Middle school librarian Michele Velthuizen said ASH chose OverDrive Education as its digital content solution in part because of its reputation as the trusted partner of more than 18,000 schools worldwide. OverDrive also offered a superior user interface, eReading app and selection of popular juvenile and young adult titles, she said.

Velthuizen said OverDrive has helped alleviate financial constrictions to growing ASH’s library collection since the service was introduced at the school in 2013.

“OverDrive has worked with international schools across the globe to expand their recreational and educational reading offerings in a more cost-effective manner than traditional print,” OverDrive Account Executive Steve Reyes said.

Because OverDrive eBooks and audiobooks are borrowed through a customized school-wide website, they can never be misplaced, stolen or damaged. Velthuizen said this has shown to be a significant improvement over ASH’s prior lending practices, adding that many parents take advantage of this anytime, anywhere access to books for their own reading.

“24/7 online accessibility of OverDrive (titles) has been a great bonus,” she said.

Velthuizen noted that another benefit of the OverDrive service has been the ability for ASH to give students, parents and educators more reading options without taking up valuable shelf space. Reyes said this is an advantage of digital content that has helped thousands of schools overcome physical library restrictions.

“eBooks provide a great alternative to their print counterparts,” Velthuizen said.