Because of their interaction with the entire school community and knowledge of information technologies, school librarians are in a unique position to shape educational innovation and positively impact student learning and achievement.”
– Dr. Mirah Dow, co-author of the Kansas Library Media Specialists Study, 2011

“Today’s school libraries are much more than warehouses of books – they are knowledge spaces.... (and) serve a critical role as dynamic agents of learning with a full range of quality print and (online) resources....We need adequately funded school libraries, led by credentialed school librarians.”
--From “Strong School Libraries Help Students Learn,” 2006

“Certified library media specialists and aides emerged as the most critical component of the library media program at all school levels. Well-staffed programs, especially those with full-time professional and support staff, exerted a greater impact on student academic performance.”
—Ester Smith, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2006

Sources

Announcement of “The Kansas Library Media Specialist Study,”


Kachel, Debra E. School Library Research Summarized.


Source: Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education
With Our Test Scores

- The Kansas Library Media Specialist (LMS) Study, which looks at our state assessments, says the results indicate “schools with a full-time LMS significantly outperform schools with no LMS.”
- In fact, secondary schools in Kansas schools WITHOUT a certified school librarian score about 9 points less on state Reading Assessments compared to schools WITH a full-time librarian, according to the 2011 Kansas Library Media Specialist Study Draft from the Kansas Dept. of Education and Emporia State University. The study looks at 2.5 million Kansas Assessment scores and 1,390 building-proficiency rates from the years 2006 to 2009. There were scores from 720 Kansas secondary schools used in the study, which looked at both proficiency changes and proficiency levels.
- National studies from 22 states show that schools with a certified school librarian have higher test scores, usually scoring about 10 percent higher on state assessments.

With Our Students

- School Librarians support students with extensive knowledge, enthusiasm and experience to advise and inspire reading, both for research pleasure.
- School Librarians teach students skills to manage today's information overload and help them become college- and career-ready.
- The students of Shawnee Mission are entitled to a safe and secure library environment during and outside school hours where help, resources and instruction are freely available under the supervision of a certified school librarian. In Shawnee Mission, secondary school librarians have classroom experience and graduate-level training in library science.
- Research shows that students are more successful in college if they graduate from a high school with a certified school librarian.
- The other large districts in Johnson County have a full-time certified school librarian in each secondary school, along with library aides (Blue Valley has two librarians and a full-time aide in each high school).

With Our Teachers

- School Librarians are familiar with the school's curriculum and trained in both the Information Literacy curriculum and 21st Century Technology skills.
- School Librarians collaborate with teachers on units of instruction and provide online resources for specific class assignments.
- When teachers need resources, school librarians use their training and expertise to help them select the appropriate materials.
- Teachers rely on the school librarian for current information about copyright, trademark, technology and research practices.