



Jess Hill

Head of School, The Harpeth Hall School

On a sunny school day morning, Head of School Jess Hill walks through the center of Harpeth Hall's campus and sits in the grass with a cluster of fifth grade students. Gathered in a circle, the girls share stories about their favorite activities, their families, and what they love about learning. Hill beams at their energy. She listens closely and responds with a natural ease that makes each girl feel special.

As a dedicated educator with more than two decades of independent school experience, Hill understands what constitutes excellence in all-girls education. Through her expertise and leadership, she cultivates a school community that encourages academic curiosity, fosters belonging, and prepares girls to become purposeful women ready to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Harpeth Hall, a school for girls in 5th through 12th grades, is committed to developing the next generation of female leaders — and that starts at the top. While the majority of teachers in independent schools are women, nationally women in the role of head of school hovered at just 36% in 2019. That unique position makes Hill a role model for the girls. Her commitment to teaching students to think critically, lead confidently, and live honorably, guides all that she does and shines through Harpeth Hall's entire community.

Harpeth Hall's dynamic faculty are at the heart of the girls' excellent academic outcomes, with 100% of students attending college. The school's coaches and artistic directors model confidence and teamwork at center field and center stage. And the school's innovators bring forth new ideas such as the Bullard Bright IDEA Lab — an expansive space to open in 2022 where students can create, experiment, collaborate, and dream.

For more than 150 years, Harpeth Hall has held true to the idea that girls deserve an excellent education full of possibilities and purpose. Harpeth Hall students — intelligent, ambitious, and determined — are the leaders of tomorrow, inspired by female trailblazers of today.

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