

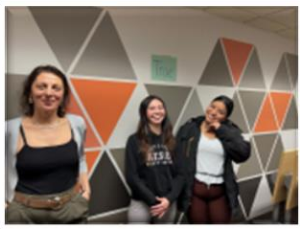
December 2023  
Monthly Strategic Road Map

Community Partnerships

*Focuses on empowering and connecting with individuals and groups who have the knowledge, skills, and social connections to take action in creating a strong, vibrant community.*

Priorities:

- Collect and value input from library users and increase communication with underrepresented populations to better understand needs, identify barriers to use, and increase use of the library.
- Create more opportunities for the public to share their talents and expertise.
- Grow and strengthen relationships with strategic area partners.



Thank you to the Friends of the Library for funding the library's continued collaboration with the [Literacy Network](#) and MCPASD in serving English language learners in the community! Total enrollment this semester included 67 students! 46 students attended the beginner classes at Sauk Trail Elementary School and 21 students attended the intermediate classes at the library. 15 students were new to the program this semester and 8 students heard about the class through the library. Students from Bangladesh, China, Colombia, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Nicaragua, Slovakia, and Venezuela learned introductions, vocabulary, intermediate grammar, American holiday customs, and cross cultural communication for topics such as etiquette and gift giving. Students also learned about library resources, interviewed librarians, and completed library card applications. 100% of participants surveyed

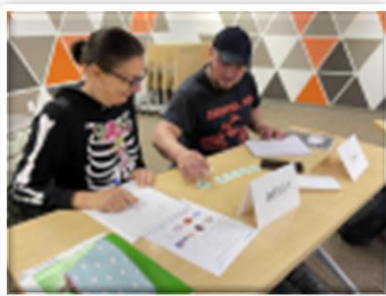
reported that this class helped them to improve English speaking, listening, reading, or writing skills, and that this class helped them to feel more confident communicating in English. Big shout out to Head of Adult Services, Liz Zimdars for leading this ongoing effort!

*"Thank you very much for teaching me a little more about the language, I want to learn more and I thank you for your good way of teaching."*

*"I would like to join your class again in January. It was greatly helpful."*

*"Let me express how much I enjoy your lessons. They have become a cherished part of my week, providing some of the only adult face to face conversations...."*

**Down the road:** Next semester will run Jan 24 - May 1, 2024



## Civic Engagement

*Focuses on advocating for the City of Middleton and its residents.*

Priorities:

- Align the goals of the Middleton Public Library with the goals of the City of Middleton.
- Cultivate a collection and offer programming that reflects the entire community.
- Develop service strategies responsive to community needs.

**Down the road:** [Library Legislative Day](#) is Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 8-4pm. Librarians, trustees, volunteers, and supporters from around the state meet each year with elected officials at the Wisconsin State Capitol to advocate for libraries.

## Inclusion and Belonging

*Focuses on creating opportunities for people to experience, express, and celebrate cultures, diversity, equity, and inclusion.*

Priorities:

- Provide effective leadership in the development, coordination, implementation and assessment of programs, collections, and services to promote diversity and understanding of bias and differences.
- Honor freedom of expression, intellectual freedom, the right to read, and civil discourse as fundamental to personal, professional, and organizational growth.
- Develop the skills and capacity of staff, board, and volunteers to support diverse communities of users and advocate for resources.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library for funding the new service, the [Library Speakers Consortium](#) (LSC)! The LSC creates 2-3 online bestselling-author events per month that are streamed live, and includes interactive Q&A sessions with participants. The LSC is highly committed to offering a diverse mix of perspectives and ensures that half or more of the speakers are women and/or people of color. These virtual events provide access for those who are not able to attend in-person programs and can also be livestreamed for outreach events at schools, senior living facilities, etc. Register here for the first author, [Rebecca Serle](#), on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm!



## Place and Space

*Focuses on providing physical and virtual spaces that are safe, modern, welcoming, and flexible.*

Priorities:

- Create accessible spaces inside and outside of the library that support connections, experiences, and literacy.
- Increase patron's ability to find, understand, and utilize what they need in the library and online.
- Continue to plan for the long-term future by participating in the Community Campus Plan.

*"Hello Jocelyne, such a pleasure to work with you to get this Kanopy app downloaded onto my Apple TV and then to get it functioning. I really appreciate the time and attention you put into this, and greatly appreciate your help. Took some time last night to try out the navigation in that system and very pleased at the array of choices. Libraries are really coming along in the services offered to users. Thanks so much for all your kind assistance. Now I can use my library again. Have a happy New Year." -Dolores K.*

**Down the road:** 2023 digital resource statistics and multi-year comparisons, along with the annual DPI report. The restroom remodeling project starts January 22<sup>nd</sup> with expected completion mid-late March. This is a two-phase project including five of the seven restrooms in the building, and will begin in the lower level. Demo and rebuild will happen back-to-back. Phase two includes main level public, staff restrooms and janitor's closet/drywall in the youth services office. A temporary disruption in services, programming, and meeting room reservations is expected.

## Sharing the Impact

*Focuses on communicating why and how the library is here for you.*

**Priorities:**

- **Protect patron privacy and increase awareness and use of services and resources.**
- **Develop improved communication efforts and methods to reach current and potential users.**
- **Celebrate the critical role the library plays in fostering multiple literacies.**



548 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and their teachers from every elementary school in MCPASD visited the library this fall! The school tours are an 'all hands-on deck' visit with the public services team registering library cards prior to visit, desk staff offering checkout, reader's advisory, and fun customer service that ignites excitement for reading and a desire to return to the library. Thanks to Library Board Trustee, MaryBeth Paulisse, for assisting in an improved communication structure with classroom teachers, LMC staff, and the school transportation department. These visits are made possible through Katie's Kids', a generous family memorial fund that was started in 2015.

The 'in between week' at the end of the year is a great time for families with kids off of school or those hosting visitors for the holidays, to visit their local public library. The programming team did not disappoint! From movies, murder mysteries, games, egg drops, and crafts, the library was busy the last week of the year. Shout out to all the staff that worked this week and helped to cover vacations.



## Thriving Together

*Focuses on creating an environment where people want to be.*

**Priorities:**

- **Create and nurture a culture of continuous and innovative learning and development for staff, board, and volunteers.**
- **Strengthen the organizational structure of volunteers and Friends group and work with members to broaden support of the library's mission.**
- **Ensure short and long-term fiscal sustainability through thoughtful financial development, donor relationships, and partnerships.**

*"Thanks for another great year at my library. I just love it here so much and wouldn't know what I'd do with my library." – Nancy*

In the event of inclement weather, the library has several policies that directly support staff in the decision-making process. The library serves as a designated warming center and will make every attempt to remain open while taking the safety of staff and visitors into account.



185 early readers took home a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten journal in 2023 and at least 14 of those participating finished reading and logging 1000 books! Everyone 100 books there is a milestone prize sticker and stamp that encourages return visits. Way to go young readers and caregivers!



The Friends of the Library have an easy monthly donation option. Simply go to the 'JOIN' page on the [midlibrary.org/friends](http://midlibrary.org/friends). In 2024 The Friends are supporting: the annual Summer Reading Program, StoryWalks with the Downtown Middleton Business Association, Community English Classes, Community Outreach Special Events, the Library Speakers Consortium, miscellaneous administrative costs, the library staff Kindness Committee, and a special large-scale all-ages event... to be announced!



Feedback on the new kids' play space continues to be overwhelmingly positive! A pizza restaurant kicked off the imaginative play station and next up is a bakery! Interested in supporting the toys and supplies that bring fun and joy to this space? Scan this QR code to check out the wish list!



At the end of every year the library staff celebrate with a staff potluck and party. This year included a surprise puppy party, thanks to Underdog Pet Rescue!

Staff also receive many wonderful cards and plates of cookies from the library's generous patrons. Thanks to Library Board Trustee, Randall Crow and family, for a lovely spread complete with a key and ingredients list! Below was one of our favorite patron cards that sums up many of the ways a public library can positively impact someone's quality of life.

Thank you for a wonderful year of PROGRESS and success. Here's to 2024 – Cheers!

You have helped me ....

- find information I need
  - use the computer
  - do my Christmas newsletter on the computer
  - print my newsletter
  - learn how to use my phone
  - get books from other libraries
  - scrap paper for people to use
  - cheer up when I was feeling down (you are so kind and patient!)
  - and you have helpful programs and I love the art shows and seeing Peeps go skiing. SO CUTE!
  - by providing "Tech Minutes"
- A special thanks to Samantha who has been a huge HUGE help showing me how to

Dear Middleton Library Staff,  
I LOVE you all!  
You have been a great help  
to me in many ways.



Smiles and gratitude,  
happy memories and merry wishes...

That's what you  
warmly bring to mind  
at this season.

**HAPPY Holidays**

→ use an app to print Civil War letters and put pictures on a memory stick. She is fantastic!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Judy L. [redacted]

"I just love the sessions that Amanda offers for tech support. I never feel dumb asking her questions and she is so patient with me." - Patron

"This place has great feeling! You can sense it as soon as you walk through the doors. I am coming back with my husband." - Cindy S.

"Geesh, I thought public libraries were suppose to be a quiet place for learning. This one is SO LOUD! I talked to the staff at the desk about it and they told me that the open places in the building were social spaces and that if I wanted a quiet place I should check out the fire place room. Ahhh, this is more like it. We need more places like this in the world, that everyone can go to." - Russ