



A BRAND-NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BRINGS ITS LIBRARY TO LIFE.

**TROY SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MOSCOW MILLS, MISSOURI**

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

The Lincoln County R-III School District encompasses 238 square miles in Lincoln County and serves students in Troy, Moscow Mills, and Hawk Point, Missouri. It is Missouri's 25th largest school district (out of 518) with an enrollment of 7,100 PreK-12 students. Recently, the district opened its eighth elementary school – Troy South – which debuted with nearly 530 PreK-5 students.

FINDING A DEDICATED PARTNER

Toni White, Troy South Elementary School's first-ever principal, had a significant number of critical decisions to make prior to opening day. When it came to the new library, she opted for a vendor she knew and trusted implicitly: Follett Content.

"I have enjoyed a long history with Follett Content, as I worked with them during my entire tenure at another elementary school in the district," said White, who noted she worked with two other librarians from the district to make the library vendor decision since a new librarian for Troy South had yet to be named.



TONI WHITE
Principal
Troy South Elementary School



JASON COOK
Librarian
Troy South Elementary School

Jason Cook, who also had considerable experience working with Follett Content, was hired to lead the new library. Since White had many other aspects of the school's opening to keep her busy, she was relieved that her Follett Content sales representative, Gina Donato, took the initiative to jump in and work with Cook to ensure the library's needs moved full speed ahead.

"Once Jason's hiring was announced, Gina immediately reached out to him so he could be an integral part of the decision-making process on everything from collection development to tagging and shelving," White said. "It made for a seamless transition for Jason, as he was able to hit the ground running."

PERSONALIZING THE EXPERIENCE

Cook and Donato quickly put together a game plan analyzing the school's students and demographics to determine fiction and non-fiction preferences, average copyright dates, diversity needs, and much more.

"The entire experience was personalized with the Follett Content team taking that information and developing a base opening collection for us to work from," Cook said.

Donato then collaborated with her colleague, Wendy Miller, in the Follett Content curriculum department.

"We relied on Wendy's extensive knowledge, and the list reflected what Jason and Toni wanted in their new library," said Donato. "She came up with a comprehensive list that allowed Jason to work confidently and efficiently."

With the curriculum list in hand, Cook was able to conveniently analyze and review before adding in his preferences and personal touches to complete the collection, which consists of more than 7,200 titles in different forms.

"Our digital content is very easy to access, and this is beneficial to students in the library, in the classroom, and at home," Cook shared. "The organization of the library is such that students can access titles for checkout virtually independently."

Cook said it's important to note that Follett Content went well beyond collection development, as it took care of all the tagging and shelving in the new library as well. On delivery day, Cook soon realized, with Follett Content's help, that the Troy South team didn't have to touch a single book or box. The librarian could instead focus on taking the lead to guide Follett Content personnel where everything went and even had input on the configuration of the shelving that was installed.

"Both Toni and I would recommend Follett Content hands down for any need, regardless of how large or small," Cook said. "The personal relationships Follett establishes from the beginning set it apart from other companies. Even now, I know I can reach out with any questions or needs I have."

White concurred and said she was so relieved Cook had the benefit of a trusted partner to ensure the new library would be ready to shine brightly on day one of the school year. Follett Content's expertise in helping Troy South create a state-of-the-art new library from start to finish was a "game changer" and gave Cook and White the confidence to focus on the large number of other details involved in opening a new school. White reiterated the importance of relationships, applauding Troy South's sales representative.

"Jason felt confident with the monumental task of opening a new library collection because he had Gina Donato as his partner," White said. "She is thorough, dedicated, knowledgeable, and passionate, all of which served to be so valuable for our needs. Our experience with Follett Content was fantastic, from beginning to end."

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