



UPSM Elementary Receives Grant to Improve Library

UPSM Elementary recently received a \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association. The grant will go directly towards supporting new enhancements and materials within their beautiful school library.

The school library at UPSM is unique, as it is one of the few remaining elementary on-campus libraries in the city. An active alumni group volunteers to support the school and library. The original library was made possible with fundraising by school alumni of the former Sidney D. Miller School, a public school founded nearly a century ago. The school location was designated as a State of Michigan Historic Site in 1986 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. UPSM builds on the legacy of the Sidney D. Miller School by continuing to provide superior educational experiences for Detroit children and by maintaining and growing the library founded by former students many years ago.



UPSM Elementary will use a portion of the grant funds to compensate staff for the inventory of books and for maintaining a checkout system using iPads. The funds will also be used for programming opportunities and to compensate staff members who



host library programming. These programs will utilize the library as a community space to celebrate and increase literacy. These programs will include book read-alouds, comprehension talks, read-ins, and lending hours. The grant will also enable the school to participate in community outreach opportunities and programming that include Miller alumni.

Finally, the grant will increase the reading inventory inside of the library, and more specifically, scholars will have access to books that are culturally responsive and aligned with U Prep's core values. Decodable texts will be added to give students access to materials that offer them ample opportunity to practice foundational reading skills.

“This grant is going to be a game-changer for the school and library. We wanted to add more titles that spoke to what our children need. This speaks and reflects on our commitment to social-emotional learning and culturally responsive education. We wanted to ensure the books were carefully chosen to reflect not just a diversity of characters, but characters, themes, and ideas that put Black joy at the center of the literature to help the students see themselves through the books,” said Kristin Venier, the Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Elementary Literacy. “We could not be any more excited to see the continued progress this will bring to our library!” UPSM Elementary was the only school in the state that received this grant.

