Celebrate Libraries

April is School Library Month. Some of my favorite school memories are those involving time in school libraries. I loved being surrounded by books, researching and enjoying the peace and quiet! Today, school libraries are so much more than they were during my school days. First, they are media centers operated by media coordinators (and trust me, the name change means something). Second, they are rarely quiet places of solitude, but more often busy activity zones that are the hub of innovation and collaboration in our schools. We are excited to share some of the great things going on in the school media centers across Thomasville:

Thomasville Primary School:

> Media Coordinator Tinah Price provided students at TPS some great activities focused on Dr. Seuss and his works. These activities included a digital breakout, listening to a variety of stories using QR codes that linked to videos, and using makerspace materials to complete a task card for one of his books (i.e.: *The Cat in the Hat* - create a trap to catch thing one and thing two)

 Liberty Drive Elementary School:

> Fifth Grader, Sophie Measimer, says, "The library is my favorite place to be!"

> Media Coordinator Kristal Land houses the school's STEM resources and champions their use across the curriculum. Earlier in the year, she brought in author and cartoonist Steve Barr to work with students on illustrating a story writing skills.

Thomasville Middle School:

> Students at TMS work with Media Coordinator Janis Fox to participate in Digital Learning Day and the media center at TMS now includes a makerspace. We have a variety of maker crafts and activities, including Stickbots, Little Bits, LEGO, robots such as Cue and Finch, and a green screen. In addition, Ms. Fox served this past year on the American Library Association's Great Graphic Novels for Teens selection list committee, and received hundreds of graphic novels for students at TMS.

Thomasville High School:

> Jo Higgins, media coordinator at THS, has led a Library Science STEM class this semester. The primary idea behind the class is to have students become "experts" with different pieces of technology we have in the Media Center and then share their knowledge with other students and teachers. The THS media center also coordinates the annual Hour of Code with over two hundred student participating in Computer Science career activities.

We are proud of our media centers and media coordinators in Thomasville. Although they are often "behind the scene" players, these positions are critically important to our schools. These essential areas in each school remain great places to grab a good book and have some quiet time, but there is so much more to check out in these new and improved spaces at each of our schools.

So, whether it is a school library or a branch of the public library closest to you, take some time this month and celebrate these fantastic resources in our schools and communities.

Catherine R. Gentry, EdD – Superintendent, Thomasville City Schools