OHM BOCES SLS/Media Newsletter
December 2020

What's New / FAQ

Learn360/CVOD - Links Updated, Issues Resolved

Recently, many people have had issues with the SNAP links for Learn360 and Classroom Video on Demand resources. Learn360/CVOD had changed their permanent link addresses, which caused these problems. The SNAP links have now been updated, so these issues should be resolved and all links should work properly.

Sora/Overdrive - Updates and Information

Collections

Over the past several months, we have been updating and creating new, browsable digital book collections on various subjects for the Explore page in Sora. We intend to continue creating more collections, as it seems to have increased interest and checkouts.

Multiple Copies

We've recently purchased quite a few new titles for our Overdrive library, including several titles of 30, 50, 100, or even 300 copies. These can be found on the Explore page in Sora under the Multiple Copies collection, and can be used by teachers for class assignments or just for casual reading. The number of copies we own of a title can be found by clicking on its cover, then clicking "More Details" beneath its listed Levels.

Class Sets & Title Assignments

Please follow these procedures if a teacher would like to assign an Overdrive/Sora title to their class:

*If we already own enough copies of the title, email the Media Center account at mediacenter@oneida-boces.org with the name and email address/username of everyone who needs a copy assigned, including the teacher if they need one, as well as the requested dates.

*If we do not own any or enough copies of the title, email Betsy Hartnett at ehartnett@oneida-boces.org so we can determine the title's availability, pricing, and whose funds would be used for the purchase.

Accounts for New Students

If a new student needs a Sora (and SNAP/Discovery) account, you can email the Media Center account at mediacenter@oneida-boces.org. Please include their name, school email address/username, grade/building, and password (only if district-assigned).

Literacy and the Connected Classroom in the COVID-19 Era

December 8, 2020 - 4:30pm EST

Dr. Tim Rasinski, Professor of Literacy Education at Kent State University, joins Learning A-Z to explore what works and what's changed when it comes to instruction and practice of foundational literacy skills in the COVID-19 era. This free, one-hour webinar will be highly interactive, allowing attendees to respond to live poll questions to share their experiences and participate in a dialogue with Dr. Rasinski. Gain actionable knowledge including:

- Best practices for extending foundational skills from the classroom to the home
- Tips for classroom, hybrid, and distance learning models, and for pivoting from one to another

Register Here

Computer Science Education Week 2020
December 7th-13th

Celebrate CS EdWeek 2020 with a new Hour of Code activity from CS First - no internet or devices needed!

Google has just released its latest CS First activity as part of this year's Hour of Code, a celebration of Computer Science Education Week which starts on December 7! Hour of Code™ activities may look different in 2020 for many teachers, students, and families, so to support a variety of learning environments, CS First created a new lesson that can be used completely offline and without a computer. CS First Unplugged includes a printable booklet that contains three computational thinking activities in which students (grades 4-8) learn about how computer science helps us communicate and stay connected with people around the world.

Check out the CS First's Hour of Code lessons

For those looking to participate in Hour of Code with a connected device, CS First's Dialogue lesson is a great one to engage with this year. This beginner-friendly activity includes video-based instruction to guide students as they program a conversation between two characters. They'll use Scratch, a block-based coding language, to animate and bring their story to life with movement, dialogue and more.

CS First Unplugged and Dialogue are both available in English and Spanish. Lesson plans and solution guides for teachers (or parents and guardians!) are provided so that anyone can teach and learn with Hour of Code™ -- no prior CS experience required.

Project READY: Re-imagining Equity & Access for Diverse Youth

A 5-month course (January 2021-May 2021) for school librarians, educators, and others interested in improving their knowledge about race and racism, racial equity, and culturally sustaining pedagogy to be prepared for difficult conversations. The primary focus of the Project READY curriculum is on improving relationships with, services to, and resources for youth of color and Native youth. The project will be led and taught by Dr. Evangela Q. Oates.

More information and registration here: https://www.senylrc.org/ProjectReady

The program will consist of a mix of ten live webinars, regular engagement with the trainer and other students, and dozens of on-your-own modules using the Project Ready curriculum, which is online here: https://ready.web.unc.edu/. The trainer will work out the exact schedule of live webinars with the participants once everyone is enrolled.

The entire course is worth 30 CTLE credits and costs $225.

Upcoming Grants

Professional Development Awards - Small grants from CLRC to attend a conference, now including virtual opportunities. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

New Initiatives Grant - Grants for new, innovative programs or services you'd like to offer. Deadlines are quarterly: the next is December 31st.

EMTA Media Literacy Project Grant - $1,250 for certified teachers in NY State who are working with Pre-K-12 students on media literacy. Deadline: December 15th.

Useful Resources

NYS Historic Newspapers
The NYS Historic Newspapers project provides free online access to a wide range of newspapers chosen to reflect New York's unique history. Click the link above to visit their website, or click here to view their November 2020 newsletter.

Project Look Sharp
Project Look Sharp is a nonprofit, mission-driven outreach program of Ithaca College designed to help K-12 educators enhance students' critical thinking, metacognition, and civic engagement through media literacy materials. Some of their newest lessons revolve around voting and democracy.

American Indians in Children's Literature: Best Books of 2020
A new book list for adding diversity to the library collection

SLJ COVID-19 Publisher Information Directory
School Library Journal has updated their list of publishers' policies on reading books aloud online during the Covid-19 pandemic. Click the link above and see the starred publishers in the Table of Contents for those with extended dates.

Free Access to Skillshare and Treehouse via CLRC
CLRC is happy to offer free member access to two exciting on-demand learning platforms. Skillshare offers online classes in design, business, technology, photography, entrepreneurship, and writing. Treehouse offers technology education to people everywhere in order to help them achieve their dreams and change the world. Registration for both platforms will be rotated on a first-come, first-serve basis, but you will have at least two weeks of access. Request access via the above link.

2020 Kindergarten Transition Summit Resources
A list of free digital resources, tools, and guides for local educators and parents, intended to spark playful learning, offer children comfort, and guide parents and caregivers. Assembled by Madison-Oneida BOCES for their Kindergarten Transition Summit.

NOVELNY E-Resources Extended through 2022

The New York State Library has announced that the current collection of NOVELNY (New York Online Virtual Electronic Library) free statewide e-resources will be extended for an additional year through June 30, 2022. For a brief description of each e-resource, please see the descriptions on the NOVELNY site.

Relevant NOVELNY databases can be accessed through your school's individual Search Digital Resources Databases page. The full collection can also be seen on the BOCES NOVELNY Search page.

 NOVELNY is an electronic resource access project that enables libraries across New York State to give their communities free online access to the full text of thousands of journals, newspapers and other references. Provided by the New York State Library, NOVELNY is supported with temporary federal Library Services and Technology Act funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).