

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30th, 2019

## **Santa Fe Trail High School Library Receives Major Grant**

Santa Fe Trail High School Library was selected to participate in a grant program to improve the school's library materials. The school may receive up to \$9,000 in grant funding by the end of next school year. "This is a great way to quickly improve and update the library materials for our students," said Eric Lynch, the school's Library Media Specialist.

During the first phase of the grant, school library staff will evaluate the library's collection, devise a plan to address gaps and make an appeal to the school administration for increased funding for the library. Upon successful completion of this phase, the library will receive \$1,000 in funds to spend on library materials and equipment.

In phase two of the grant program, funded libraries will receive \$5,000 for print materials. Libraries may receive up to \$3,000 in additional funds, based on a dollar-per-dollar match by school administration. These funds may be spent on print and/or electronic library materials.

"What a great opportunity for the students of Santa Fe Trail High School. If we are able to complete phase two the grant, the impact on our students will be measurable for years to come," said school principal Patrick Graham.

The funding agency is Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS). Headquartered in Lawrence, NEKLS is a publicly-funded entity that supports 118 member libraries, including 51 schools and school districts, in the 14 counties of Northeast Kansas. Through strengthening member schools and libraries, NEKLS annually improves the education of 140,880 students in grades K-12 across the region.

In support of schools and communities, NEKLS has allocated up to \$50,000 to fund competitive school library development grants during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years.

"We are pleased to be able to help these seven schools (was this the number of schools that received grants?) improve library services to their students and to their faculty and staff. A vibrant library is vital to any school community," said Laura DeBaun, Director of NEKLS.

The seven selected schools are: Apache Innovative School (Shawnee Mission School District), Atchison Middle and High Schools, Cordley Elementary (Lawrence), Midland

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Trail Elementary School (Turner School District), Pinckney Elementary School (Lawrence), Santa Fe Trail High School (Carbondale) and Westridge Middle School (Shawnee Mission School District).

Successful participation in this grant program is expected to result in the following outcomes: increased usage of library materials by students, increased usage of library space by students, and increased collaboration among library staff and teaching staff.

## **Media contact information**

For more information on this grant program, contact Anna Foote, Youth Services and Continuing Education Consultant at Northeast Kansas Library System; [afoote@nekls.org](mailto:afoote@nekls.org); 785-838-4090.

For more information on Santa Fe Trail School Library, contact Eric Lynch at [elynch@usd434.us](mailto:elynch@usd434.us) or 800-8369525.

## **About**

Northeast Kansas Library System is a publicly-funded agency that supports 118 member libraries, including 51 schools and school districts, in the 14 counties of Northeast Kansas. This support takes many forms, including grants, trainings, consulting and resource sharing. Counties served include: Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Douglas, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, Nemaha, Osage, Shawnee and Wyandotte.

NEKLS It is one of seven cooperating regional library systems in Kansas.

Our mission: NEKLS inspires and empowers member libraries to engage, educate and add value to their communities.