

**Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Teams Up with
Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Schools to
Expand Access to eBooks and eAudioBooks**

Shared goal to provide digital materials in the community, especially during remote learning

BUFFALO, N.Y. – February 2021 – As educators seek more creative ways to support students’ learning, a key resource for schools is the local public library. Now, [Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries](#) and [Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Schools](#) have formed an innovative new partnership to increase students’ access to eBooks and eAudioBooks by combining the library’s and school’s digital reading resources in one app.

The library-school 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 student reading app for Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Schools, students can now borrow from the school’s collection of classroom and pleasure reading as well as from Buffalo & Erie County Public Library’s children’s and young adult digital collection. Students can easily log into the library’s digital collection through Sora using their school credentials rather than requiring a separate library card. In addition, Sora supports teachers by offering classroom-specific tools like measuring achievements, exporting notes, and tracking reading progress to encourage individualized learning.

“Public library and school partnerships bring tremendous resources together that strengthen community commitment by providing students access to educational tools that enrich, enlighten and entertain,” said Library System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. “We are grateful to the Ken-Ton School District, as well as other local schools, for their partnership in providing access to our eResources through the Sora reading app. Our hope is that other schools will do so as well. For more information, please visit our website at [www.BuffaloLib.org](#).”

Amy Young, District Library Coordinator added, "The Ken-Ton school librarians are thrilled to be able to offer this exciting collaboration with Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. As librarians, we strive to help our students develop a love of reading and to provide them with access to books they want to read. This partnership allows us to expand our school library's digital collections to give our students access to even more ebooks and audiobooks through Sora. Check out our [library newsletter](#) to learn more."

The Sora app was named one of *TIME's* Best Inventions 2019 and is available for Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Schools 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.

Erie County residents can also download and read Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's complete eBook and eAudioBook collection with their free library card through the award-winning [Libby app](#). The Library's locally selected collection offers digital books including bestsellers and new releases. Readers of all ages can select from every subject ranging from mystery to romance, children's, business and more. Libby can be used on any major device or computer, including Apple^(R), AndroidTM, ChromebookTM and Kindle^(R) (U.S. only).

The Libby and Sora apps were built by [OverDrive](#) and [OverDrive Education](#) respectively. To learn more, visit www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/ and <https://company.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/discover-sora/> .

About Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

For more than 185 years, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System has provided the community with book collections, services, programs, staff expertise and technology. The Library System welcomes millions of visitors each year at its 37 library branches located from one end of Erie County to the other along with a *Library on Wheels* bookmobile. Free Library cards are available including digital cards for students via the Library website: <https://www.buffalolib.org/library-cards>. As vibrant public squares, libraries encourage lifelong learning, discovery and community dialogue. For many, the Library is the great equalizer, where anyone, regardless of their background or economic status, can utilize millions of resources to transform their life. Year-round, Libraries offer free programming – currently in a virtual format - on topics such as job and career fairs, health & wellness, storytimes, genealogy workshops, disability awareness programs, speakers and a multitude of technology training programs.

About Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Schools

With strong institutional traditions and a long and proud history going back more than 125 years, the Ken-Ton School District is among the largest school districts in Upstate New York, encompassing nine schools and approximately 6,750 PreK-12 students. The district's two high schools, Kenmore East and Kenmore West, are two of only four International Baccalaureate (IB) schools in the eight counties of Western New York, and both high schools were among the top secondary schools in the

U.S. to earn the "Best High Schools" designation in the U.S. News & World Report's 2020 Best High Schools rankings. Ken-Ton has fostered a world-class teaching staff through an innovative and comprehensive framework of mentoring, coaching, and staff development. In addition to core academic subject areas, Ken-Ton is known for its exceptional art, music, and athletics programs, and extensive high school offerings. Visit us on the web at www.ktufsd.org.

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About OverDrive and OverDrive Education

OverDrive strives to create "a world enlightened by reading." Serving a growing network of 65,000 libraries and schools in 84 countries, OverDrive – and its K-12 division, OverDrive Education – delivers the industry's largest digital catalog of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and other content through award-winning apps. The [Libby](#) reading app for libraries is one of *Popular Mechanics'* 20 Best Apps of the Decade, 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.

www.overdrive.com

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