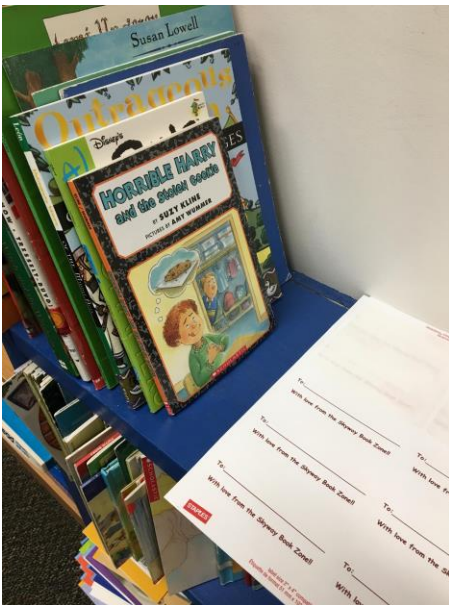


The Book Zone Skyway Elementary School Colorado Springs, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Skyway Elementary School is the only Title I school in the Cheyenne Mountain School District. Teachers and staff collaborate daily to strategically plan interventions that aim to close the achievement gap and ignite the powerful love of literacy. In response to these interventions, school staff created the “Book Zone” to further support student interest in reading both at school and at home.



The Book Zone launched during the 2017-18 school year to further support student interest in reading, both at school and at home. A neighboring school donated books for students to borrow--five at a time and upon return, exchange them for new ones. Unlike a library, fines are not issued if a book is lost or damaged, but students are encouraged to swap out their books, unless it is one they cannot part with and will reread. Teachers call these “forever books” and often gift additional books for students’ home libraries. Students are encouraged to visit the Book Zone as often as possible, and they take pride in enjoying their own library, set-aside only for Title I students.

In an effort to support student opportunities to listen to fluent reading, two teachers have also collected several CD and cassette players with headphones that students can borrow. While teachers always have to explain what a CD or cassette player is, students feel like they have something special to show their families when they take them home. Although students are more used to sharing smartphones with their family members, they are excited to show them something “from when you were little” that they can use to listen to stories that accompany their books.

Family partnerships at Skyway Elementary School involves many facets of purposefully connecting school to home, and literacy has grown to be the perfect bridge. Students and parents can engage as much or as little as works for them because of other home and work commitments. The Book Zone is just a small piece of a bigger puzzle that connects our school home to their “real” home and students are reaping the benefits of how we are all fitting together!