

For Immediate Release

Lake Villa District Library and Lake Villa District 41 Form Intergovernmental Agreement

In an effort to improve and streamline access to educational resources for students and teachers, Lake Villa District Library and Lake Villa District 41 have formed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

Rachel Reinwald, LVDL's School Liaison/Youth Services Librarian, is the driving force behind the IGA to ensure equitable access to educational resources, cultivate learning and literacy and to engage with the community. "The IGA is the legal instrument that allows the library to provide improved access to instructional resources to teachers and students in District 41," said Reinwald. "Instead of providing each school one library card, every teacher will have their own."

Illinois statute mandates that only residents and property owners who reside within the library district boundaries are eligible for a library card. While most libraries accept cards from other Illinois public libraries, some services, specifically access to databases and digital content, are limited to its resident cardholders. "The IGA allows for the school district superintendent to sign off on all of the teacher's library card applications," said Reinwald. "So we can provide more access to our materials."

While working with schools within the library's district is a long-standing component of library service, the IGA is an enhancement. In addition to the library card benefit, it also includes "in-kind services" that will further benefit the relationship between the school district and the library. "I will have access to the district's various curriculum sites which will help me coordinate school assignments with library materials and to anticipate teacher/student needs," said Reinwald.

Reinwald was hired as School Liaison six years ago to provide instructional materials and resource support to area schools. In addition to working with teachers, visiting classrooms and facilitating various initiatives such as Battle of the Books, she also worked to establish LVDL as a Certified Provider of Continuing Education Credits through the Illinois State Board of Education. By participating in quarterly CPDU workshops at the library, local teachers can receive some of the continuing education credits required for professional development, free of charge.

The IGA was approved by the LVDL Board of Trustees on May 13 and by the District 41 Board of Education on June 17. It officially goes into effect on July 1 and will be valid for five years.

Lake Villa District Library enriches life in our community by connecting people with resources, services and each other.

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