How research is taught at Forbes, 6/5/13

Teaching research skills is shared between the classroom teacher and the library media specialist at Forbes. Grades 1-3 are taught library skills on a fixed schedule and grades 4-5 are flexibly scheduled with the library media specialist at the point of need within the classroom content sequence.

K-2

At Forbes, primary research is taught within a progression of skills embedded in reading instruction in K-2. Beginning in Kindergarten, features of nonfiction, parts of the book, differences between fiction and fiction are taught by classroom teachers and are reinforced by the Library Media Specialist as students progress through grade 2. Location of information (use of the library catalog, decoding call numbers, narrowing or expanding search terms, Dewey Decimal system, metacognition of good reading habits such as using the 5-finger test to choose a right-fit book for learning) are taught by the library media specialist.

Within classroom reading instruction, teachers guide students through foundational research skills such as identifying the main idea of a passage and the author's message. Chunked topics of information are used in deconstructing progressively more challenging nonfiction text throughout the year, with focus on topic, main idea, details and supporting evidence and summary. The Library Media Specialist reinforces these skills in regular library lessons on a fixed schedule in grades 1-3. Grade 2 students complete the library license unit in which they demonstrate the ability to search and locate books with an online catalog by subject, title and author.

Grade 3

Grade 3 represents a turning point in research instruction as classroom teachers and the LMS present minilessons in paraphrasing through library class time and classroom reading/writing blocks. Exploration of main ideas and identifying supporting evidence is continued with extended focus. Basic research is first formalized with the **animal adaptations** unit. Students are taught to search databases to locate a variety of information formats and evaluate information, extract useful information through paraphrasing and create a presentation product to share learning. Students learn to give credit to their sources (acknowledging and "thanking" the author) through creating a works consulted page (bibliography).

Grade 4

Research skills are enhanced in grade 4 with **an interdistrict stream ecology unit**. Students are taught to use Edmodo and Skype to coordinate and collaborate with other schools on instruction to complete their research. This project culminates with an integrated art/drama and technology-based presentation/performance. Students are guided to further develop skills in paraphrasing and guided questioning using nonfiction. Research skills such as notetakingare embedded in classroom instruction and flexibly scheduled research instruction at the point of need such as this environment unit.

Grade 5

Grade 5 continues to develop the progression of research skills embedded in classroom instruction and flexibly scheduled research instruction as needed to complete a major research project. Research culminates in May through the **Science Fair** and **formal essays** including works consulted pages. Classroom teachers collaborate to lead in the study of developing essential questions as a driving factor of focused research, formulating hypotheses and the scientific method. Students research to develop a working knowledge of a topic and design experiments. Note taking is taught by classroom teachers.

The library media specialist delivers instruction to grade 5 in a variety of ways from January to May during this extended unit. To provide a foundation, the LMS begins instruction for each class with 3-4 sessions of face-to-face re-introduction to research (structure of the Big 6, location of library resources in different formats, guided searching of databases, etc). Edmodo is extensively used by grade 5 classroom teachers and library media specialist for reinforcement and review of information literacy concepts. Evaluation of websites and other information literacy skills such as how to research an author are taught by the LMS through videos, activities and small group research guidance via Edmodo.