

Talley Street Upper Elementary Reimagines School Book Fairs

Talley Street Upper Elementary hosted its first “True” Book Fair in May. During the event, students chose two new books from a thoughtfully selected collection featuring diverse characters and authors. No money was needed, allowing every student to take home free new books for summer reading.

Ashley Long, Talley’s media specialist, supported the new book fair. She said, “The traditional book fair model separates students based on their ability to pay, which creates inequalities and limits our ability to offer free programs. Literacy is for everyone, and we want all of Talley’s students to enjoy reading.”

While past book fairs provided funding for the school library, supporting the collection’s expansion and new media programs, Long emphasized the need for change saying, “We can’t continue with something that highlights inequalities and goes against the library’s mission of providing equal access to information for all.”

Long also mentioned, “We are working with our PTO and the Decatur Education Foundation to host future fairs and find new ways to fundraise for the library’s programs and collection.”

Long added, “This change would not have been possible without support from my school. I am privileged to work for an administration that provides funding for collection development. School libraries must receive systemic funding and support to meet the needs of the students without relying on profit-driven measures.”

If you’d like to donate or sponsor the 2025 True Book Fair at Talley, please contact Talley’s PTO at president@talleypto.org.



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