



Southwestern Jefferson Consolidated School Corporation Teams Up with Jefferson County Public Library to Modernize Reading and Literacy Through Ebooks and E-audiobooks

Shared goal to promote digital learning in the community

HANOVER, Ind. – September 2, 2020– In this mobile age, technology has become increasingly valuable in supporting new generations of lifelong learners and readers. Now, [Southwestern Jefferson Consolidated School Corporation](#) (SWJCS) and [Jefferson County Public Library](#) have formed an innovative new partnership to increase access to more ebooks and e-audiobooks for students. This unique collaboration strives to promote literacy and digital learning by combining the schools' and the library's digital reading resources in one app. As a result, students can learn anytime, anywhere because of the convenience, ease of reading on-the-go and the inherent popularity of technology.

The school-library partnership provides safe access to thousands of age-appropriate titles for students' use inside the classroom, at home and anywhere 24/7. Through [Sora](#), the new student reading app for SWJCS, students can now borrow the school's collection of classroom and pleasure reading, and also access Jefferson County Public Library's digital content filtered for maturity level. In addition, Sora supports teachers by offering education-specific tools like achievements, exportable notes, and reading progress that encourage individualized learning.

“Southwestern school libraries are excited to partner with the Jefferson County Public Library to once again provide a much-needed service for our student population,” said Angela Northern, Southwestern High School Librarian. “In the past, we have partnered for summer reading programs and our JCPL partner has allowed us access to online resources that we could not have afforded for our students. This library connection through Sora is just another example of how our public library supports us in all ways to bring high quality resources to our students. Our students are so excited to have the ebooks available online this year.”

Judi Terpening, Director of Jefferson County Public Library, added, “In the past, the Jefferson County Public Library and Southwestern School Corporation have worked to

broaden access to and share library resources with students. We made it work, but the process was labor intensive and cumbersome. With this new partnership, students will be able to access the library's digital collection easily and seamlessly. We are excited about the opportunity to strengthen our partnership with the school and open up more reading choices for students.”

The Sora app was named one of [TIME's Best Inventions 2019](#) and is available for SWJCS students to download through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, and on Chromebooks that support the Google Play Store. It is also available for use in web browsers at <https://soraapp.com> on any computer.

The entire Jefferson County community can also borrow and read Jefferson County Public Library's complete ebook and e-audiobook collection with a valid library card through the award-winning [Libby app](#). The library's tailored collection offers ebooks, e-audiobooks and digital magazines including bestsellers and new releases. Readers of all ages can select from virtually every subject ranging from mystery, romance, children's, business and more. Libby can be used on any major device or computer, including Apple ^(R), Android TM, Chromebook TM and Kindle ^(R) (US only).

Both reading apps are built by OverDrive and OverDrive Education. To learn more, visit <https://meet.soraapp.com/> and <https://meet.libbyapp.com/>.

About Southwestern Jefferson Consolidated School Corporation

For 60 years, Southwestern Jefferson County Schools has provided a public k-12 education for students in southwest Jefferson County Indiana. Southwestern serves a large population of students including many rural students who live in areas with little or no internet access. SW strives to provide all the services and resources our students need to be successful in their academic and social lives.

About Jefferson County Public Library

Jefferson County Public Library was founded in 1818 and serves the community with opportunities to obtain and use information in a variety of formats, to pursue lifelong learning, to explore recreational interests, and to better understand personal and regional heritage. In addition to books and movies, the Library offers community meeting spaces, cultural and educational programs, entertainment, one-on-one computer assistance, outreach services to homebound and children, genealogy and local history research assistance, early literacy programs and reading and viewing suggestions. Libraries are located in Madison and Hanover, Indiana.

About OverDrive and OverDrive Education

OverDrive is the leading digital reading platform for libraries and schools worldwide. The company's K-12 division – OverDrive Education – supports reading and learning in the classroom. OverDrive strives to

create “a world enlightened by reading” by delivering the industry’s largest catalog of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and other digital media to a growing network of 50,000 libraries and schools in 78 countries, including more than 30,000 schools. OverDrive’s popular reading apps provide best-in-class user experience and tools for staff management: the [Libby](#) app for libraries is one of PCMag’s Best Free Software of 2019 and Popular Mechanics’ 20 Best Apps of the 2010s, while the student reading app [Sora](#) is one of TIME’s Best Inventions of 2019. Founded in 1986, OverDrive is based in Cleveland, Ohio USA and was named a Certified B Corp in 2017. OverDrive was acquired by funds affiliated with global investment firm KKR in 2020.

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