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Media Announcement

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Buffalo Schools Virtual Desktop Makes Schoolwork Accessible from Computers @ Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries

The Buffalo Public Schools and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries have formed an exciting new partnership that provides students with access to their *BPS Desktop* on library computers. An unveiling of the service took place at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr., Branch Library in Buffalo today.

"Libraries have always been a great resource for students and their teachers," said Library System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "Now BPS students have the advantage of going to any one of the 37 local public libraries for access to their classroom desktop. We strongly encourage families to bring their children to the Library, some of which are open evenings and seven days a week, so they stay on top of their school assignments."

"Technology is more important than ever in students' lives, and the Buffalo Public Schools Virtual Desktop is a great way to bring a muchneeded service to our students," said Interim Superintendent Donald Ogilvie. "I want to thank those individuals in our technology department--who are always looking for ways to increase technology availability and use--and our partners in the Erie County Public Library system, for bringing virtual homework, textbooks and resources directly to our students and their families. This is a setting for success, where every learning tool a student needs is at their fingertips."

What does this mean for BPS students?

It means that any BPS student with a library card and parental permission to access the Internet on Buffalo & Erie County Public Library computers will now see the *BPS Desktop* icon at the Library. They will be able to log in using the same username and password they use at school and will see the same desktop that they see in most of our computer labs, libraries and classrooms. They will have access to the same software that they use in school along with access to their "H: Drive". Students will be able to access digital copies of their textbooks along with links to eResources such as *Castle Learning*, *HMH Think Central*, and *Nettrekker*.

What does this mean for BPS teachers?

It means that they can count on students having an additional opportunity to work on extended assignments outside of school even if they do not have Internet access at home. It also means that the Library can be a one-stop resource center for students, their families and teachers.

The Library has been working with the schools to process library card applications, so that students have their library card (with parent/guardian permission) before they go to use a library computer. Helpful video resources about the *BPS Desktop*:

http://youtu.be/jQ6Ef729LL4?list=PLi3U-nPPrbS7UpWlyFVccYQ1aCAiHZqoW

http://youtu.be/vy5TaV0Sfm4

Tags: buffalo schools desktop computers BPS Desktop

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