

IPEI Grant Funds Digital Books for ICSD Libraries



Ithaca City School District middle and high school students will have access to 23 new digital audiobooks thanks to support from the Phyllis B. Brodhead Library Media Technology Grant, managed by IPEI. The grant, which is designed to help library media centers keep current with technological advances, will fund materials by Catalyst Digital Audiobooks for ICSD libraries.

“Audiobooks are a viable alternative to the traditional method of reading, giving students across the academic spectrum the opportunity to access and enjoy the benefits of the printed word,” said Annarose Foley, Boynton’s teacher-librarian.

The new books can be opened directly from the library computer catalog and read on any device. They include fiction and non-fiction curriculum-based titles used in one of the sixth grade English Language Arts modules, as well as popular titles.

“This will add so much to the mobility of access to the library and books,” said Nan Bell, IHS library media specialist. “The libraries already loan out Nooks, Kindles, and CD players for audio, and will be adding MP3 players and iPads. Whether students have their own devices or not, the library will make it possible for them to use our latest acquisitions.”

The Phyllis B. Brodhead Grant was created after her death by Chuck Brodhead, and other friends and family members. A founding board member of IPEI who continued active participation until his death in 2011, Chuck made a generous bequest to IPEI that resulted in a new fund in both of their names. Grants in Phyllis’ memory honor her 33-year career as teacher and librarian at Boynton during which she realized the educational value of technology in school settings.

