

The

INFOhio Impact

Transforming Instruction • Impacting Learning

From the Classroom to the Kitchen Table

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

On behalf of Ohio's students, their parents, and their teachers, let me sincerely thank you for your support of INFOhio, Ohio's PreK-12 Digital Library, for the past many years. As a state project created three decades ago, it was designed with one purpose in mind: to help every student and every teacher have an equal opportunity for the best education possible.

INFOhio started as a statewide school library automation project by the Ohio Education Computer Network in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education and grew to provide high-quality digital content free of charge to all schools. This school year alone, students, teachers, and parents have exceeded 23 million downloads of INFOhio's digital content including eBooks, interactive experiments, videos, and articles to extend learning from the classroom to the kitchen table.

At the end of this fiscal year, I will retire as Director of INFOhio, and it is with a sense of awe that I reflect on what a small cadre of individuals at the grassroots level was able to accomplish. Focused on a common goal, working collaboratively at the local, regional, and state level, their efforts led to a most successful advancement of education in a digital environment. Now more than ever, equitable access to high quality, digital content is at the heart of delivering education 24/7 to our students.

With high regards for the work you do and have done to contribute to INFOhio, I remain sincerely grateful for your assistance.

Theresa M. Fredericka

Director of INFOhio

INFOhio is Mission Critical for Ohio's Schools

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As COVID-19 necessitates school closures, PreK-12 educators are pivoting from in-person instruction to teaching remotely. Fortunately, a powerful ally is available to assist with this transition: INFOhio. As a former superintendent, I am very familiar with the exceptional value and quality of the digital resources and professional development services provided through INFOhio to all districts as a way of helping to bridge the digital divide.

Students have access to a wide range of age and grade-level appropriate digital materials aligned with all areas of the curriculum including the academic core, 21st Century skills, and college and career readiness. Teachers have on-demand access to a carefully curated selection of webinars, learning modules, and training tools for fostering professional growth.

Moving forward, it appears that the new normal of education will be a blended model of in-school and remote learning. Therefore, the continued availability of INFOhio's digital resources for use by Ohio's students and teachers is mission critical for Ohio's schools. *John E. Miller, Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village, School Board Member*

Real Classrooms, Real Stories.

Safe Access to eBooks for Remote Learning

Hamilton County

Katie Foran-Mulcahy, Head of the College of Education Library at the University of Cincinnati and INFOhio IPartner, knows that access to engaging books is critical to building literacy skills and developing a love of reading. During her "Better in 30 Minutes" webinar, Katie demonstrated how Ohioans can access BookFlix through INFOhio. Parents, teachers, and education majors learned how



young readers can select their own eBooks. Parents and teachers can take comfort in knowing students can safely access animated fiction books and nonfiction eBooks from BookFlix through INFOhio during remote learning.



Science Comes to Life at Home

Gallia County

Teacher and Library Media Specialist at River Valley High School, Amy Stanley, uses INFOhio's digital resources to support student learning in her high school intervention science class. With a sudden shift to a virtual classroom, INFOhio's digital resources are

the perfect partner for remote learning. Students read articles from World Book Student, which offers read aloud options as well as diagrams, images, and videos. Students also use videos from INFOhio's Digital Video Collection and interactive experiments from Science Online so they can bring the science classroom to life at home!

Teachers Build Connections Beyond the Classroom

Medina County

Memorial Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, Sharyn Kish, is proving COVID-19 and social distancing cannot stop teachers from building connections with their students. Using Zoom, Sharyn met with parents, established ground rules with her students, and formed small groups to meet individual needs. Each year, Sharyn uses the wedding of q and u to teach students the spelling pattern of q and u, and this year was no different. Sharyn brought the tradition to life with Zoom, dressing as a queen, encouraging students to dress up as QUeens and QUarterbacks, and Zooming in the mayor of Brunswick to officiate.





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