

Principal's Report
Blanket ISD

Texas School Library Standards

I completed your Fall onsite visit on October 12 and your Spring visit on March 29. I was able to visit with your part-time library person both times. Ms. Rodriguez is doing an amazing job for the time she has in the library. We discussed her work with PK-2nd grade classes during both visits. In the fall, I brought a curriculum map that she can use to plan her interactions with students. I am very pleased that you have allowed this time to work with your youngest students. All elementary levels have learning to do in the library (library learning is ELAR learning) but the earliest grades are learning about the library, how to use it, and learning to love books and reading through a quality experience.

I was pleased to see that numerous items had been added to the collection since school started. Ms. Rodriguez informed me that those copies were all donations suitable for inclusion. I mention that because donations are always appreciated but sometimes not suitable for placing into the collection. Ms. Rodriguez has the discretion to make those decisions. She also informed me that she had made a large order that she expected before May. Thank you for supporting your library with a generous budget this year to allow updating. Your overall collection age is well over the recommended age of 15 years. This is important for several reasons. In nonfiction, we don't want our students relying on outdated and/or inaccurate information. We want an interesting and attractive collection in all sections to attract attention and encourage reading.

Weeding (organized removal of outdated or unneeded items) is also important. I invited Ms. Rodriguez to a workshop for library managers. Among all aspects of management, we will deal extensively with weeding as a collection refresher.

I also noticed that Blanket does not boast a library webpage. Having a library webpage is one of our state library standards. The Destiny Library Management System we use has a suitable homepage but there should be a prominent link to it for remote access. I would suggest adding a link labeled library or library catalog under the Department tab of your home page. This link should direct to

<https://library.esc15.net/common/servlet/presenthomeform.do?l2m=Home&tm=Home&l2m=Home> .

This will be helpful with your Digital resources usage also. The Destiny homepage has links to your Texquest resources that I do not see anywhere else. Blanket's usage numbers are nearly non-existent, possibly because of that old saying, "out of sight-out of mind." I do not manage your Discovery Education subscription or usage, but do not see a readily available link to that either. I am putting the Discovery link on the Destiny page so students and teachers can easily access it when the link to the catalog is established. I would love to talk to you about Texquest. I am your contact at Region 15 and can answer any questions you might have. How can I help you increase your usage and enrich your student learning?



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