

**Washington Township High School IMC  
Monthly Report  
October 2007**

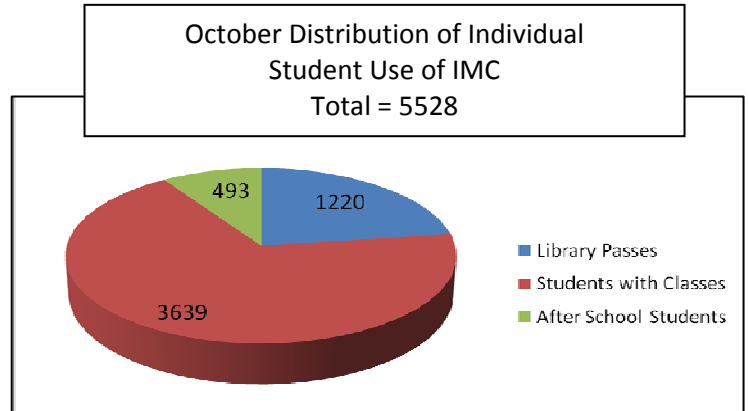
**Teaching and Learning**

**Statistics**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Classes</b>    | <b>175</b> |
| English           | 46         |
| Health            | 1          |
| Mathematics       | 2          |
| Science           | 9          |
| Social Studies    | 94         |
| Special Education | 18         |
| Technology        | 5          |

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Students with classes | 3639 |
| Students with passes  | 1220 |
| Students after school | 493  |

**Total Number of Students 5528**



\*\*The librarians taught 50 more classes and there were 1894 more individual students that utilized the IMC this October than October of 2006.

**Information Skills**

During the month of October, the librarians collaborated with the teachers of 176 classes to design information literacy assignments to determine the skills that would be team taught in the IMC. The librarians then used the assignment to create individual lesson plans for each class that included the development of any necessary hand outs, graphic organizers, Power Point presentations, WebPages, and grading rubrics. During each class's time in the IMC, the librarians worked alongside the teachers to ensure that the students acquired the information skills required to successfully complete the assignment.

**Highlights**

***My Forbidden Face Wiki***

- The librarians collaborated with the Sociology teachers to design an innovative lesson that reinforced the importance of reading and the use of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacy Skills while utilizing a new technological tool.
- Students were assigned specific areas of Afghanistan culture, history and politics that were discussed in chapter of the book.
- The Librarians created an information literacy lesson complete with graphic organizers that led the students through the research process including instruction on the use of search terms, evaluating sources and organizing information gathered.
- Students were then taught how to use a wiki, collaborative webpage created by librarians, to present their information in a logical, informative manner complete with multimedia files and source citations.

## Information Literacy Lessons by Subject

### English

- English 9 classes in Writing Lab began the cycle for the biography research paper. The collaboration between classroom teacher and librarian included an introduction to IMC resources, PowerPoint presentations and brochures on biographical and periodical databases, and handouts on the MLA format for source cards and note cards
- English 11 students participated in a Round Robin for selecting a book for independent reading. The librarians also demonstrated Web Collection Plus, other available catalogs, and Novelist as resources for finding titles.

### Health

- Health classes began researching drugs to complete a brochure. The librarians demonstrated the basics for creating brochures and provided a handout as a step-by-step guide. The students were shown the Pathfinder for Prescription and Illegal Drugs and given a demonstration on using ebooks as well as the newest databases.

### Mathematics

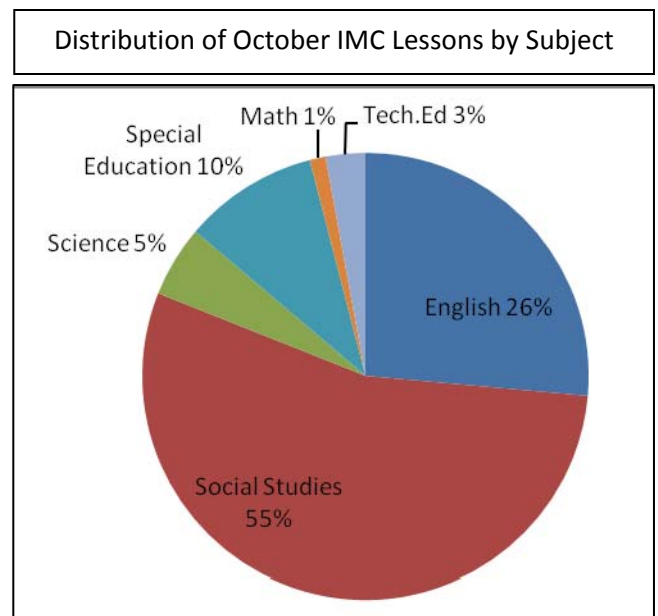
- Statistics classes were given a demonstration on College Matchmaker from the College Board site to access information about various colleges and universities for a project.

### Science

- Biology classes used the IMC resources to research endangered populations due to destruction of the ecosystem. The librarians gave a presentation on science databases relevant to the topics and reviewed search terms and printing procedures.
- Environmental Science students were involved in research for pollution inventions and protocol projects. Again, demonstrations were given on relevant databases. Students were directed to the Environmental Issues section of the Pathfinder as well as to Web Collection Plus.

### Social Studies

- The librarians reviewed literary databases and demonstrated the new Ebsco format for AP European History students in order to help them research The Prince for a Reformation Role Playing project.
- U. S. History I students worked on two projects. Some students were involved in a project involving the five factors of production, and others researched explorers and exploration routes. The librarians reviewed databases learned last year and presented new ones relevant to each project. The differences between periodicals and scholarly journals were discussed as well as the importance of search terms.
- U. S. History II classes were also involved in a variety of research. The mock trial project continued and a Grasp Task Design Prompt was used to aid students in focusing on goals and essential questions. The librarians reviewed databases and type of information available on each as well as the differences between periodicals and scholarly journals. Research papers were also assigned to some classes. Presentations were provided on relevant resources, ebooks, and Web Collection Plus. Additional instruction was given to some classes on thesis statements and MLA format for Works Cited.
- World History classes completed the freshman orientation cycle.



### Special Education

- Students participated in a Round Robin to sample and select books for an independent reading assignment. Some were then taught how to use a wiki, collaborative webpage created by librarians, to write book reviews. Comments will be added to these pages as other students read the various titles. Others were involved in using the audio books for their selections.
- Freshmen Social Studies classes completed the freshman orientation cycle.

### Technology Education

- Students researched careers in technology for presentations. The Occupational Outlook Handbook was reviewed.

### Information Access and Delivery

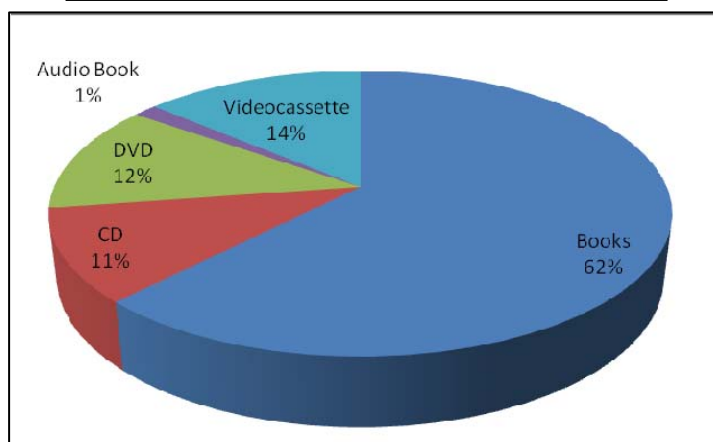
#### Statistics

Books/audio-visual checked out 1621  
Magazines/articles requested 132  
Interlibrary Loan Requests 27

#### Technology Update

- IMC Databases were each configured so that WTHS staff and students could access them from home with the use of only one username and password. This was accomplished through the use of a Proxy server that was purchased for the Digital Audio Books and the EZProxy program. The time and effort spent to accomplish this daunting task was well worth knowing that staff and students now have access to the most reliable research materials from home.
- Database of Digital Audio Books was added to the IMC Homepage along with instructions on how the audio books can be downloaded and played on home computers. All of the available titles were also added to the IMC's online catalog and are currently being added to a print catalog for easier access of titles.
- Librarians developed instructions for PB Wiki which were used for the Sociology class wiki and will be use din future lesson plans. Creating collaborative WebPages for class assignments will be emphasized to reinforced information literacy skills during the 2007-2008 school year.
- The IMC's collection of EBooks was expanded upon and added to multiple lessons during the month of October. EBooks are full-text electronic versions of reference books. They are searchable, subject specific, accessible from any computer by multiple students and provide access to books that would not typically be allowed to check out of the IMC. Most of the EBooks can also be searched simultaneously with other online databases for search results that include articles from books, magazines, academic journals and newspapers in addition to multimedia files.
- IMC EBoard and IMC homepage has been updated weekly with any newsletters or promotional materials to keep the WTHS community informed of any news from the IMC

Percentage of IMC Materials Loaned by Format—October 2007



## Reading Promotion

### Student Book Club

- Promotional material was displayed in the hallways and on the IMC homepage to advertise the October Book Club selection, *The Christopher Killer* by Alane Ferguson.
- The discussion schedule was posted to the Student Book Club section of the homepage and emailed to English teachers.
- The student book club met to discuss the October book and plans for the upcoming events including the combined discussion of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* with the staff book club and Sociology students in November, author visits and ideas for a service project.

### Additional Information

- The November joint Student Book Club, Faculty Book Club, and sociology students' discussion was organized. These participants will be discussing Afghanistan as portrayed in [The Kite Runner](#), [A Thousand Splendid Suns](#), and [My Forbidden Face](#).
- The Faculty Book Club schedule was posted on the IMC homepage.

### IMC Displays

- Displayed books on New Jersey history and culture
- Created a LOL @ You Library bulletin board promoting humorous books
- Celebrated Teen Read Week with a display of Young Adult literature
- Created a bulletin board with a map of the United States using the Where's Waldo contest about where WTHS staff traveled during summer vacation. Brenda Colman was the winner of this contest.
- Displayed staff book picks in a separate area of the IMC to highlight the WTHS' favorite books.

### Program Administration

- Ann Hill was recognized by the New Jersey Association of School Librarians for her innovative programs and will receive the Jean M. Harris award at the state convention in November.
- Mrs. Gaughan attended a Gloucester County AVA Board meeting where plans to restructure services that the AVA offers was discussed. Mrs. Gaughan submitted her suggestions for the implementation of new technologies to Gloucester County Superintendent Dr. Mark Stanwood.
- Ms. Hill & Mrs. Gaughan participated in a meeting on the development of an action plan to address SAT scores. They researched an online database that allows students to take practice tests and registered for a free trial that was submitted to administrators.
- Ms. Hill attended a meeting of the SJRLC school group at Seneca high school to discuss teen advocacy and volunteerism on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The librarians contacted various young adult authors to schedule an author visit for the One Book Township Program and Read Across America. Sports writer Sam Carchidi and award winning YA author Carolyn Mackler are tentatively scheduled to discuss their writing with WTHS students in March and May.
- The 2008-2009 budget was prepared and submitted for review.

- Ms. Hill traveled to Trenton with Ms. Blistan's students to be recognized for her work with the NJ Hall of Fame project. She designed a lesson with Ms. Blistan where the students researched the potential inductees for an in school media campaign then invited WTHS social studies classes to vote for the most deserving figure in each category. Ms. Hill and Ms. Blistan were recognized since WTHS submitted more votes than any other organization in the state.
- The monthly newsletter was distributed to staff describing the new databases and recent additions made to the IMC collection. The EZProxy program for accessing databases was also explained.