



Elissa Malespina

Teacher Librarian - Award Winner - Presenter

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Teacher Librarian

September 2022 - Present

Union High School

- Manages a library serving an ethnically, economically, and socially diverse population of over 2400 students and over 200 teachers and staff members
- Built and maintains a school library website.
- Works with teachers to provide technology and research lessons to support classroom studies across all areas of study.
- Creates an open and inviting environment conducive to effective learning and collaboration.
- Trains teachers and staff on how to implement a variety of technological tools in support of the curriculum

Teacher Librarian & Technology Coordinator

June 2019 - June 2022

Verona High School

- Managed a library serving a population of over 700 students and 60 teachers and staff members
- Built and maintained a school library web-portal and professional development sites
- Worked with teachers to provide technology and research lessons to support classroom studies across all areas of study

Elected Board of Education Member

2021 - Present

South Orange Maplewood School District

- First Vice President
- Managed and Maintained a over \$150,000,000 budget for a PreK - 12 School District
- Set the vision and goals for the district and held the district accountable for the results
- Adopted policies that gave the district direction to achieve its goals, including the revamping of its Resource Materials Policy and the Public Complaints Policy
- Evaluated the Superintendent
- Served on the Policy and Curriculum and Instruction Committees
- Determined and implemented school policies
- Participated in numerous educational board trainings

Instructor

Sep 2018 - Present

International Society Of Tech Educators (ISTE)

- Facilitator of Exploring Future Ready Librarianship: Practice For Emerging Leaders ISTE U online course.
- Though Exploring Future Ready Librarianship: Practices for the Emerging Leader, students reflect on current librarian and media specialist practice; identify areas for professional inquiry and growth; explore the Future Ready Librarians™ framework; and create and implement a personal action plan to lead from the library

Teacher Librarian

Sep 2015 - June 2019

Somerville Middle School

- Manages a library serving an ethnically, economically, and socially diverse population of over 300 students and 40 teachers and staff members
- Built and maintains a school library web-portal and professional development sites
- Works with teachers to provide technology and research lessons to support classroom studies across all areas of study
- Created a Makerspace that serves all the students in the school
- Creates an open and inviting environment conducive to effective learning and collaboration
- Trained teachers and staff how to implement a variety of technological tools in support of the curriculum

- Wrote and received numerous grants for the library including a \$5000 James Patterson/ Scholastic Grant.

Coordinating Supervisor of Educational Technology and 6-12 STEAM

May 2014 - Aug 2015

Parsippany-Troy Hills School District

- Supervisor to K-12 librarians, middle school computer and multi-media teachers and TV production teachers for the district
- Point person for 6-12 STEAM implementation for the district
- Coordinated and developed the district's technology plan
- Designed professional development plan for the district
- Trained teachers on effective use of technology in the classroom
- Worked with teachers to develop and write curriculum for computer, library and STEAM classes
- Created district's course selection iBook
- Transformed curriculum writing process through implementation of Google Apps
- Created Makerspaces in each of the district's 14 school libraries
- Managed a budget of over a quarter of a million dollars

Teacher Librarian

Sep 2011 - May 2014

South Orange Middle School

- Managed a library serving an ethnically, economically and socially diverse population over 700 students and 80 teachers and staff members
- Built and maintained school library web portal and professional development sites
- Worked with teachers to provide technology and research lessons to support classroom studies across all areas of study
- Created and sustained an open and inviting environment conducive to effective learning and collaboration
- Coordinated SOMS book club, Minecraft club, Sphero club, parent volunteers and after-school student helpers
- First to conceive of and implement an e-reader based lending library in district which now includes 34 Nook devices loaded with over 100 titles
- First in the district to bring augmented reality to the schools and to use AR with students
- Piloted one-on-one computing
- Trained teachers and staff on how to infuse a variety of technological tools into the curriculum
- Supervised and trained numerous student teachers

Teacher Librarian

Sep 2005 - Jun 2011

Columbia High School

- One of three Library Media Specialists to work with an ethnically, economically and socially diverse student population of over 1,800
- Worked with teachers to provide lessons to support classroom studies
- Fostered work-study and parent volunteer programs

Teacher Librarian

Sep 2001 - Jun 2003

Highland Park Middle/High School

- Managed library serving grades 6 - 12
- Worked with Child Study Team to create a library based work-study program specifically targeting students with special needs
- Worked with teachers to provide lessons supporting classroom studies

Special Education Teacher

Sep 2000 - Jun 2001

Washington Academy

- Taught U.S. history to neurodiverse children between the ages of 8 and 18
- Small group instructor for reading, writing, and spelling
- Designed and implemented lesson plans for the Wilson reading and spelling program
- Designed and implemented lesson plans for SRA reading program

Social Studies Teacher

Sep 1998 - Jun 2000

West Orange High School

- Teacher of world history and United States history
- Designed and implemented lesson plans and activities within the framework of the established curricula for world and U.S. history
- Assessed students progress through written, oral, individual and group projects

Graduate Certificate in Restorative Justice

2023

International Institute of Restorative Practice

Education Supervisory Certification Program

2013

Seton Hall University

Master of Arts, Education/Library Science

2002

Seton Hall University

Bachelor of Science, History and Secondary Education

1998

Seton Hall University

Certification

- New Jersey School Librarian K-12
- New Jersey Elementary Education K-5
- New Jersey Social Studies Education K-12
- New Jersey Supervisory Certification
- Restorative Justice Certification
- Google Levels 1 & 2 Certified Educator

Professional Affiliations & Committees

- Past President ISTE Librarians Network (ISTE)
- Chairperson Future Ready Librarians Task Force, Future Ready NJ
- Future Ready Task Force, Future Ready New Jersey
- Digital Citizenship Collaborative Work Group, Department of Education, NJ
- Social Media Awards Committee Member, American Library Association (ALA)
- Past - Professional Development Chairman, ISTE Librarians Network
- Member, New Jersey Association of Educational Technologists (NJAE)
- District Technology Committee
- District Professional Development Committee
- School based Literacy Leadership Committee
- Edmodo Certified Trainer
- Edmodo Support Ambassador
- GlogsterEDU Ambassador
- Google Certified Educator
- Quiver Ambassador
- Raspberry Pi Certified Educator
- Common Sense Media Educator

Professional Development Presentations

- [Augmented Reality in the Classroom](#)
- [ISTE Librarians Network Webinars](#)

- [Being a Librarian in The Age of Alternative Facts](#)
- [Being Proactive when dealing with Book Challenges](#)
- [Branding Your School and Library](#)
- [Breaking down the classroom walls with Google Hangout](#)
- [Creating and Using QR Codes in Schools and Libraries](#)
- [Empowering School Librarians and Educators with AI](#)
- [Future Ready Librarians](#)
- [Collaborating to Create Policies against Challenges and Bans](#)
- [Makerspaces and You Perfect Together](#)
- [Marketing Your Library](#)
- [Taking a Deep Dive into the Future Ready Librarians Framework](#)
- [Using Edmodo in the Classroom](#)
- [Using Livebinders and Evernote in the Classroom](#)
- [Using Twitter and Pinterest to Create a PLN](#)
- [What's in Your Students' Backpack - Information Privilege and Equity](#)

Publications

- Featured School Library Management 8th edition
- [After Her Book Display Drew Criticism, Librarian Elissa Malespina Lost Her Job. She's Here to Say "I'm Not OK with This."](#) - School Library Journal September 2022
- [Elissa Malespina Mover and Shaker 2022- Change Agent](#) Library Journal May 2022
- ["Some NJ schools under siege from those trying to get books on race, LGBTQ+ pulled from shelves"](#) NJ Star-Ledger, April 2022
- ["Fighting Cuts: How to Keep Librarians in Schools"](#) School Library Journal April 2018
- ["An Open Letter to School Librarians : Silence is Not Golden"](#) School Library Journal February 2017
- ["An Open Letter to School Boards Everywhere"](#) School Library Journal May 2016
- ["Using QR codes in School Libraries,"](#) featured in April/May 2012 edition of *School Librarian Workshop*
- ["Elissa Malespina Created a"Compliments Group" to Boost Student Self-Esteem"](#) featured on Edmodo Blog Feb 2013
- ["Getting Pinned: Using Pinterest"](#) featured in Feb/March 2013 edition of *School Librarian Workshop*
- ["Poetry Comes Alive at SOMs"](#) featured on Edmodo Blog April 2013
- [Choices Summer Reading iBook](#) featured on Joyce Valenza School Library Journal Blog May 2013
- ["Projects to Engage Middle School Readers"](#) featured on Edutopia December 2013
- ["Could Minecraft Make Kids Smarter"](#) featured in Desert News National May 2014
- ["Rethinking the Annual Report](#) featured in June/July edition of *School Librarians Workshop*
- ["Those Tired Summer Reading Lists Here is what to do"](#) School Library Journal April 2015
- ["An Open Letter to School Boards Everywhere "](#) School Library Journal July 2016
- Contributor on [TeacherCast.net](#) podcasts and blog
- Contributor on [JerseyEducation.com](#) podcasts and blog
- Featured Teacher in "Teacher Uses This" blog

Social Media Contributions

[Future Ready Librarians](#) - Facebook Moderator
[TL News Night](#) co-host -3rd Monday Night of the Month
[ISTE Librarian Network](#) PD monthly webinars
[Beyond Books Podcast](#) - BAM Radio Network Podcast Host

Interviews

Interviews I have been featured in: <http://www.elissamalespina.com/interviews.html>

Media Mentions

Articles and Publications I have either written or be featured in: <http://www.elissamalespina.com/publications.html>

AWARDS

- 2022 Mover and Shaker - Change Agent - Library Journal

- 2022 Top 100 Influencers in EdTech - EdTech Digest
- 2018 American Association of School Librarians Social Justice Defender Finalist
- 2016 PBS Learning Media Local Digital Innovator
- 2014 Bammy Award Winner - School Librarian Category
- 2014 Edublog Finalist for Best Open PD, Unconferences, or Webinar Series
- Featured in an 2014 PBS Documentary on Technology in the Classroom - [School Sleuth The Case of the Wired Classroom](#)
- 2013 New Jersey Association of School Librarians Jean Harris Progressive School Library Program of the Year Recipient
- 2013 ISTE Make IT Happen Award
- 2013 Edublog Best of the Web Winner - Best Use of Video and Media & Finalist for Best Podcast or Hangout

