

A Book for Every Reader: How One District Succeeds with Digital

June 24, 2024



Sora

Where students read

ISTE Standards addressed today...

1.1 Empowered Learner (Students build networks and customize their learning environments in ways that support the learning process).

2.2 Leader (Educators advocate for equitable access to educational technology, digital content, and learning opportunities to meet diverse needs of all students).

2.5 Designer (Educators use technology to create, adapt and personalize learning experiences that foster independent learning and accommodate learner differences and needs. And, they explore and apply instructional design principles that create innovative digital learning environments that engage and support learning).

3.1 Equity and Citizenship Advocate (Education leaders ensure all students have access to the technology and connectivity necessary to participate in authentic and engaging learning opportunities).

3.3 Empowering Leaders (Education leaders support educators in using technology to advance learning, cultural and social-emotional needs of individual students).

4.1 Change Agent (Coaches facilitate equitable use of digital learning tools and content that meet the needs of each learner).

4.4 Learning Designer (Coaches collaborate with educators to design accessible and active digital learning environments that accommodate learner variability).

4.6 Data-Driven Decision-Maker (Coaches partner with educators to empower students to use learning data to set their own goals and measure their progress).

Today's speakers:

Allison Staffin

District Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
Cherry Hill Public Schools (NJ)

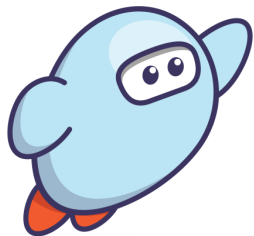


Today's speakers:

Jody Brookshire

Sora Account Executive

OverDrive



OverDrive[®]



Why digital reading is important...

The evolution of reading technology

5,000 years ago

Human beings began reading and writing.

550 years ago

The printing press was developed.

50 years ago

Digital books come onto the scene with Project Gutenberg.

Consider this:

Approximately how much of the daily reading required for your career is done on a **screen?**

- 0 - 20% (None or very little)
- 21 - 50% (Some)
- 51 - 75% (More than half)
- 76 - 100% (Nearly all or all)



Digital reading is essential to prepare our students.

- **Increased digital reading** in college and careers.
- **Standardized tests** are moving to digital.
- **Now is the time** for students to build deep sustained reading skills.



20%

What if there was a solution that could...



- ✓ **Prepare students for digital testing.**
- ✓ **Offer instant, 24/7 access to books.**
- ✓ **Provide equitable access to digital books across an entire district: Class Sets, choice reading and whole school reads.**

Sora: Where students read

Sora is an award-winning digital reading platform for K-12 schools that helps you ensure that every one of your students has access to the right digital books to achieve their reading and learning goals.

soraapp.com

OR DOWNLOAD THE APP:



2024 & 2021 AASL
Best Digital Tools



District
Administration Top
Ed Tech Product
2020



2019 AASL
Crystal Apple
Recipient



2019 Academics'
Choice Smart
Media Award



2021 Gold Stevie
Award

TIME

Time Magazine's
Best Inventions of
2019





**How does
Sora boost
student
reading?**

Access



- Reading is available **24/7**
- Ebooks and audiobooks can be read on **virtually any device.**
- Progress **syncs across devices**
- Books can be **downloaded to read offline**
- **Students can move seamlessly between their school and home devices!**

Privacy of digital books

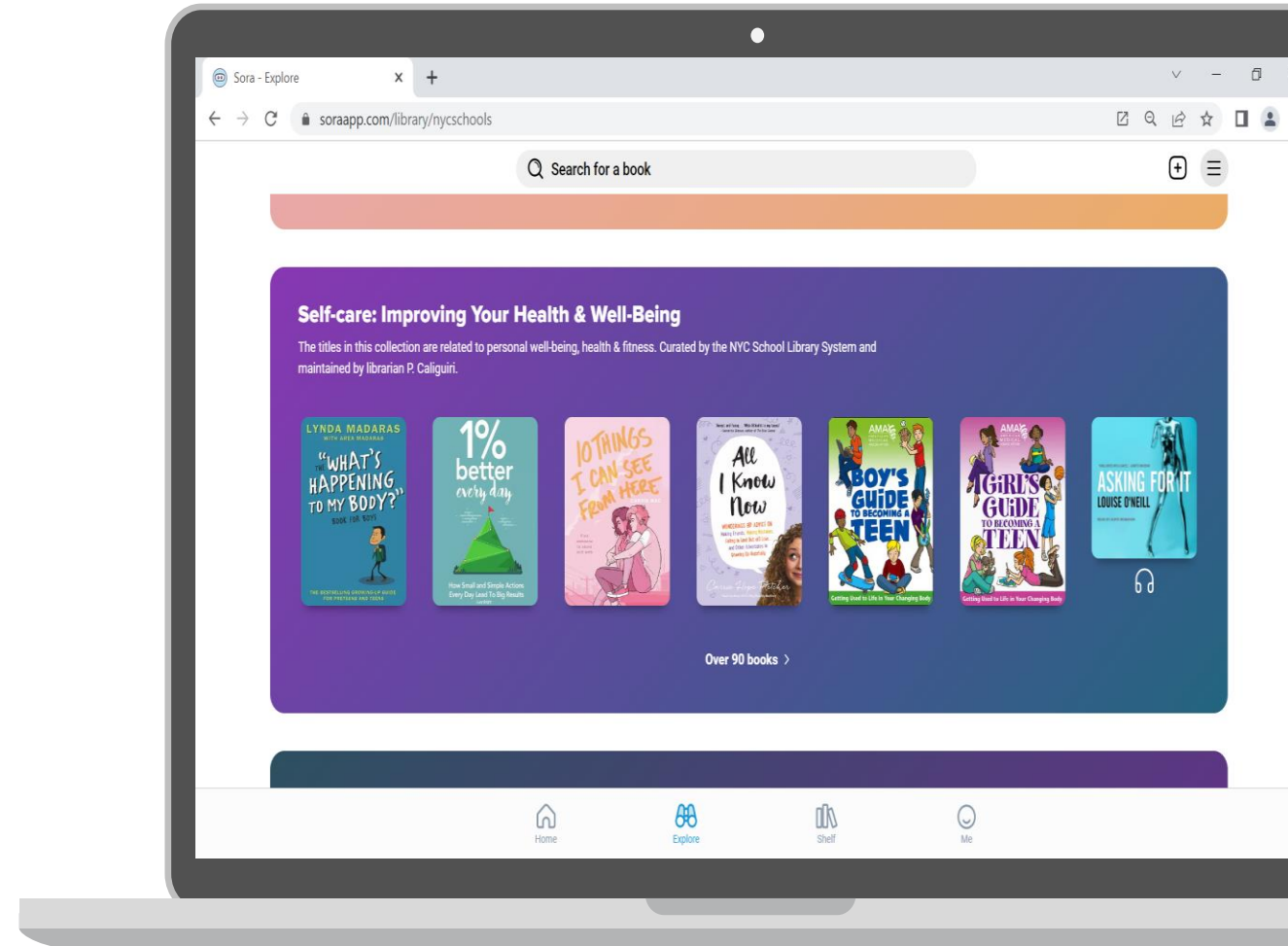


Don't be afraid to be seen reading!

Students don't have to worry about being seen with books that carry a stigma.

Sensitive topics like body image, sexuality, home-life issues, and mental health can be read in private.

Students reading below grade-level aren't ostracized for reading different editions or titles.

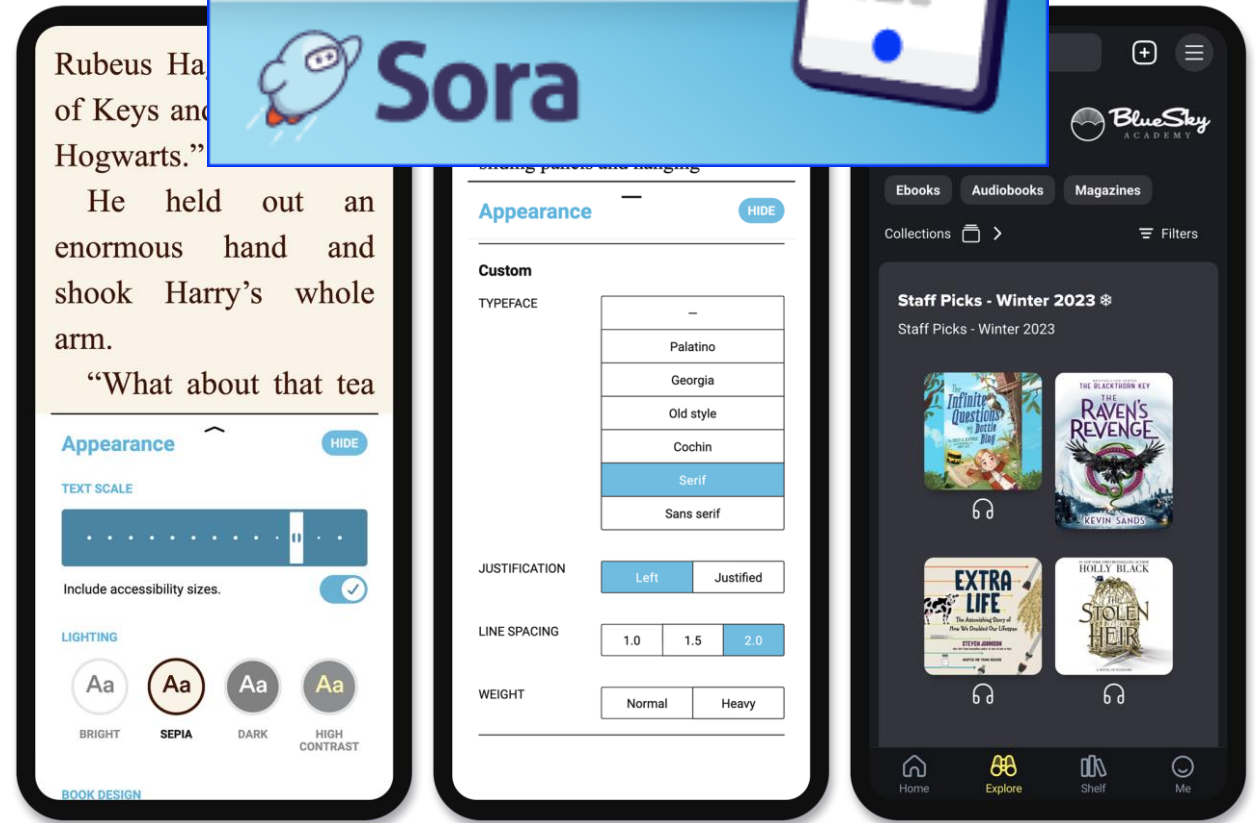



Differentiation

Accessibility features to meet a range of reading needs:

- Adjustable fonts and text sizes
- Screen reader support
- Read to Me text-to-speech support
- High-contrast mode and other screen lighting options
- Alternate formats (ebook, audiobook, graphic novel, read-along, magazine, comic)

Read to Me **NEW!**
Text-to-speech reading support for all students



Rubeus Ha
of Keys and
Hogwarts.”

He held out an enormous hand and shook Harry’s whole arm.

“What about that tea

Appearance HIDE

TEXT SCALE

Include accessibility sizes.

LIGHTING

Aa Aa Aa Aa
BRIGHT SEPIA DARK HIGH CONTRAST

BOOK DESIGN

Appearance HIDE

Custom

TYPEFACE

Palatino
Georgia
Old style
Cochin
Serif
Sans serif

JUSTIFICATION

Left Justified

LINE SPACING

1.0 1.5 2.0

WEIGHT



Normal Heavy

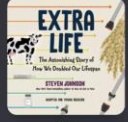

Ebooks Audiobooks Magazines

Collections Filters

Staff Picks - Winter 2023 ✨

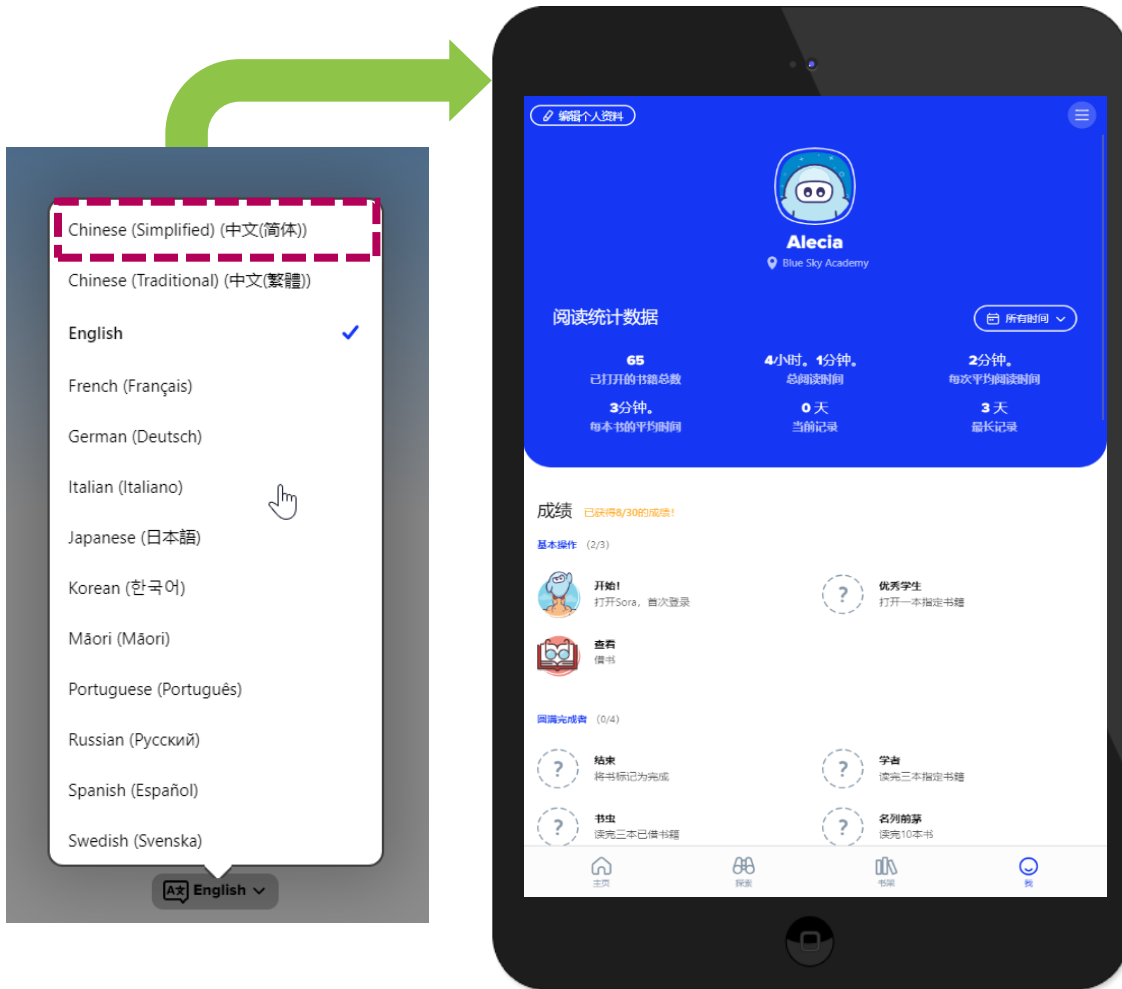
Staff Picks - Winter 2023

Home Explore Shelf Me





Immersion

A multilingual interface provides multilingual students more tools for immersion so that they can gain more fluency.

It's also easier to find and read texts in **languages other than English.**

Students can translate texts via the built in translate feature

Interactive tools Build **Deep Sustained** Digital Reading Skills

You can increase student engagement and help them respond to their reading in real-time ways with curriculum tools like:

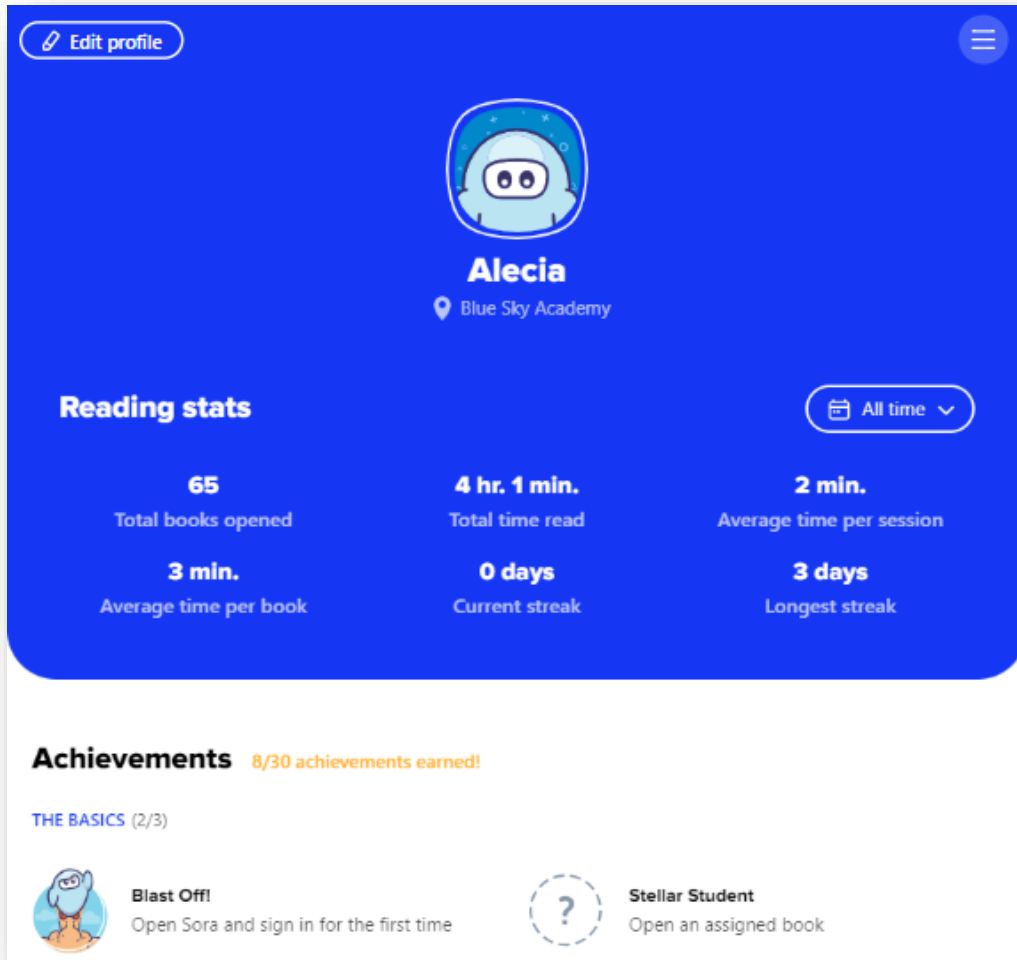
- Exportable notes and highlights
- In-app dictionary
- In-app Google Translate

The image illustrates the integration of digital reading tools. On the left, a tablet displays a French chapter titled "Chapitre 1". The text includes: "D'un bref signe de la main, je salue la foule. Je partage son excitation. Un peu plus et je m'applaudirais!", "Aujourd'hui, je n'ai pas tiré Fred des griffes de Joe et de sa bande. Ou descendu de la branche d'un arbre. Newton III, le chat de madame Ruel. Ou épargné à la planète un désastre écologique.", and "Non, je n'ai pas accompli d'autre exploit que celui d'être... le Capitaine Static." Below the text is an illustration of a superhero character. A green arrow points from the word "griffes" in the text to a dictionary definition on the right. The dictionary shows the definition of "prowl" in English, including its verb and noun forms and synonyms. In the foreground, a "A highlight" tool is shown, with a green highlight on the text "des griffes" and a menu of sharing options: PDF, CSV, Text, Copy to clipboard, and Google Drive.

Accountability

Sora's Me tab can help students:

- Self-set goals and track reading success
- Gamified experience – earn badges for reading milestones
- Learn how to leverage digital tools effectively



The screenshot displays the Sora 'Me' tab for a user named Alecia. At the top left, there is an 'Edit profile' button. The user's profile picture is a blue robot-like character. Below the name 'Alecia', it says 'Blue Sky Academy'. The 'Reading stats' section is highlighted in blue and includes a date filter set to 'All time'. The stats are as follows:

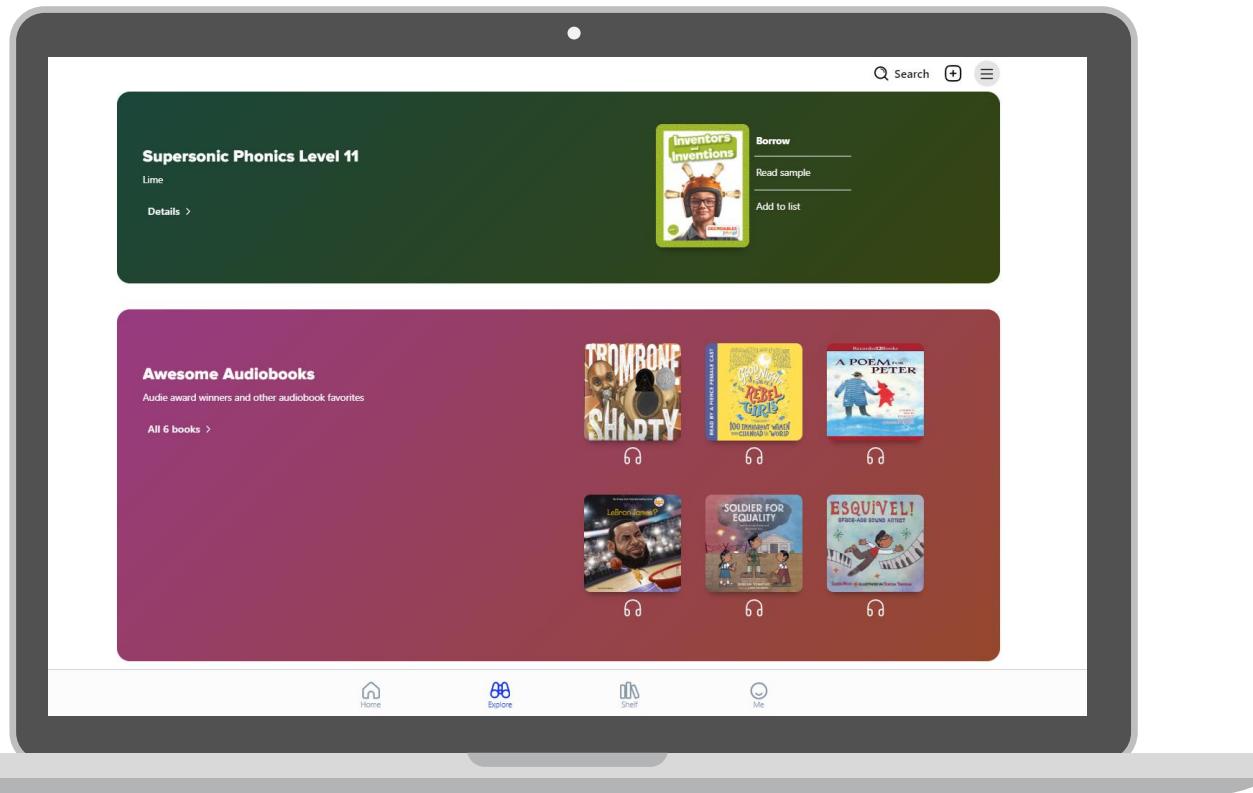
Stat	Value	Description
Total books opened	65	
Total time read	4 hr. 1 min.	
Average time per session	2 min.	
Average time per book	3 min.	
Current streak	0 days	
Longest streak	3 days	

Below the stats is the 'Achievements' section, showing '8/30 achievements earned!'. Under 'THE BASICS (2/3)', there are two achievement cards: 'Blast Off!' (Open Sora and sign in for the first time) and 'Stellar Student' (Open an assigned book).

How does Sora support educators?

*Key benefits that can save you time **and** energy.*

Customization through one platform



Customization options mean you can present Sora as your **only digital library**:

- Train students on **one platform**.
- **Single access point** for all digital books
- **Use curation** to highlight content
 - **For example:** Feature phonics titles for younger students

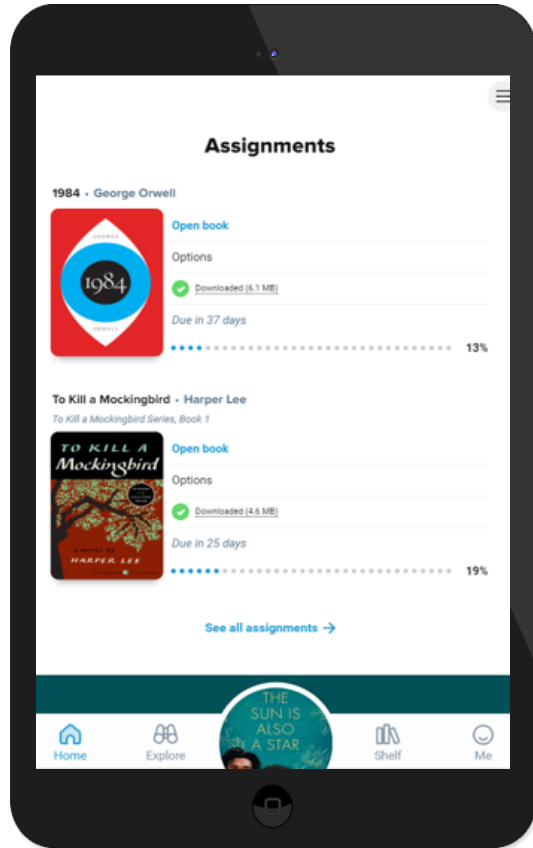
Simple distribution logistics.

- **No processing** required
- **No storage** required
- **No shelving (or re-shelving!)** required
- Keep your collection current with just **weekly or monthly** work sessions.

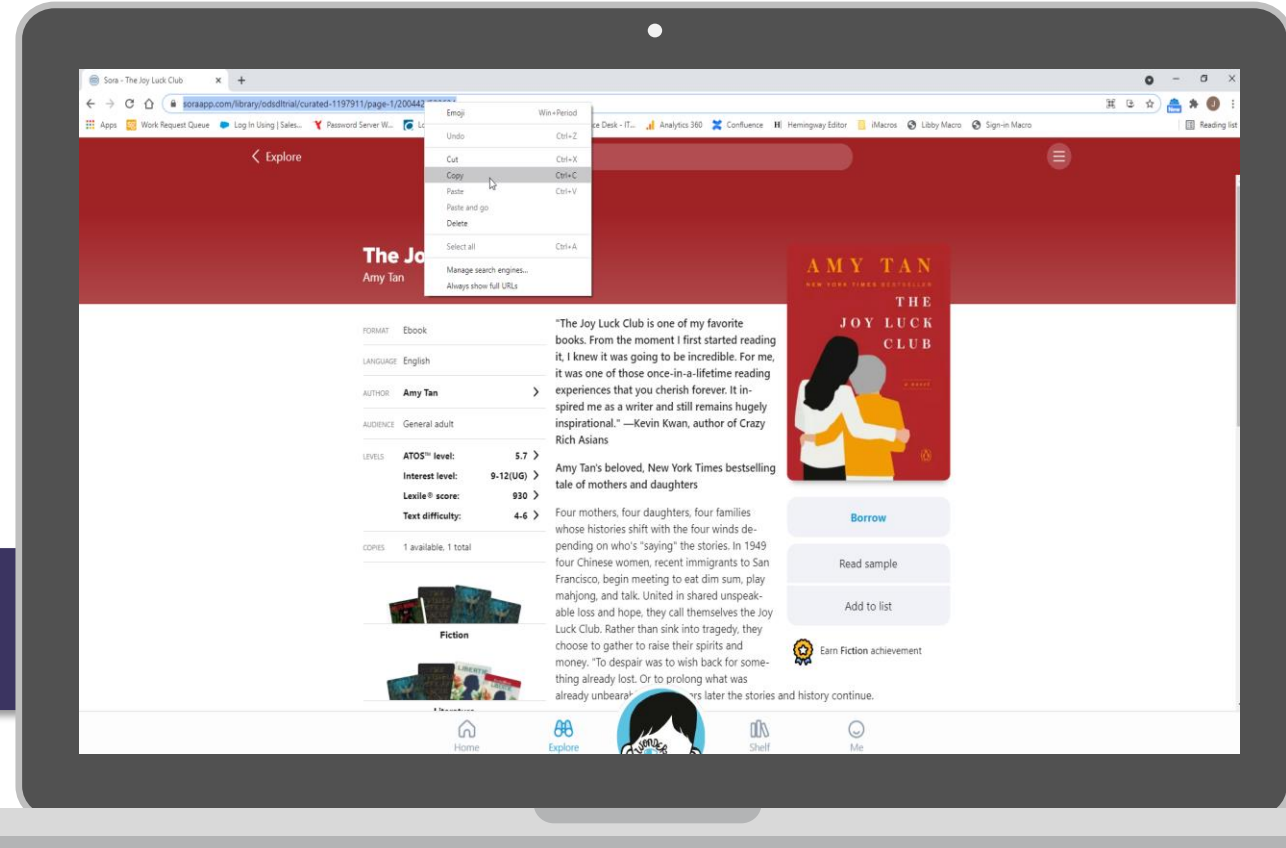


Tools to share titles

Title assignments



Deep linking to individual titles



Edtech integrations

Sora integrates with many of the top learning management systems, student information systems and learning object repositories.

- Single sign-on options
- OneRoster
- Federated Search
- Thin Common Cartridge
- MARC record integration

SAFARI MONTAGE

Edupoint



Google Classroom

SKYWARD

Infinite Campus

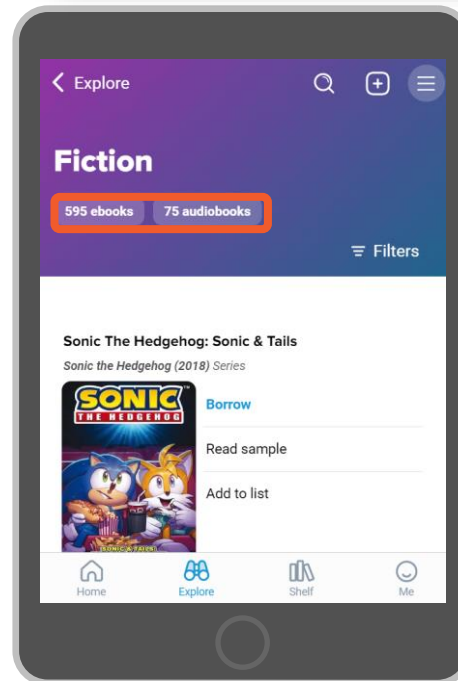
ClassLink

Aeries
Student Information System

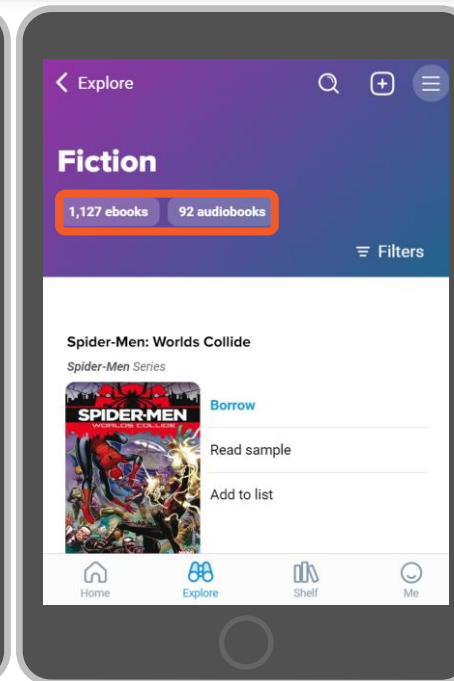
Content access levels

- Content access levels let you control **which age groups** can view certain titles in your digital collection.
- Manage access to titles based on age-appropriateness.
 - *Example alignment:*
 - **Juvenile:** Grades K-5
 - **YA:** Grades 6-8
 - **Adult:** Grades 9-12; Staff

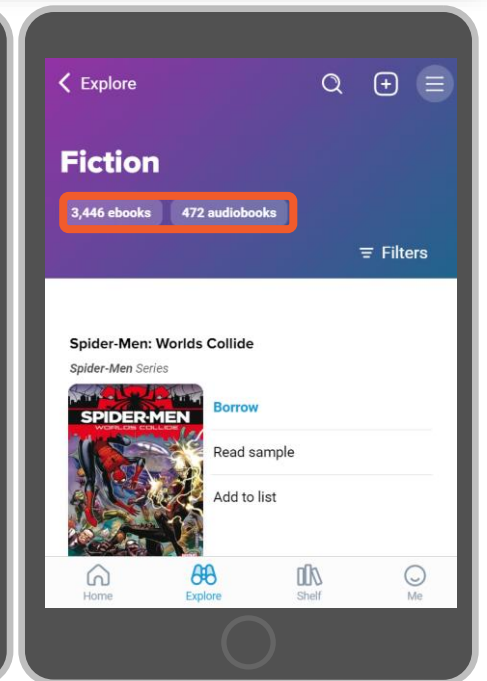
Content access levels **restrict reading above** levels, not below.



Juvenile



Young Adult

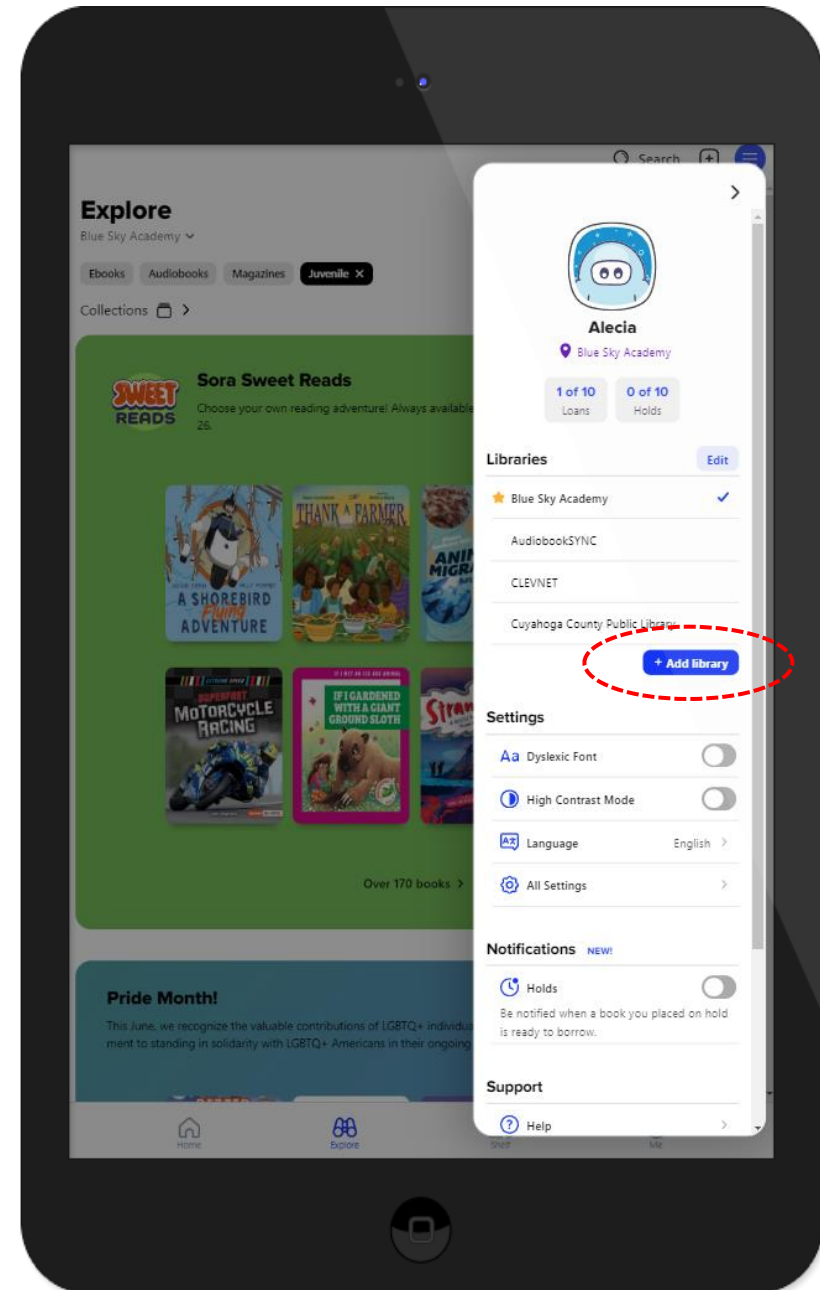


Adult

+Add library

- Students can access age-appropriate ebooks and audiobooks from your public library's digital collection
- Any student with a library card can sign in and check out titles from the library.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE: When your school and public library have both opted in, no library card is needed! Borrowing a book is as simple as using your school credentials



Real-time reports help inform purchasing decisions.

Cons ratio ▼
41
41
16
10
9

Current holds

To see important information about this report, visit this help article.

Last updated: March 18, 2024 10:18 PM ET

Users on waiting list by format

Audiobook	2,682
Ebook	4,340
Total	7,022

Title copies that are shared through Advantage Plus give the owning Advantage member priority on holds for those titles. For this reason, users may move forward or backward on the overall wait list for those titles, depending on their Advantage membership.

Current average wait period	1114 days
Run by	Title
Branch	All branches
Weed status	All
Hold status	All
Availability	All
Website	Standard and mobile

[+ Convert to new cart](#) [⇌ Run new r](#)

Title	Creator	Publisher	ISBN	Format	Audience/Rating	Street date	All holds	Adv holds	All suspended holds	Adv suspended holds	Cons ratio	Adv ratio
1 ¡A por todas!	Jeff Kinney, Est...	Penguin Rando...	9788427215337	📖	Juvenile Fiction	4/25/2019	1	1	0	0	1	1
2 ¡Atrapados en la nieve!	Jeff Kinney, Est...	Penguin Rando...	9788427203471	📖	Juvenile Fiction	9/17/2013	1	1	1	1	0	0
3 ¡Esto Es El Colmo!	Jeff Kinney, Est...	Penguin Rando...	9788427215245	📖	Juvenile Fiction	11/30/2018	1	1	0	0	0.5	0.5
4 The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People	Stephen R. Covey	RosettaBooks	9780795309212	📖	Adult Nonfiction	12/2/2009	1	1	0	0	1	1
5 The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens	Sean Covey	Simon & Schust...	9781476764672	📖	Young Adult No...	5/27/2014	1	1	0	0	0.5	0.5

- **Don't waste budget** on multiple copies of books with limited demand or books that don't circulate.
- **Respond to demand** via your holds reports and automated carts.
- **Track student-level reading data** to get a better picture of what and how students are reading.

Explore free resources

Check out the OverDrive Resource Center:

- Marketing and outreach materials
- Classroom activities
- Curriculum support
- Book recommendation lists
- Webinars & how-to videos
- Self-paced training
- Training kits
- Much, much more!

resources.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/



Sora in action:

Cherry Hill Public Schools



With insights from...

Allison Staffin

District Supervisor of
Curriculum & Instruction



About Cherry Hill Public Schools



Cherry Hill is a 24-square mile area located in southern New Jersey.

- **20 minutes** from Philadelphia
- **90 minutes** from NYC
- **1 hour** from Atlantic City
- **3 hours** from Washington D.C.

About Cherry Hill Public Schools

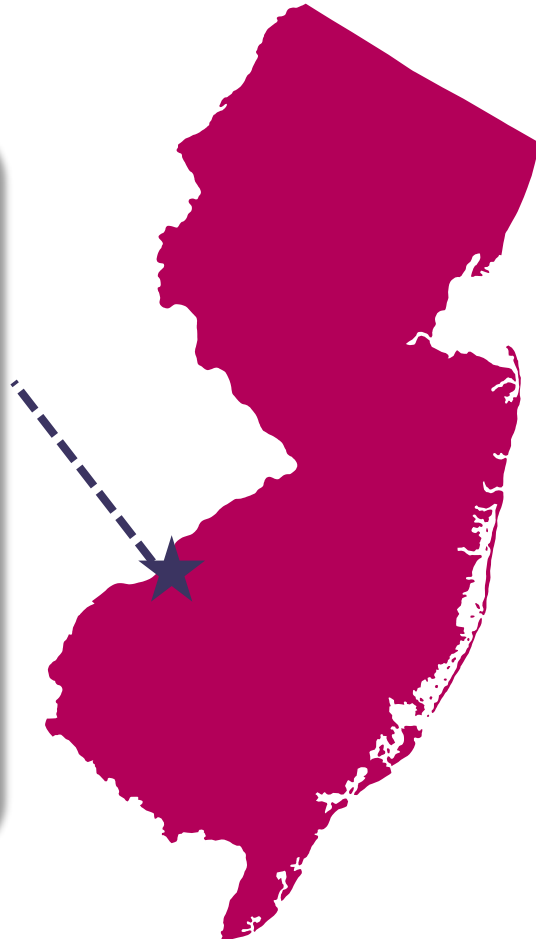
11th

largest school district in the state

19

Schools

Largest school district in Southern NJ



Cherry Hill
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Belief statements:

1. *A variety of instructional modalities and technology tools must be used to accomplish student learning*
2. *Schools must partner with families and our community to foster lifelong learning*
3. *Students must be prepared to explore multiple perspectives and value creative, open-minded thinking.*

About the CHPS student community

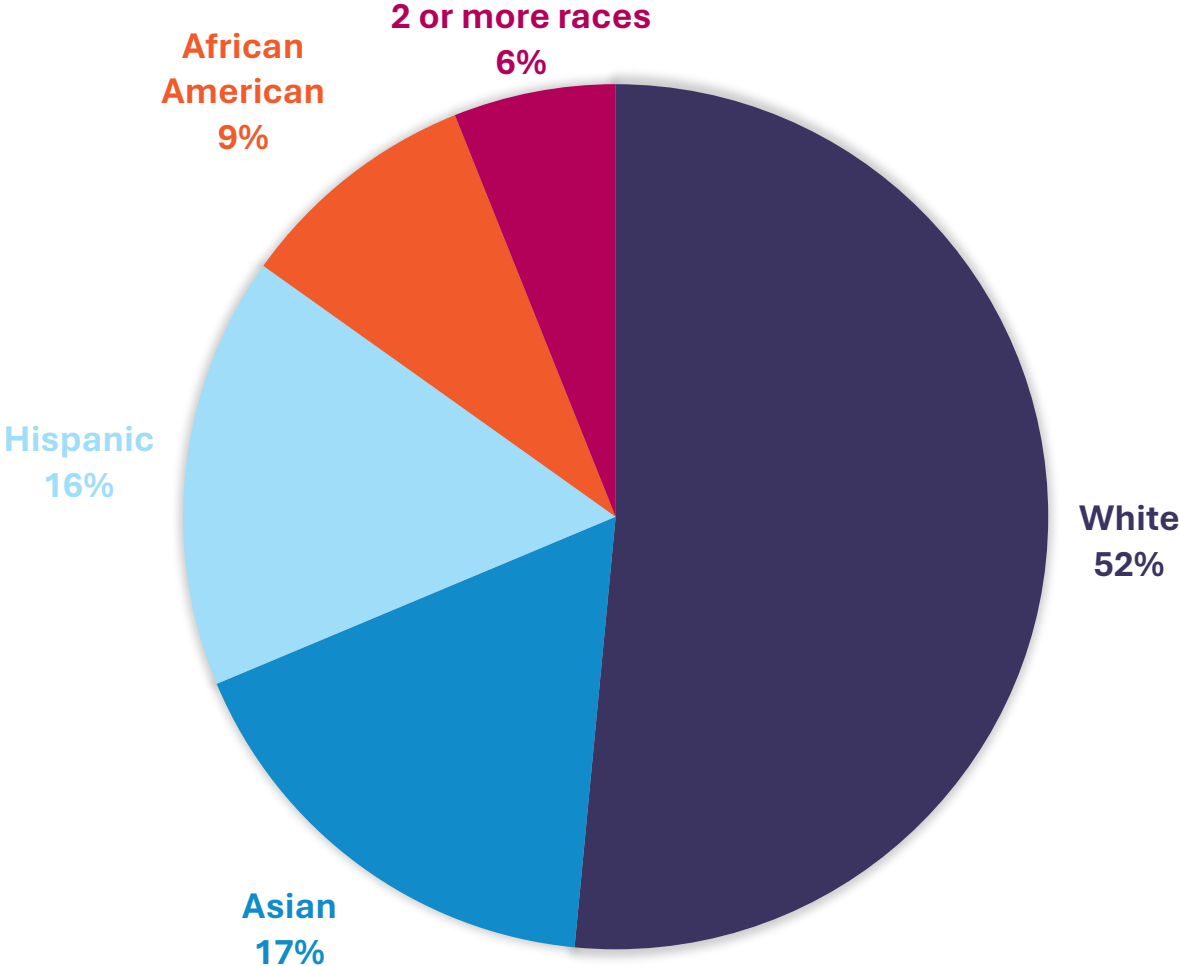
76 native languages spoken by students

2,323 bilingual students

437 English language learning students

18%
of students are eligible for special education services (including speech-only)

17%
of students are eligible for a free or reduced lunch



Our Sora journey so far...

2020

The beginning

9/20/2021: Started with Sora during the pandemic to keep books in kids' hands.



Our Sora journey so far...

2020-2021

Our why, our needs

- **10/6/2020:** Partnered with Cherry Hill Public Library to enable Public Library CONNECT for students
- **11/13/20 – 5/6/22:** Joined New Jersey Schools Shared Collection providing us access to more libraries and content



Our Sora journey so far...

2021-2022

Continuing along the same path...



CHPS +Sora= Team

2022-2023

A supervisory shift occurs in CHPS

- I move from High School AP to Curriculum Supervisor
- I move from someone else placing orders and supporting Sora to me doing that.
- Sora support has been invaluable to supporting our shift and advising how to best use Sora.
- They are responsive to even the smallest question.
- The tutorials are helpful and easy to follow.
- With our subscriptions plan we meet monthly, and all my questions are answered.
- I do not need to know what new titles are out, they will curate that for me.



Our Sora journey so far...

2022-2023

A shift occurs...

- Our **why** is the same... putting books in the hands of students
- Our **how** shifts... with the use of Sora we can maintain up-to-date collections and support school-based budgets and update options regularly.
 - We can connect with our local library to combine Sora collections
 - We can purchase highlight collections in multiple formats.
 - We can support new projects quickly when schools need additional books for research, we can purchase and have them in the collection in minutes.



Our Sora journey so far...

2023-2024

Settling into our new normal.

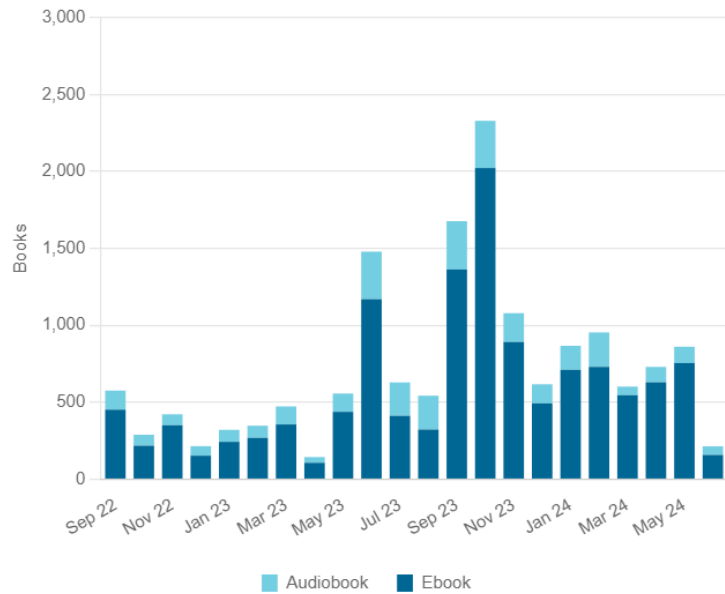
- **All grades are engaged:** Top 3 schools by checkouts include ES, MS and HS
- **9/14/23:** Added magazines
- Also added Sora New Releases subscription during this time
- Also began having curated collections celebrating national heritage month collections



CHPS Sora usage by the numbers

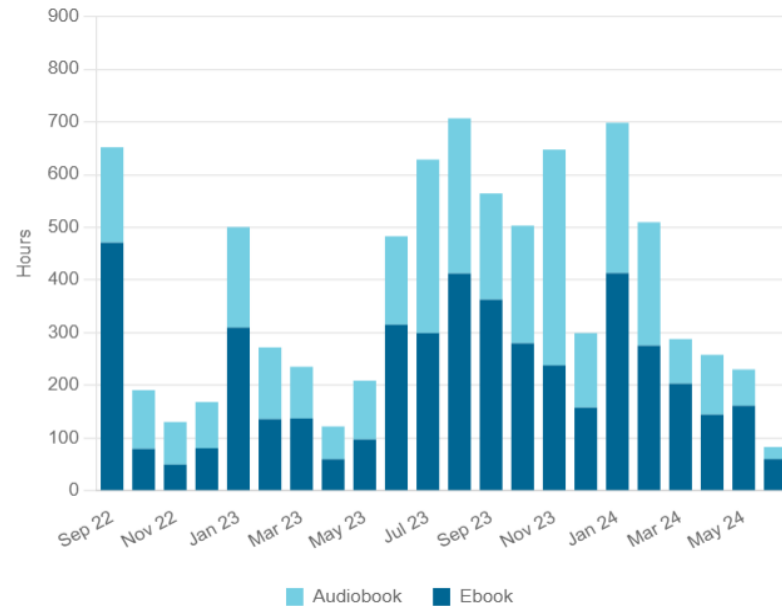
Total books opened

Total number of books **15,926**



Total time read

Total number of hours **8,381.56**

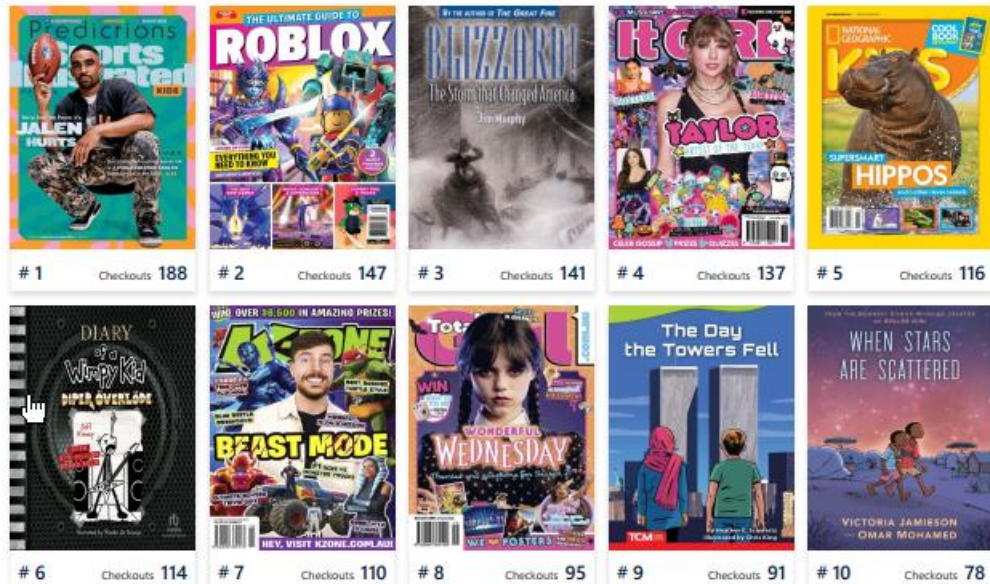


117%
Sora usage
growth in 2023-
2024 over 2022-
2023!

CHPS Sora usage by the numbers

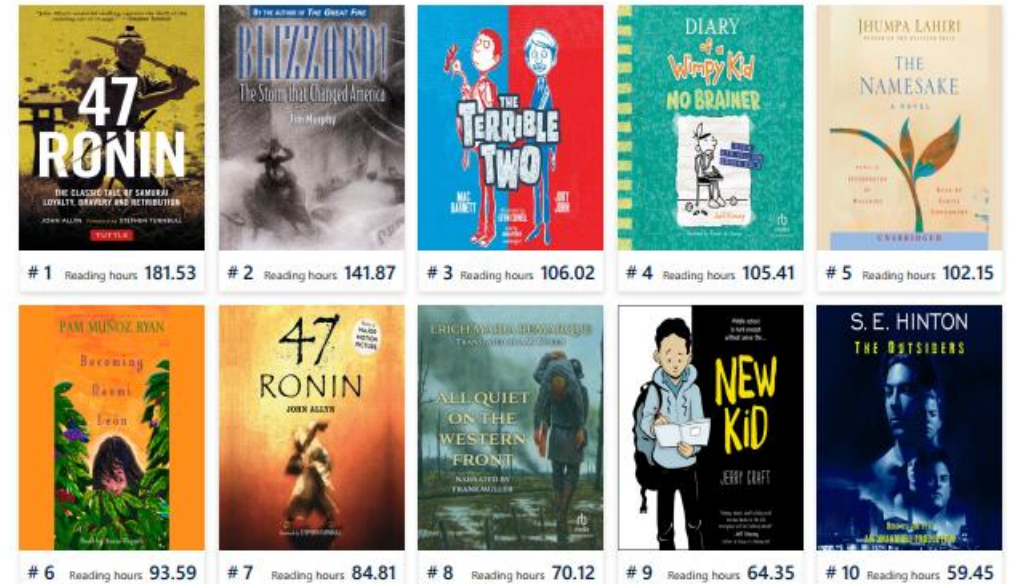
Top 10 titles (by checkouts)

Total checkouts 1,217



Top 10 titles (by time read)

Hours read 1,009.3



Most popular titles (*by checkout and by time read) during 2023-2024 SY

What CHPS Media Specialists are saying:

Donna P, elementary media specialist, *“The students enjoy SORA because they are able to access a wider variety of reading materials that piques their interests and encourages them to independently read.”*

Amy R., elementary media specialist, **“Sora is easy to navigate and combines the resources of our school and the public library, so students always have books they are excited to read.”**

Skye S., middle school media specialist, **“I love Sora. It is the most friendly and natural interface for reading Ebooks that I have used. It's great for students to read on a wide variety of devices.”**



Questions?



SESSION EVALUATION

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Your valuable feedback helps make the overall program stronger and ensures we're meeting your learning needs. Evaluations are also used by the conference program committee to provide feedback to presenters and inform future presentations.

To provide feedback and rate the quality of this session, please log-in and locate the session on the conference website at conference.iste.org.

Sora

Where students read

Thank you!

Learn more: discoversora.com

Contact Sora: schools@overdrive.com

Follow us on social! [@sorareadingapp](https://www.instagram.com/sorareadingapp)



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