



NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
615 Church St. | Nashville, TN | 37219

CONTACT: Emily Waltenbaugh
Public Information Officer
emily.waltenbaugh@nashville.gov
(615) 862.5754 (desk)
(615) 406.8153 (mobile)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 13, 2017

NEW YEAR, NEW LIBRARY FOR HARRIS-HILLMAN EXCEPTIONAL ED SCHOOL
Limitless Libraries Partnership Brings School Its First-Ever Library



Metro Councilwoman Burkley Allen, School Board Representative Mary Pierce, MNPS Director of Schools Dr. Shawn Joseph, Harris-Hillman Principal Gerry Altieri, School Librarian Stephane Rausch, Mayor Megan Barry, and NPL Director Kent Oliver join Harris-Hillman students, faculty and families in cutting the ribbon to open the makerspace area of the new school library.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The students and teachers at Harris-Hillman School today began 2017 with something they’ve never had before: their own school library. Mayor Megan Barry today joined Nashville Public Library (NPL) Director Kent Oliver and Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) Director Dr. Shawn Joseph, as Harris-Hillman students, teachers and staff opened their brand new school library. The space was built through the [Limitless Libraries](#) partnership between NPL and MNPS.

“Once again, the Limitless Libraries partnership has created a beautiful new school library that will make students’ lives better by opening new worlds of learning to them,” Mayor Barry said. “Thank you to Metro Nashville Public Schools and Nashville Public Library for teaming up to make this transformation happen at Harris-Hillman School.”

The nearly 3,000 square-foot library is all new construction — the school’s previous library was a collection stored in a corner of the school cafeteria. The new space was designed to meet the needs of

students at Harris-Hillman, which serves students from Pre-K through 12th grade with varying physical, mental and cognitive abilities and challenges.

The construction of the library represents an approximately \$600,000 commitment from Limitless Libraries, in addition to just more than \$23,000, which has gone to support library collection development at Harris-Hillman since 2013.

“In Metro Schools, we want libraries to be learning hubs that inspire a passion for reading and exploring new ideas,” said Joseph. “Harris-Hillman School's new library is a hallmark of our partnership with the Nashville Public Library through the Limitless Libraries program, which puts resources in students hands that they wouldn't otherwise have in order to support their learning.”

Limitless Libraries is funded through Metro Government with generous support from private and corporate donors through the Nashville Public Library Foundation - including the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, which has given more than \$1.75 million to Limitless Libraries over the last four years.

“Thanks to Limitless Libraries, students at all Metro Nashville schools have access to the books, databases, and other resources that are part of Nashville Public Library's collection,” said Oliver. “As a result, students are reading more and using their school libraries more. When we opened a brand new school library at Harris-Hillman, we reaffirmed our commitment to this initiative, as well as to books, reading, and student success.”

To view a video about Harris-Hillman's librarian, students and its new library, visit <https://youtu.be/z5tPGrIrKUo>.

For additional photos of the new space and today's opening, visit <http://bit.ly/2jgJXiK>.

More about the New Harris-Hillman School Library

- a “makerspace,” where students will use tactile and other multi-sensory tools to study books and stories
- a new classroom
- a patio connecting to the sidewalks leading to the Fanne Mae Dees (“Dragon”) Park
- a separate entrance, so Harris-Hillman families can access the library for events - such as family nights or book fairs - even when the rest of the school is closed

For more about Harris-Hillman School, visit: <http://schools.mnps.org/harrishillman-school/>.

About Limitless Libraries

Limitless Libraries is a cooperative program of Nashville Public Library and Metro Nashville Public Schools with the goal of improving school libraries, fostering resource sharing between the two institutions, and improving student access to learning materials. For more information, visit www.limitlesslibraries.org.