



250<sup>YRS</sup>  
HARTFORD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



## THE BOUNDLESS LIBRARY @ WEST MIDDLE OPENS THANKS TO GRANT FROM THE HARTFORD

**HARTFORD, Conn. (February 1, 2024)** – Hartford Public Schools (HPS) in partnership with the Hartford Public Library (HPL) has opened a new library media center at West Middle School, a Pre-K through 5th grade school. The Boundless Library @ West Middle was funded by a generous grant from The Hartford that allowed HPL to transform the old media center into a welcoming space where students can develop a love for reading and learning. The funding also allowed HPL to hire a full-time Youth Services Librarian to provide services including story times, technology access, research assistance and book checkouts to West Middle students and staff. In addition to books, students will have access to computers, STEAM learning backpacks, Launchpad tablets, and audio books.

“The strong partnership between HPS and HPL serves as an impactful and dynamic model that creates equitable access to resources and programming,” said Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO. “We are excited to be able to grow upon the already successful, award-winning model of our Boundless program and welcome The Boundless Library @ West Middle. We sincerely appreciate the investment of time and resources The Hartford has contributed to these efforts, which has created a seamless integration between the Library and West Middle School, opening an array of educational opportunities for students and targeted assistance for teachers.”

“The opening of this library is yet another example of how our thriving partnership with the Hartford Public Library benefits our students and staff,” said Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Superintendent of Hartford Public Schools. “Thanks to their commitment and the generosity of The Hartford, we are providing our students with more opportunities to get lost in a book, to extend their imagination, and to unlock incredible learning and fun.”

“The Hartford is steadfast in its long-standing commitment to Asylum Hill neighborhood where both the company and West Middle Elementary school are located,” said Sarah Needham, Deputy General Counsel at The Hartford. “Providing the seed funding to open the Boundless Library @ West Middle is a great example of how we can invest in the needs of the community and improve access to enriching educational experiences in our neighborhood. We are grateful for the Hartford Public Schools and the Hartford Public Library partnering with us on this important project.”

For the 2023-2024 school year, the West Middle Boundless Library is available to West Middle students and staff as well as students who participate in the Boys & Girls Club after-school program.

Hartford Public Schools and the Hartford Public Library launched Boundless in 2015, an innovative partnership to encourage the sharing of resources, programs, and services to better support students. In 2023, the partnership earned the national “I Partner With My Library” award, which celebrates the important work that happens when community organizations work collaboratively with public libraries.



250<sup>YRS</sup>  
HARTFORD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



The West Middle Boundless Library is the second Boundless Library at Hartford Public Schools. The Boundless Library @ Rawson opened in 2019. To learn more about Boundless services, visit [HartfordBoundless.org](http://HartfordBoundless.org).

CONTACT:

Jesse Sugarman, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing

860-695-8637

[Jesse.Sugarman@hartfordschools.org](mailto:Jesse.Sugarman@hartfordschools.org)

Julia Skrobak, Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing

860-996-0344

[Julia.Skrobak@hartfordschools.org](mailto:Julia.Skrobak@hartfordschools.org)

Jess Emonds

Communications and Marketing Director

Hartford Public Library

860-559-4873

[jemons@hplct.org](mailto:jemons@hplct.org)

**About Hartford Public Schools** Hartford Public Schools serves more than 16,500 PreK-12 students from Hartford and nearly 70 surrounding towns. They are one of the largest public school districts in Connecticut, with 39 schools, including 18 magnet schools. The District believes in their beautiful and capable students, high expectations, inclusiveness, collaboration, continuous improvement, and systemic accountability. Their Mission is to provide all our students with the learning and support they need to succeed in school and in life. Their Vision is that all students will graduate prepared to transform our world.

**About Hartford Public Library** Founded as the Library Company in 1774, and over its 250 years, Hartford Public Library has remained at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With nine locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment, and cultural development for thousands of children, youth, and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance, and youth leadership training

###