



Above, some of the dated, current nonfiction books in the NMS Library.



\$2,500 Grant Will Purchase New, Nonfiction Books For Middle School Library

Soon after Newark Middle School Library Media Specialist Sam Lovejoy began working here in February, he discovered the nonfiction collection in the school library was a bit dated.

“After doing a collection analysis, I realized that the average age of our nonfiction titles was about 16 years old and what we strive for is no text older than 10 years for nonfiction. This means we needed a big influx of new and relevant titles for our students,” he said.

Lovejoy explored “outside” sources of funding and found out the *Dollar General Literacy Foundation* annually awards literacy initiative grants to non-profit organizations, libraries and schools in the 46 states *Dollar General* stores serve.

In April, he and Laurie Palmisano, Director of Community Schools and Grant Services collaboratively wrote a grant and just recently learned the NMS Library was successful and will receive \$2,500 to purchase possibly up to 250 new non-fiction texts.

“Our goals with the new texts are to not only get updated and relevant books into our students’ hands but to partner with teachers to make sure that we are meeting their curricular needs,” Lovejoy said. “We will be working with teachers to select titles that will help them with their lessons and hopefully plan some units with them. This grant will allow us to not only get new titles with more relevant information, but to get books that will be both educational and capture the students’ interest.”

“We are so excited to get more literature into the hands of our students!” Palmisano said.

The NMS Library grant award is part of more than \$3 million in grants awarded this fall to nearly 760 nonprofit organizations, libraries and schools across the 46 states that *Dollar General* serves.

“Updating our library with exciting and relevant text is so important for our students,” said NMS Principal Teresa Prinzi. “Mr. Lovejoy’s passion for providing our Middle School students with great literary experiences is amazing. This grant is an example of his dedication to finding ways to provide our students with text that they may not have had otherwise.”