AHA Teacher Librarian Cristin Haake recently applied for a grant to-ward the funding of electronic book readers to be circulated by the AHA Library. Ms. Haake titled her project, “The Virtual Stacks,” in keeping with a library-themed moniker for the grant-request.

The AHA Library maintains a collection of 1,100 ebooks for student use. Currently, the electronic books are not circulating due to a lack of student-owned electronic devices at our school. The Virtual Stacks Project seeks to eliminate the digital divide in our AHA student population by providing electronic readers to students for check-out, along with the ebooks they select.

Ms. Haake, upon the recommendation of our electronic book vendor, requested that the grant monies be used towards the purchase of iPod Touch devices. These devices will give the AHA student population the ability to read for recreational and academic purposes.

A tremendous amount of new research has shown the benefits of using electronic devices as readers in the classroom. According to “E. It’s Complicated,” an article in the September issue of School Library Journal, “Students who are reluctant readers have had success using electronic devices” (Springen, 2013, p.31).

Many of those reluctant readers among our school’s population of over 16% identified as English Language Learners and over 14% identified as Special Education. These students will greatly benefit from the use of these electronic devices.

The devices purchased through the grant will help to solidify the educational opportunity for students to master new technology for future use in college.
What is Learnist? A New Educational Technology Tool for Your Classroom!

Learnist is a social network website for learners. Similar to Pinterest, Learnist provides a way for teachers and students alike to catalog online resources on a topic and share them with their classes or peers.

Learnist allows a user the ability to build “learn boards” to share with others. Students can use Learnist to share resources for group projects, to prepare notes to study for tests, and to write papers. Teachers may create a selected online resources that are academically appropriate on their topic of study for their classrooms.

Learnist facilitates tremendous collaboration between students, between teachers, and between our community members.

Visit or call the AHA Library to schedule your time to explore this new educational technology tool for your students.

www.learnist.com

Art and Class Project Work in the Atrisco Heritage Academy Library

Teacher Christopher House and his third period Digital Media Animation 2D class are now displaying miniature paper cities in the AHA Library glass cases. Students and staff have admired the attention to detail in these wonderful paper designs.

The AHA Library will soon be the home to a Dia de los Muertos display with a joint project created by the Spanish and Art classes of teachers Lilia Martinez and Clover George.

Be sure to visit and view these exciting displays in the AHA Library!

New in the AHA Library! Headsets with Microphoness!

Screencasting is the act of recording what is on the computer screen, along with narration. Students “capture” a digital video and audio recording of what is happening on their computers and their explanation to share with their teachers and fellow students.

Screencasting is appealing to educators working with the Common Core State Standards because it is student-active work. Students may add sound to the traditional PowerPoint or instructional presentation. Students may then share these presentations for others to view literally across the world.

Please call us to reserve a time to integrate this technology and educational strategy into your assignments.

Spotlight on the Professional Collection

AHASHS Library has a Professional Collection of teacher resources covering topics from bullying to block scheduling, lesson planning to conflict resolution. New to the collection is Dropout Prevention Fieldbook: Best Practices from the Field by Franklin P. Schargel (Eye on Education 2012). Strategies include specific ideas for Family Engagement, what works in After School Programs for Teens, and Active Learning. Several tools and resources are provided, such as “Early Warning Sign Matrix” and “Needs Assessment Evaluation for Parents,” and are available as free downloads. The book is easy to use for Administrators, for Counselors, and for Special Educators. Don’t let this one get dusty!

How do I reserve the AHA Library for a project?

The Atrisco Heritage Academy Library is available for your information and technology needs. Teachers, feel free to email or call the AHA Library staff to book your class for a lesson on how to use our online databases to find authoritative texts, on how to create animated videos with your class, to use our computer lab, or even to have a class book check-out. We are scheduling for the entire year.

Once you book, the AHA Library staff will email you the Friday before your scheduled week, reminding you of your upcoming visit.