PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM

The school library media center is a vital and integral hub of the school and as a result reflects the philosophy and goals of the school and the district. In an age of information, acquiring information literacy skills and a commitment for lifelong reading and learning become paramount. In the school library media center, students develop critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills as they use a variety of resources to meet the demands of today’s curriculum.

A library media program does not exist in isolation. The school library media specialist works in partnership with students, teachers, administrators, Board of Education members, and the school community to develop the library media program. Through collaboration, the library media program also incorporates the goals and objectives of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and the National Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning as prepared by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT). The combined vision supports the goal for educational excellence and the concept of intellectual freedom.

The principles for learning and teaching of school library media programs have been identified and developed by the Information Power Vision Committee. (Information Power 58)

- **Principle 1**: The library media program is essential to learning and teaching and must be fully integrated into the curriculum to promote students’ achievement of learning goals.
- **Principle 2**: The information literacy standards for student learning are integral to the content and objectives of the school’s curriculum.
- **Principle 3**: The library media program models and promotes collaborative planning and curriculum development.
- **Principle 4**: The library media program models and promotes creative, effective, and collaborative teaching.
- **Principle 5**: Access to the full range of information resources and services through the library media program is fundamental to learning.
• **Principle 6**: The library media program encourages and engages students in reading, viewing, and listening for understanding and enjoyment.

• **Principle 7**: The library media program supports the learning of all students and other members of the learning community who have diverse learning abilities, styles, and needs.

• **Principle 8**: The library media program fosters individual and collaborative inquiry.

• **Principle 9**: The library media program integrates the uses of technology for learning and teaching.

• **Principle 10**: The library media program is an essential link to the larger learning community.

Information and technology skills are most meaningful when learned within a subject area, within an interdisciplinary unit, or within a unit which addresses an authentic, real-life need or problem. Students must be prepared to access, evaluate, select, and apply the appropriate information to meet their educational, personal, and recreational needs.

Students must be prepared to acquire materials and resources to meet their current and lifelong needs. They will need to know how to access, evaluate and choose from a constantly changing and growing reservoir of information for educational, personal, and recreational purposes.