

Armstrong/Boynton Media Center

Annual Report
July, 2011

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Highlights for 2010-2011

- Freshman orientations conducted
- Collaboration in information literacy instruction with English, special education and science department teachers
- Coffee Café opens

It has been a challenging year in the media center due to a new schedule. Student visits increased substantially over last year.



The media center continues to be host to a variety of community and school activities, including a night course through Mount Wachusett Community College and a presentation from Sharon McDonald's class on wildlife for the Skyfields Arboretum Bluebird project.

The new media center coffee café opened on Wednesday mornings and is proving to be very popular. The café is open all day and serves up coffee, tea and latte, as well as a variety of bakery items, some which are donated by Hannaford supermarket.



ACTIVITIES

Services

I began visiting with individual departments toward my goal of becoming more visible and accessible to faculty. I had the opportunity to meet with the humanities department and history departments this spring. I found the meetings to be quite useful in planning and promoting media center programs and services.

Collaboration/Curriculum

Collaboration with Gary Culver, Coco Plotkin, Scott Madden, Sharon McDonald, and Missy Perez resulted in the following instruction sessions:

- Media center orientations
- Database use
- Media center resources
- Evaluating web sites
- Literary Criticism 101
- APA citation style

Through these collaborations I was able to highlight the media center databases and wiki resources to the students who found them very helpful. In Scott Madden's class, I helped students create a wiki and assisted Sharon McDonald's biology honors class in setting up Google web pages.

Other activities:

- This year I once again offered the following activities:
 - *Creepy Reading* - Students browsed the media center's horror/mystery/suspense collection, discussed their favorite scary stories and were invited to share their own creepy stories, all while enjoying creepy foods such as witches fingers, kitty litter cake, witches brew and stuffed "cockroaches." Randy Price submitted a short story he wrote in Lori Lamothe's creative writing class.
 - *School Library Month* – Several activities were planned for this event. The theme was "Show Off @ Your Library." Students were invited to display their original artwork – poems, music, paintings, etc. throughout the media center. Students and faculty were also invited to create a story mobile with prizes going to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.
 - *Final Follies* – Students who could not go home after finals were invited to the media center to watch a movie, try their hand at shadow puppets, origami and balloon animals or to play games. Hot chocolate, bottled water, popcorn and cookies were available.

- *Banned Books Week* – Intern Mary Euvrard created a colorful display on the cafeteria bulletin board inviting students to exercise their right to read. An attractive display was set up in the media center as well. Many students were surprised at some other books had once been challenged or banned from schools and libraries.
- Our book club had its first fundraising effort by selling baked goods in the cafeteria during lunch. They hope to raise more money next year and do some community outreach.
- I launched the media center Facebook page and several students have become fans
- I was able to purchase a Flip video camera and digital camera this year, both of which got quite a bit of use, especially by Jess Verock's art students, and by Scott Madden and Sharon McDonald for their class activities and projects.
- I oversaw 6 Virtual High School students in semester one and 2 in semester two and conducted a VHS information session for potential students
- I had the privilege of having three interns this year – Mary Euvrard, Nate Coleman and Kayla King. Mary and Kayla were especially helpful in creating displays and signage promoting the media center activities and programs. Nate was a tremendous help in updating the school web site and media center wiki.
- I conducted a media center open house on parent's night. An information poster about the media center services and the value of the media center within the school community was displayed and information brochures were available. Refreshments were also served.



THE COLLECTION

This year I was able to purchase 464 books, including 4 e-books. Approximately 280 items were weeded from the collection. These items either had a very old (pre 1990) copyright date, had not circulated for more than five years, or were in poor condition.

The class of 1945 donated [\\$The Class of 1945 donated \\$](#)547.49 toward the [purchase](#) of 11 books, 4 DVDs and 2 audio books.

The average age of the collection has risen to an average copyright date of 1992, a slight increase over the 2010-2011 average age of 1990. We now have 4,943 titles in the collection. I will be conducting an inventory over the summer and hope to weed out more outdated titles.

Circulation

1,297 items have been circulated this year. This is not a very significant increase from last year's circulation of 1,133 items. The majority of items circulated were in the fiction and 700 classification areas. Graphic novels are classified in the 741.5 section. There were 112 graphic novel circulations, hence the rise in circulations within the 700 section. Students use the internet and databases almost exclusively for research purposes.

Magazines and Journals

I was able to maintain/purchase subscriptions to 38 curriculum and personal interest magazines, and 5 professional journals and magazines this year, slightly less than last year. Magazines continue to be popular among the students. I was also able to maintain subscriptions to the Greenfield Recorder and the Athol Daily News.

Online Resources

In addition to the Infotrac databases provided through the Central Massachusetts Regional library System, the following database subscriptions were purchased:

- CQ Researcher
- JSTOR Scholarly Archive
- Rosen's Teen Health and Wellness
- Facts on File:
 - American History Online
 - Ancient and Medieval History Online
 - Modern World History Online
 - Ferguson's Career Guidance Center
 - Writer's Reference Center

With the exception of JSTOR, use of database subscriptions is still quite low. Again I believe the reason for this is that it is difficult to promote their value and use. Conducting classes in the

use of databases has been difficult, and I have been able to only briefly point them out and explain their use and content when various classes come in for research. Because they were used very little, I will be dropping CQ Researcher and Writer's Reference Center. I plan to purchase a subscription to Facts on File's video streaming instead. The trial version was well received by the faculty.

MEDIA CENTER USAGE

This year I included in my patron count the number of individual students who came to the media center during guided studies, classes and lunch:

Before school

Semester 1
307

Semester 2
474

Total semester 1 and 2: 781

During school

Semester 1
3026

Semester 2
3740

Total semester 1 and 2: 6766

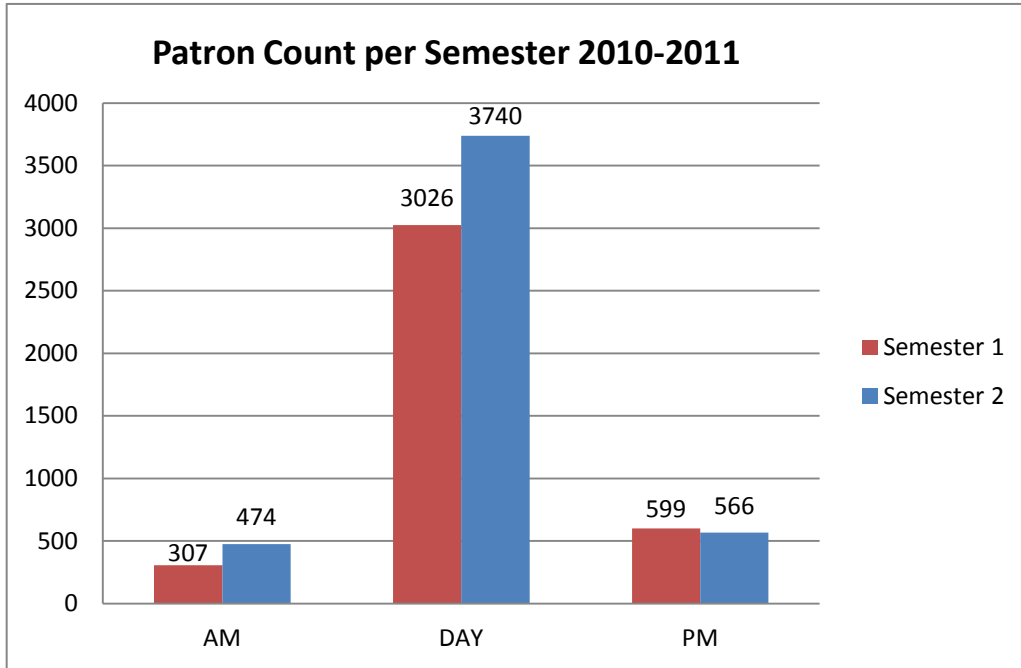
After school

Semester 1
599

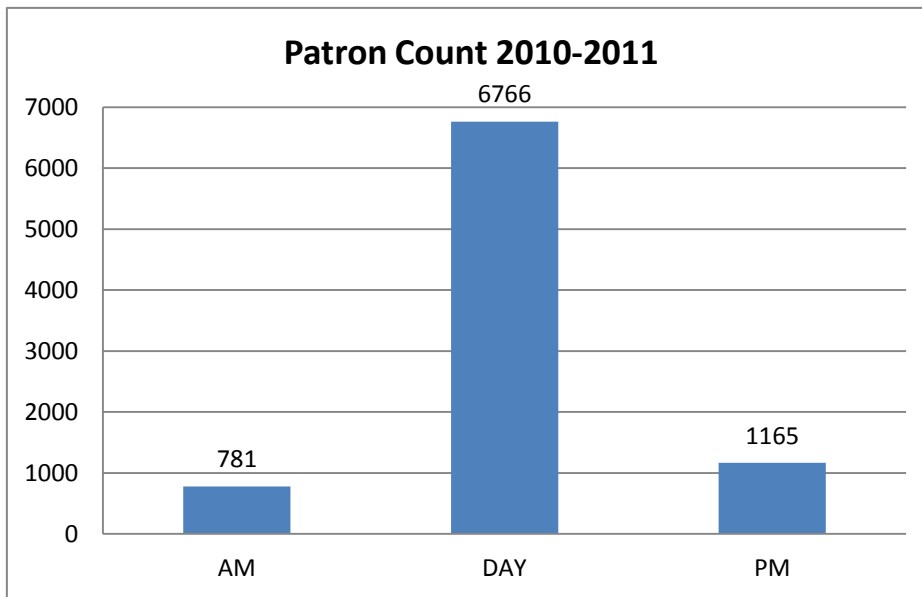
Semester 1
566

Total semester 1 and 2: 1165

This is a significant increase in students accessing the media center before school from last year. In 2009-2010, 385 students came in before school. There were fewer students coming in after school (down from 1,584), but it still is a significant amount. This may be due in part to students having guided studies and were able to come to the media center during the day.



Although there were no patron counts conducted during school hours last year, the data for 2010-2011 shows a significant amount of individual student visits:





Classes scheduled – 9/1 – 6/20

One hundred and twenty seven more classes were scheduled in the media center this past school year than in 2009-2010:

Semester 1 – 2009-2010

Semester 2 - 2009-2010

310

262

Total classes scheduled 2009-2010: 572

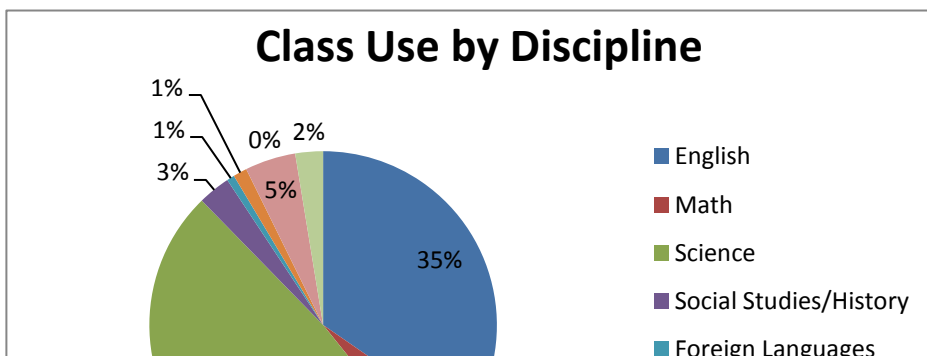
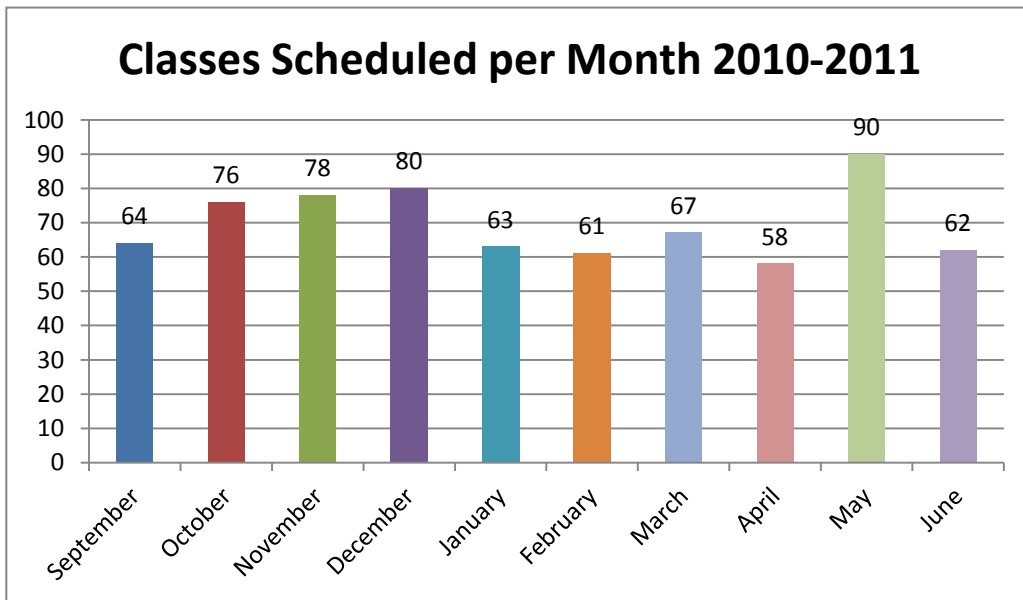
Semester 1 – 2010-2011

Semester 2 – 2010-2011

361

338

Total classes scheduled 2010-2011: 699



MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Meetings and activities accommodated

- Community Based Justice
- College visits
- TAB training
- Math and English MCAS testing
- Department head meetings
- Virtual High School information sessions
- Social studies department meeting (all day)
- Faculty meetings
- Book club
- English department meeting (all day)
- Professional development workshops
- Future planning presentations
- Library reading incentive programs
- Science class presentations
- AP teachers meeting
- PSAT review
- AP lunch



Afternoon and Evening meetings accommodated

- School improvement council
- MWCC first year experience classes
- MA environmental police boating safety classes
- Math league practice
- Red Cross training for cafeteria workers
- Saturday school
- PSAT test information and practice
- Athletic family meeting
- AP grant meeting
- Financial aid night
- AHS Scholarship Association meeting

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- I completed the first of 5 courses required for a certificate in online teaching and learning
- I attended several in-district professional development workshops
- I attended the Massachusetts School Library Association conference in Sturbridge and attended workshops on Grants, digital storytelling, enhancing student research using web 2.0 tools, and common core state standards for ELA
- I conducted a presentation on media center services to all faculty members during the October professional development session
- I attended an MSLA discussion session on long range planning, social media, e-books and e-book devices

CONCERNS

- Six rolling chairs need to be replaced due to wear
- The color printer needs to be available via the network. This printer is not only used for media center purposes, but is also used for art projects
- Air conditioners are needed for the comfort of students and faculty using the media center and to keep the computers in the lab from becoming overheated
- Although the online catalog has been installed on the school server, it still needs to be accessible remotely
- The computers in the main part of the media center continue to be plagued with network problems. They frequently have IP conflicts and cannot be networked to the printer that is installed near them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Again this year, I have been staying until 3:00 or longer most days, unofficially keeping the media center open beyond the posted hours. Student use before and after school hours has risen significantly. According to the results of the student survey taken in 2010, a majority of students prefer to have the media center open at 7:00 and stay open after school at least until 3:30. Because of these factors, I recommend the hours be changed to 7:00 – 3:30 at least three days per week.

The media center has become substantially busier this year. Student use is up significantly from last year. Supervising students that come from classes and assisting classes who come to the media center leaves very little time to promote media center services, collaborate with teachers and manage the day to day clerical and managerial responsibilities of a busy library. I again very strongly recommend hiring an assistant at least part time to help with the clerical duties and to supervise and maintain the computer lab. The assistant's hours could include before and after school coverage.

GOALS FOR 2011-2012

I will continue to work on meeting the objectives of 2009-2010, concentrating on the results of the survey I sent out in the spring of 2010.

I plan on having two guest authors come to the media center in the fall.

This past year I researched grant opportunities and plan to start applying for grants in the coming school year. Since many of these grants involve working with teachers in specific areas, they will provide me with an opportunity to strengthen collaborative efforts with teachers.

I created a blog and hope to promote it as a learning and library news tool. I also plan to promote the media center's Facebook page as a way of communicating with the students about media center activities and services.

I plan to continue to develop an online information literacy course using the ItsLearning platform.

Planned (tentative) programs and activities:

- Teen Read Week
- Anime/Manga club
- Start a library advisory group

Submitted July 29, 2011

Sharon Euvrard

Marion C. Armstrong/ John W. Boynton Media Center Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Marion C. Armstrong/John W. Boynton Media Center of the Athol High School, as the information hub of the school community, to provide the technology and resources necessary to enhance the curriculum and ensure that all members of the school community succeed in developing effective critical thinking skills when evaluating ideas and information, whether for classroom study or personal inquiry.

The media center is dedicated to facilitating collaboration with faculty, administrators and the community and in providing access to information in all forms in order to foster a lifetime interest in reading and learning.

Athol High School Mission statement

The Athol –Royalston Regional School District is committed to providing all children with the opportunity to reach their full individual potential and to become productive members of their communities. We will try to provide our students with the confident question their world and the ability to seek answers and make changes.

In partnership with parents, teachers, students and the community, the school system will promote social and academic excellence by stressing cooperation, communication and collaboration.

American Library Association Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning Mission

“...to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. This mission is accomplished:

- By providing intellectual and physical access to materials in all formats
- By providing instruction to foster competence and stimulate interest in reading, viewing and using information and ideas
- By working with other educators to design learning strategies to meet the needs of individual students.”

Athol High School learning expectation #4

Students will use a variety of resources and technologies to acquire, evaluate, apply and communicate information.