



CENTENNIAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

News Release

Contact: Krista Bergert, (763) 792-6060; cell (612) 308-2608

Give to the Max Day “Golden Ticket” \$20,000 Prize Funds New Learning Hub at Centennial Middle School

Marjorie Pehl Wood Learning Commons Opens

January 11, 2016 (Circle Pines, MN)—Centennial Middle School will celebrate the opening of its new learning space, the Marjorie Pehl Wood Learning Commons, on Tuesday, January 12, at 10:30am at the school located at 399 Elm Street in Lino Lakes. The space was renovated, using funds from a \$100 donation in 2014 by Lino Lakes resident Marjorie Pehl Wood on Give to the Max Day 2014 that was drawn at random for an added \$20,000 “Super-Sized Golden Ticket” prize, in addition to donated technology to complete the space.

Funding was dedicated to the school’s 20-year-old media center, transforming it into a space where students can work inter-dependently and independently on a variety of tasks. The Learning Commons is a contemporary learning environment and gathering place for students to explore technology, work on group projects and participate in collaborative learning experiences. Traditionally the library environment is one where language arts teachers and their students have been the most frequent visitors. This new space stems from the passion to create an environment that benefits everyone—all students, staff and community members—before, during and outside the school day.

“We believe this new learning commons environment at the school will be a springboard for learners,” said **Robert Stevens, principal of Centennial Middle School**. “There are many steps ahead, including collaboration focusing on S.T.E.M. (integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) technologies and enhancement technologies for all learners. We look forward to seeing how this hub grows,” he added.

“I am happy to support the learning opportunities for students at the Middle School,” said **Marjorie Pehl Wood**. “Little did I know my \$100 donation on Give to the Max Day could enhance the learning environment in this way, making an impact on the lives of all students,” she added.

The school engaged in a process with students, staff, and the Middle School community to determine where to invest the funds. This process included conversations with the donor, students and staff about enhancing opportunities for all learners. Thanks to the donor and the Bush Foundation who generously partnered with GiveMN to provide the prize grant, the impact of this generous gift will be felt by the more than the 1,500 learners and 170 adults who work at the school, as well as the greater Centennial community.

“Not only can donors make a huge impact on our communities through their contributions, with Golden Tickets on Give to the Max Day, we have also illustrated how fun giving can be as well ,” said **Jake Blumberg, executive director at GiveMN**. “Give to the Max Day is all about inspiring Minnesotans to give back to the organizations and schools that strengthen our communities. Thanks to tens of thousands of donors like Marjorie and our generous partners at the Bush

Foundation, organizations across the state are able to serve clients and students in more impactful ways both here at Centennial Middle School and in communities all across the state. ”

About GiveMN

GiveMN links donors with organizations that are working to make Minnesota a better place. Its online giving website, GiveMN.org, enables charitable giving any time and any place, allowing people to donate with ease and enthusiasm. GiveMN brings innovation, energy and fresh ideas to Minnesota generosity.

###