can reserve Media Center time by email (vjohnson@spsd.net) or by calling 399-6052. I am terrible with voicemail follow up. I would send me email...

Laptops

The Media Center has one laptop cart available containing sixteen laptops.

The cart may be used in the Media Center or checked out for use in the classroom. If you would like to use them in the classroom, please make the request at least 24 hours before the day needed. The carts can be checked out for 24 hours. When using the laptop carts, please do not remove the power supply for the units from the cart.

The laptops are WiFi capable, however they do experience some difficulty with accessing the network. Should any issues with them arise, record the number of the laptop and issue it is having so that it may be serviced.

Projector & Laptop Carts

The audio/visual carts are still available with TV, DVD, and VHS capability. There is also one cart that is equipped to project DVDs.

The laptop and projector carts are being checked out by department, and are available for use through each subject area’s representative. There are also a couple of carts available for check out that are not designated for particular subject areas.

• Writing Tip •

Did you ever open a document and see this: “□□Δ□□Δ”? “ Many times it is because the document you opened came from a word processing program that your computer doesn’t have. This issue is more common for Mac users who receive documents from users of Microsoft Word.

A simple solution (and one that will benefit the college bound) is to save your document in a .rtf format. .rtf stands for “Rich Text Format” and is a file extension that can be read across many computer operating systems.

Along with the laptop and projectors, there is a document camera, and a Polycom available for staff use. Ask me for details.

Present & Future

Upgrades, Updates & Additions

Saginaw High School has one of the most impressive looking facilities as a Media Center. Over the next few years a few updates and upgrades are planned. While not much can be done to update the computer systems, other plans are in the works for the Media Center.

Books

Over the next few months, new books will be ordered for the SHS Media Center. While new titles are always preferable, this year, most of the new books to be acquired will be used to

replace those that are damaged, obsolete, or out-dated.

Students have voiced an interest in getting new titles; any suggestions and/or requests are welcome. If staff members have any suggestions for materials, from books to DVDs, please feel free to share.

Media Center Audio/Visual

Did you know that the SHS Media Center is outfitted for audio/visual activities? The Media Center has a fully functional audio/visual cabinet that can be used to play video and audio features on the television monitors and ceiling projector.

Currently, this equipment is in good condition, but very much out of date. The current proposal is to update the

• Research Tip •

Wikipedia can be a useful tool for web research. Unfortunately, anyone can write a page about anything and present it to the world as valid information on the site. Often, these pages will have disclaimers from scrutinizing academics, but many readers may not notice or otherwise read them.

Serious writers will include links at the bottom of entries so that sources can be checked and verified. Encourage your students to use these links when using Wikipedia. Such caution is advisable when using any web resource.

projector, switch from VHS to digital media (CDs, iPod/MP3 dock), and computer connectivity to the overhead projector.

The upgrade to the system will allow staff to have a fully interactive experience when using the Media Center with a classroom, as well as provide an excellent means of presentation for staff functions.

At the present time, however, the system is still available to use upon

request for some audio, VHS tape, and limited cable television use.

SHS TV

Hidden in the Media Center is a fully functional broadcast studio. A few years ago, the studio was used for announcements, and a short broadcast in the mornings before school. The system plays on all of the televisions mounted in the classrooms.

An interest in restarting this program has been voiced by some staff and students. With that in mind, preparations are being made to start SHS-TV. The station will be student run and student managed.

The equipment has been checked and seems to be in working order. With the addition of a video camera, the projection is to have the station up and running by January 2013.

Currently, the studio is in the process of being cleaned and prepared for use. Any staff input is greatly appreciated.

Polycom

The Polycom is a wonderful bit of technology that can be used for audio-visual communication. It can be used to communicate with other locations and there are field trips available for classrooms. Classes have even used the Polycom to communicate with students in foreign countries.

For more information regarding the possibilities for using the Polycom with your students speak with me in the Media Center. Also, <http://www.spsd.net/staff/ivc.htm>, contains links to programs and activities that are available.

Book Fair

This year, the SHS Media Center is planning to host a Scholastic Book Fair. At the event, students will have the opportunity to purchase books and items

November 2012 Events

November 2012

Native American Heritage Month

November 6

Election Day!

School closed. Remember to vote!

Tuesdays

**Lunch, SHS Conference Room
Teen Advisory Council Meeting**

The Teen Advisory Council meets every Tuesday in the Media Center in either Conference room A, or Conference Room B-C. See the Conference Calendar for details.

November 12

Veteran's Day

November 13

Veteran's Day (observed)

November 13

National Young Readers Day

November 13, 20, 27

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**SHS Media Center, Conf. Room A
Student Based Health Center**

“I’m Healthy and I Know It”

November 15

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**SHS Media Center, Conf. Room A
Coordinated School Health
Meeting**

November 21-23

No School - Thanksgiving Break

November 22

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29

**SHS Media Center Closed 7:30 –
11:30 am**

from Scholastic. Details will be provided as available.

• **Writing Tip** •

Use Google Docs for student papers and projects. Ask me about Google docs.

Periodicals

Several students have asked whether the Media Center has magazines available or not. At this time, the Media Center does not carry periodicals. There are copies of *Time* magazine in the Media Center that students may use while in the Media Center for research, but they are not available for check out.

Earbuds

Earbuds will be available for purchase in the Media Center. They will cost \$1.75 per set. The earbuds were ordered instead of traditional earbuds to avoid costs involved in constant cleaning and sterilization.

Trojan Media Spotlight

SHS Teen Advisory Committee

A Notable Trojan Moment

Monday, November 5, 2012, a press conference was held in the Saginaw High School Media Center to announce the Teen Advisory Committee's accomplishment of winning \$10,000 in Macy's nationwide Respect! Video Challenge.

Superintendent Carlton Jenkins was in attendance for the press conference and delivered words of commendation and encouragement to the TAC. Amanda Forsmark from the Health Center announced the news. The victorious



Trojans were led to conference by assistant principal, LaMetria Johnson-Eaddy, who also made closing remarks to those present.

Also present to deliver a special congratulatory message, was Michigan State House 95th District Representative, Stacy Erwin Oakes.

Congratulations to the Teen Advisory Council!

...of the Month: Media Squad!

What is it?

At the last Literacy Tech's meeting, the subject of Media Squads came up on the agenda. Basically, students are selected to participate and learn about the operations of the Media Center. The plan is to have four squads in total, one for each grade.

How do students join?

Students interested should inquire within the Media Center. Each "squad" will meet once per week, per grade level during 7th Hour.

What Do They Do?

During squad meetings, students will learn how the books are arranged in the Media Center, how to re-shelve and understand the filing system used for the SHS Media Center and most Libraries. Students will also explore the various types technology available in the Media Center and it's use.

Are there any requirements for participation?

Students who wish to participate in the Media Squad, must have:

- Decent grades
- Be in attendance regularly
- Read two books per month
- Be respectful to themselves and others

Media Squad positions are going fast; each squad will consist of 7 students.