

# **Advocacy Plan**

Melissa Boies

Master of Library and Information Studies, Old Dominion University

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Professor Mary Keeling

## School and Library Mission Statement

The mission of Armel Elementary School is to “create an optimal learning environment which enables all students to achieve their fullest potential by providing quality education with the mutual support of educators, students, parents, peers and the community” (Frederick County Public Schools, 2022). The mission also includes more specifics on the three areas, achieve, educate and support:

“Achieve - We believe success is unique to each student and all students can achieve success.

Educate - We believe we need to educate the whole child based on the needs of each individual, so the student becomes a lifelong learner and upstanding citizen.

Support - We believe we need to support our school community academically, physically, socially, and emotionally” (Frederick County Public Schools, 2022).

The library mission is adapted from the AASL, “staff and students are effective users of ideas and information” (American Association of School Librarians, 2021). Both missions focus on the role of the students’ learning in the school and how the impact of the learning will be utilized by the students. The school’s mission has a focus on the students being “lifelong learners and upstanding citizens” (Frederick County Public Schools, 2022). The library’s mission is focused in how they will be able to use ideas and information.

The school has one librarian that is a certified library media specialist and an instructional assistant. The library is the information center of the school, and the librarian is tasked with helping to promote learning through “critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, and collaboration” (Frederick County Public Schools, n.d.). The library houses print sources as well as online sources that students and teachers can connect to through the schools website.

Armel Elementary School is within the Frederick County Public School system. Armel Elementary School is one of twelve elementary schools in the system (Frederick County Public Schools, n.d.). The school system also has four middle schools and three high schools (Frederick County Public Schools, n.d.). Armel Elementary School current enrollment is 608 students (Frederick County Public Schools, 2022). 22% of students are free and reduced lunch eligible (Virginia Department of Education , n.d.).

The school had a 52% passing rate for the Science SOL assessment (Virginia Department of Education , n.d.). This is the lowest passing rate of any of the schools SOL assessments. The school has been working to make efforts to help improve the science SOL scores. The school recently made the change to have the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade science objectives taught in fifth grade and removed social studies from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum (Shollay, 2022). The social studies curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> and fifth grade is taught in 4<sup>th</sup> grade (Shollay, 2022). The reasoning is to give students a greater opportunity to retain the information learned for science for the SOL tests.

## Stakeholder Analysis and Advocacy

Stakeholder: Principal

Concern: The principal is concerned that the library is not focused on science needs/content for students and teachers.

Goal: The library will increase its focus on the science curriculum and resources through instruction and resource utilization. The librarian will create opportunities for science learning to take place in the library using the librarian role and resources available.

Strategy 1:

Librarian will attend teachers' meetings to determine needs and to assess how to incorporate more science specific library lessons. The librarian will bring a list of current science related lessons the librarian implements to share with the teachers. This will allow for the teachers to provide feedback on the specific science related objectives that may need to be modified or changed. This will also provide a baseline of science lessons that the librarian is currently involved in.

Evaluation:

The strategy will be evaluated through the meeting minutes from the teacher meetings. The librarian will create a science program implementation plan addressing the items discussed at the meeting. The librarian will share the plan on the school's internal website to be accessible for the teachers and administration. The plan will be updated as the items are addressed. A survey will be sent out to teachers' mid-year

and at the end of the year to determine satisfaction with the plan and progress. This will also allow the librarian the opportunity to evaluate and make changes.

#### Strategy 2:

Librarian will create a lib guide of curated science sources for teachers. The sources will include print materials, online resources and other community sources. The librarian will highlight these sources through the school internal website and set up an exhibit for teachers to visit during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter in-service day with the resources. The resources will include a science speakers bureau of local individuals in the science field or retired professionals.

The library sources will also be showcased to the students through the library display at the main entrance of the building. Librarian will add science weeks to the display calendar to highlight science related books throughout calendar year (National Science and Technology Week, Space launches, new discoveries, Earth Day, etc...). The displays will include recommendations from students and teachers.

#### Evaluation:

The lib guide will be one form of evaluation. The lib guide will help show the resources that are available for students and teachers. The speaker's bureau list will also part of the evaluation. The lib guide will also help the librarian maintain and assess the science sources to ensure that all areas and subjects of science are being met. Each year the lib guide will be updated to reflect new sources.

The display calendar, and pictures will be posted to the schools' social media site. The calendar and picture post will help promote the library's science resources

and share with students, teachers, parents, and administration what is available. The science books and sources will be reviewed for circulation statistics.

#### Strategy 3:

Librarian will develop and implement inquiry based learning lesson plans for science for each grade level biannually based on feedback from teachers and to fill in gaps from current science curriculum taught in library. The lessons will align with the curriculum and science SOL objectives.

Evaluation: The number of lesson plans will be part of the evaluation. The assessments following the lesson plans will be the evaluation that the lessons were implemented. The librarian will share the assessments with the teachers following the lesson. The librarian will add lessons to the curriculum calendar for future use.

#### Strategy 4:

The librarian will follow up with the principal on the goal and plan for the library to incorporate more science. The follow up will occur quarterly. The librarian will also communicate through the school's internal website, newsletters, social media, and professional days its efforts for teachers, students, administrators, and parents. The librarian wants to ensure and communicate that science is a focused area within the library.

#### Evaluation:

The librarian will evaluate efforts through the communication points that the librarian was able to disseminate. The librarian will also use the end of the year survey

that will be sent to teachers to evaluate their awareness and satisfaction with the action items and science-related lessons.

## Action Plan

Action Item	Completion
<b>Strategy 1</b>	
Compile list of current science lessons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend teachers' meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask for feedback on science related objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of meeting minutes from meetings with teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create science program implementation plan based on feedback from teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upload implementation plan to internal website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update plan as action items completed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Send out survey mid-year for feedback	<input type="checkbox"/>
Send out survey end of year	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Strategy 2</b>	
Review and create a list of sources of science related topics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create lib guide using sources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact community sources to consider to be on speakers' bureau	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create list of speakers' bureau with contact information and background on speakers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add to lib guide	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add lib guide to internal website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create exhibit for professional day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Execute the professional day exhibit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update lib guide at least annually	<input type="checkbox"/>
Look up various science weeks/days	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add science weeks to library display calendar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask students and teachers for recommendations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create displays for science weeks/days	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take pictures of displays for social media and have posted on social media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review circulation of science related books	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Strategy 3</b>	
Use feedback from teachers' meeting to review current lessons.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop/Modify science lessons for each grade to have lessons for every grade x 2/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
K	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<input type="checkbox"/>



Implement science lessons for each grade x 2/year	<input type="checkbox"/>
K	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Strategy 4</b>	
Update principal quarterly on goal and plan for the library to incorporate more science	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarter 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarter 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarter 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarter 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create science communication for:	
Internal website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional day	<input type="checkbox"/>

## References

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