

As an educator of 28 years, first in the classroom and now as a teacher –librarian, I want to go on record to discuss how important fully staffed libraries are to our students' success. My library serves 1800 students and over 125 staff. We are all about inspiration and information. I teach students all day— information literacy or writing workshops, how to use the catalog to find what they love to read or how to evaluate websites. Because my high school students have been in schools with understaffed libraries for the last 9 years, it is up to me to catch them up as quickly as possible so they can become independent learners post high school and in the world. In addition, I put on events to get them excited about words-theirs and others. I carefully select and purchase titles they want to read. I support teachers as they decide what to teach and I try to get them what they need to differentiate instruction. I do one-on one tutoring, editing, and college application support. We are a study skills center where something is happening all the time. If you want to check out just a bit of our program, feel free to take a look at my library website, [The Franklin Toolbox](#).

Some say – why do we need libraries in the time of Google. This is what I tell my kids. . . there are so many more efficient reliable tools than Google when you want good information, but you don't know what you don't know. It is my job to introduce you to some of those tools. You learned how to Google Search when you were 6 years old. If you go to college and you only know how to Google, you are going to college with nothing more than the skills of a 6 year old. Colleges want and need more than that. If you stick with me—you will have a full toolbelt before you leave high school.

Unfortunately in a school this size just one librarian is not enough to make sure all students have these skills. I can serve only the most assertive teachers, and the rest of them. . . well they also don't know what they don't know.

The teachers I do serve, get top quality collaboration and integrated research instruction. They get advice on how to find the right level texts for their students. As administrator of a school wide program, the librarian has a unique perspective to offer her administration as well. Without adequately funded and fully staffed libraries, our students miss out on significant support and learning. Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra J. Childs, LMS (preferred pronouns- she/her)
Ed Media, Social Studies, Language Arts
Franklin High School
sjchilds@pps.net
<http://franklintoolbox.wordpress.com>
See Online Calendar [HERE](#)

5405 SE Woodward
Portland OR 97206
503 916 5140

"Education would be much more effective if its purpose was to ensure that by the time they leave school every boy and girl should know how much they do not know and be imbued with a lifelong desire to know it." -- William Haley