

# CHILLS LIBRARY



# EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY LIBRARY

On January 8, 2020, the CSD School Board unanimously approved the proposal to rename the Library in honor of Edna St. Vincent Millay (Class of 1909).



Ms. Munson, English teacher and yearbook advisor, had an aMILLAYzing moment of discovery this fall. She stumbled on a graduation exercise book in the Library's collection from 1909, the year that Edna St. Vincent Millay graduated. Upon closer inspection, there were some poems included, written by the young Millay. Had these works previously been published? Ms. Munson got thinking about this important literary figure and our community. What could we do to honor Millay's important literary contributions in our school, to connect our past with our present?

Edna St. Vincent Millay is our most famous graduate: famous for her poetry, prose, and drama, and a suffragette and human rights activist. She received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1923, the Frost Medal in 1943, and in 2015 was named by Equality Forum as one of the 31 icons of LGBTQ History Month. Millay grew up in Camden, next door to the old Tannery on Washington Street. Millay was the daughter of a single mother who worked to support her three daughters as a traveling nurse. As the eldest, Vincent (her preferred name) was often on her own, caring for her younger siblings. Considered the most important female poet of the 20th century as well as an influential Jazz Age poet, Millay's humble beginnings speak to the importance of overcoming hardship and staying true to oneself.

The Yay Millay Committee, comprised of students, staff, and alumna Hannah Wells (Board Member of the Millay House in Rockland), will be planning some exciting events this spring. This will include new signage for the Library, publishing some of those early works that have not previously been published, and a community event! Stay tuned for more information.



# EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY LIBRARY

## 2019- 2020 SURVEY

How are we doing? We get feedback from our users all the time. We can count on teenagers to be honest about how they really feel! But periodically we like to know how we're doing in a more formal way. We wanted to be sure we were hearing from the students who DON'T use the library, as well as those who do. Our Science Department administered the survey in their classes to help us achieve that goal.

### TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES

# 295

29% - 9th graders  
27% - 10th graders  
27% - 11th graders  
15% - 12th graders

Why don't you come to the Library more often (or at all)?

#1 - No time

#2 - My friends don't go there

Several narrative comments included THERAPY DOGS as a reason students would visit more often, including the comment: "Therapy dogs, less people."



## TOP REQUESTS LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT

#1 - more beanbag chairs

#2 - couches

#3 - more 2-person tables

Favorite narrative comments:

"Definitely more 2-person tables," "Coffee machine and smoothie shack," and "Long dog beds to lie on."

### Of 295 respondents:

67% have visited the library with a class this year  
51% have visited the library 10+ times, 16% at 5-10 times

### MY FAVORITE PART OF THE LIBRARY IS

(of 111 free responses):

**Librarians** (11 times)

**Environment** (60+ times): including "positive," "friendly," "relaxing," "you can go outside," "calm," "respect," "beanbags," "different seating."

### MY FAVORITE PART OF THE LIBRARY IS:

"I like the energy it has, such as sticker Tuesday and the pom-pom poll."

"The balance between social environment and a learning environment"

"I feel safe and accepted."

"That it is a helpful place in the school where I can both learn and de-stress at the end of the day."

LIBRARIANS  
ARE...

