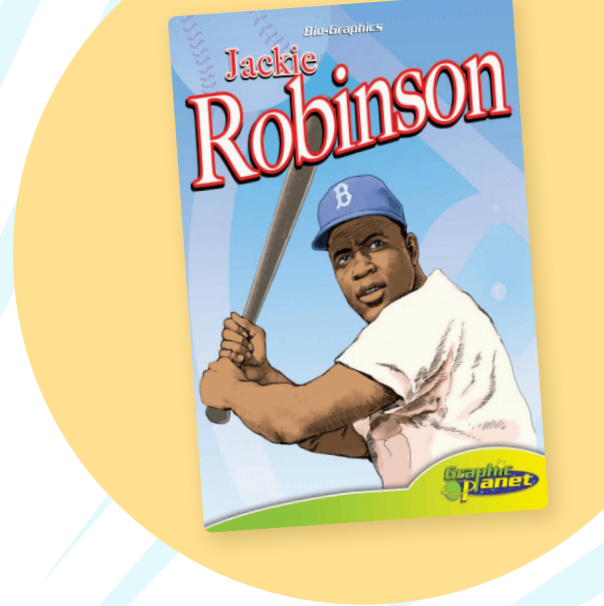




COMICSPLUS[®]

CASE STUDY



Wyandotte Public Schools: Bringing Graphic Novels Into the Curriculum at Every Grade Level



At Wyandotte Public Schools in Michigan, Director of Media Services George Purdu saw a consistent pattern across the district: students wanted more comics and graphic novels.

After 11 years as a middle and high school Social Studies teacher, followed by roles as a media specialist and technology coach, George understood both educators' instructional needs and the interests that drive student reading. When the district introduced Comics Plus[®] in 2024, he saw an opportunity to turn that demand into a districtwide reading strategy.

Serving 4,500 students across four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school, George worked with educators to incorporate graphic biographies, literary adaptations, and student-selected titles into classrooms and school programs. Comics Plus provided the access and flexibility needed to support readers at every grade level.

"Seeing what options are available for our students, Comics Plus has made it one of the more valuable resources for our students."

George Purdu

Director of Media Services, Wyandotte Public Schools



Goals

George set out to build on student interest in comics and graphic novels while helping educators see their value as instructional tools.



Expand Access to High-Interest Reading

Give students across the district convenient digital access to the comics, manga, and graphic novels they were already eager to read.



Support Curriculum Across Grade Levels

Help educators incorporate graphic biographies, literary adaptations, and nonfiction into instruction at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.



Meet a Wider Range of Reading Needs

Use visual storytelling to support comprehension, different learning styles, and students who may struggle with traditional texts.



Elevate Student Choice

Give students a voice in selecting titles for clubs, competitions, independent reading, and classroom activities.



Build a Cost-Effective Districtwide Collection

Provide broad access without purchasing large numbers of print copies or relying on traditional one-copy, one-user ebook licensing.



Strategies

George partnered with educators across the district to identify relevant ways to use Comics Plus at each grade level.



Begin With Existing Student Demand

Student requests for comics and graphic novels were already strong across the district. George used that interest, along with engagement from Roosevelt High School's established Comics Club, as the foundation for broader implementation.



Support Elementary Research With Graphic Nonfiction

Fifth-grade students used digital nonfiction graphic novels for required biography projects. Comics Plus gave them access to a variety of subjects, including figures such as George Washington and Jackie Robinson, without being limited by the availability of physical copies.



Incorporate Literary Adaptations Into Middle School ELA

Eighth-grade educators used a literary adaptation of *Frankenstein* as part of classroom instruction. Teachers observed that students using the adaptation were better able to process the story and complete related classwork.



Include Graphic Novels in Shared Reading Programs

Four of the ten titles selected for the district's eighth-grade Battle of the Books competition were graphic novels. Students selected two of those titles, while educators chose the other two.



Support Diverse High School Readers

Special Education teachers used a literary adaptation of *The Count of Monte Cristo* to make the classic story more approachable. The high school Comics Club also used Comics Plus to review options and select a new shared read each month.

Outcomes

Comics Plus helped Wyandotte Public Schools expand access to graphic novels while supporting instruction, student choice, and engagement throughout the district.



Districtwide Access

Students at all six schools gained access to age-appropriate digital collections spanning elementary, middle, and high school.



Strong Student Interest

Comics Plus became one of the district's most highly circulated resources, building on students' existing demand for comics and graphic novels.



Greater Curriculum Flexibility

Educators used graphic novels for biography projects, ELA instruction, Special Education, Battle of the Books, and student-led clubs.



More Accessible Learning

Teachers reported that literary adaptations of graphic novels helped students process information and complete classwork more successfully than traditional versions in some instructional settings.



Meaningful Cost Savings

Unlimited, simultaneous access allowed entire classes and groups to read the same title without requiring the district to purchase multiple print copies or individual ebook licenses.

Conclusion

From elementary biography projects to middle school literature units and high school programs, Wyandotte Public Schools demonstrates how graphic novels can support readers across grade levels and learning needs. By pairing teacher collaboration and student choice with unlimited digital access, George helped make Comics Plus a flexible, highly used, and cost-effective resource throughout the district.

