

8 Ways Librarians Can Collaborate with Teachers

to Support Curriculum Goals



Practical, proven strategies from teacher-librarian **Shannon McClintock Miller**, with no extra initiatives required.

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When librarians collaborate with teachers, the library stops being peripheral and becomes **instructionally essential**.

Strong partnerships align the library to curriculum goals, put trusted resources directly into classroom learning, and boost the engagement that drives comprehension and achievement. Best of all, it doesn't mean adding one more thing to your plate. It means embedding the library into the work schools are already doing, and making that impact visible to teachers, leaders, and families.

- 1 Start With the Mindset Shift**
Collaboration isn't an add-on; it's how the library operates. When your work aligns to curriculum priorities and classroom instruction, the library becomes instructionally essential, not peripheral.
- 2 Align the Library to Curriculum, Not Just Calendar Time**
Start with alignment. Review curriculum guides, pacing maps, and district goals, then find where the library can naturally strengthen what teachers are already teaching.
- 3 Build Simple Systems That Make Collaboration Easier**
Use practical systems, not heroic effort. A shared planning doc where teachers jot down what they're covering – even just topics like “apples” or “chickens” – gives you an instant opening to help.
- 4 Curate Resources Teachers Can Use Right Away**
Be the go-to “resource toolbox.” Pull together books, eBooks, databases, choice boards, videos, and digital collections so teachers get relevant materials the moment they need them.
- 5 Use Engagement as the Bridge to Achievement**
Engagement drives learning. Design high-interest experiences, such as inquiry, choice reading, book clubs, and research, that boost comprehension and, ultimately, achievement.
- 6 Bring Innovation in Ways That Fit Real Classrooms**
Innovation doesn't have to be flashy. Reimagine a tired project or introduce the right tool or technology at the right moment, always in service of instructional goals, not novelty.
- 7 Capture Evidence of Impact as You Go**
Make collaboration visible. Track co-teaching counts, usage data, circulation trends, student work, and feedback to tell a complete story of the library's impact.
- 8 Start Small, But Start**
Begin with one teacher, one lesson or unit, and one piece of evidence. It's manageable; it builds momentum, and one strong partnership leads to the next.

THE MAIN TAKEAWAY:

When you align to instruction, curate useful resources, co-plan meaningful experiences, and show your impact, the library moves from a support role to a leadership role.

Want to see these ideas in action?

Watch Shannon McClintock Miller's free on-demand webinar, which is packed with impactful, actionable ideas: **Co-Planning for Impact: How Library–Curriculum Partnerships Move the Achievement Needle**.



Whether you're using **Follett Destiny® Library Manager**, Destiny Discover, Collections by Destiny, and **Destiny Engage** or exploring which tools best fit your school community, the opportunity is the same: align the library more closely to curriculum goals, make trusted resources easier for students and teachers to discover, and create engaging reading and learning experiences that make the library's impact visible across the school.