

Elizabeth Monika  
Clarence Center Elementary School  
Librarian  
TEPS Abstract  
NYLA: SSL Annual Conference 2026

To the TEPS Committee Members, Dr. Frahm, Dr. Overholt, and Mike Thomas (CTA Website):

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the New York Library Association: Section for School Librarian's Annual Conference in Ithaca, New York on April 30-May 2, 2026. A major highlight of the event was the participation of five well-known children's authors and illustrators who shared their creative journeys and inspired attendees through presentations and discussions. Conference sessions focused on practical research ideas for students in grades K-5, emphasizing age-appropriate inquiry skills and strategies for building student curiosity. Presenters also addressed the growing concern over the disappearance of reliable sources of information for student research and discussed methods for teaching source evaluation and information literacy. Additional workshops provided engaging library programming ideas designed to increase student participation and foster a love of reading. Attendees explored creative activities, themed events, and collaborative opportunities that could be implemented in elementary school libraries. Several sessions highlighted the importance of digital citizenship lessons for K-5 students, focusing on online safety, responsible technology use, and respectful communication. Vendors provided demonstrations of digital resources, distributed free samples, and showcased a variety of books available for purchase. Overall, the conference successfully highlighted the vital role school libraries play in promoting literacy, creativity, and lifelong learning.