

Sherrill-Kenwood Free Library Plan of Service for all residents of the VVS Community

Sherrill-Kenwood Free Library (SKFL) is committed to serving all residents of the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (VVS) Central School District. With the Library Levy having passed on June 1, 2022, our library now has the financial stability necessary to adequately support all patrons and community members throughout the VVS district, especially those who have been long underserved. As part of our Plan of Service, the following serves as an outline of our initial ideas for bringing dynamic services to all parts of our VVS community.

Expansion of Library Hours: Starting by the end of 2023, our open hours will increase from 34 hours a week to 45 hours a week, featuring open hours extending into four weeknight evenings on a weekly basis (Monday through Thursday). This expansion will give additional opportunities for our patrons to access our building, services, programs, and physical collection, especially those with full-time jobs and families for whom our past and current hours are not as conducive.

Installation of a Library Smart Locker in Verona: SKFL is in early talks with Mid York Library System about the possibility of purchasing a Library Smart Locker to be installed at an off-site location in Verona. This Smart Locker would serve as a convenient access point for Verona patrons to freely pick up library materials from the full Mid York catalog. A patron would place their request online via the Mid York catalog, in-person at our library, or via a phone call to SKFL. This locker would be restocked with patron requests on a regular basis, and patrons would be contacted once their request was ready. With the locker freely accessible to patrons on a 24/7 basis, patrons could check books out from our library even when our doors are closed. This off-site locker location would be the first of its kind in the Mid York Library System.

Expansion of Home Internet Access: All VVS residents must have easy Internet access to ensure that members of our community are not left behind by the digital divide. While our physical building offers free Internet access on a 24/7 basis, not all patrons can easily visit us on a regular enough basis to meet their digital needs, and not all can afford high-speed Internet access. To aid in bridging the digital divide, SKFL plans to offer WiFi kits that would be freely available for checkout. These kits would include a hotspot, which would allow the means for patrons to freely connect to high-speed Internet at home, as well as a laptop to access the Internet.

1-on-1 Tech Literacy Help: All community members, whether they are SKFL cardholders or not, will be able to get free 1-on-1 help with their tech devices on an appointment basis with SKFL staff starting in early 2023. This program will cement our library's investment in our community's tech literacy skills, which are critical in today's society.

Expansion of Programming: SKFL plans to grow extensively from our current slate of program offerings. One of our chief priorities is to build out a dynamic Summer Reading Program for all ages, and especially on the Youth side. We expect that our Summer Reading program will

promote literacy and free reading via reading challenges, virtual programs, and physical programs that will occur both on-site and off-site, with off-site programming occurring throughout all corners of the VVS district. While programming will certainly grow via more in-building options, some programs will also be made available on a virtual basis, either as live programs for patrons to engage and enrich themselves without needing to physically travel to our library, or as recordings that can be accessed at a patron's convenience.

Expansion of Digital Collection: Library users are increasingly transitioning from primarily consuming print materials to digital materials. To meet the evolving needs of our community members, SKFL plans to invest more heavily in our digital library in future years, making more aspects of our physical collections freely accessible from outside of our brick-and-mortar building. This expansion will include making a greater number of eAudiobooks and eBooks available via the Libby app, and will also include the digitization of items of local cultural interest, from the creation of digitized Oneida Limited & Mansion House collections to digitizing VVS yearbooks.

Growing as a “Library of Things”: Books are important, but 21st century libraries have collections that are more than just books. Our collection already features freely available items that are not traditionally synonymous with library collections. Need snowshoes? You can borrow pairs from us! Planning a trip to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse? We offer a pass that can get you and your family into the Zoo (and any other Onondaga County Park) for free! In further cementing a “Library of Things”, we'll be better able to meet the needs of our community. We plan to offer additional recreation equipment, expand our pass offerings, and add new options (i.e. bakeware), to ensure that SKFL is the destination for making serious leisure pursuits possible and affordable for our VVS community.

Collaborations with VVS CSD: SKFL is committed to providing literacy and programming support to VVS staff as needed. Our First Library Card initiative will be offered with live in-building support at all three elementary schools in the VVS district, and SKFL staff plan to offer support to VVS curricula where possible, through book talks, collaborative programming, and tailoring portions of our juvenile collection to support the research needs of VVS students.

Board Representation from throughout the VVS Community: The SKFL Board of Trustees is committed to being represented by voices throughout the VVS community. Starting in January 2023, the SKFL Board currently anticipates that approximately half of our board members will reside outside of Sherrill, with representatives from Vernon and Verona serving as integral board members.