



AN INTERNATIONAL  
BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019–2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

★ Dear Sarah Smith Community,

On behalf of the Sarah Smith Elementary School faculty and staff, we would like to thank you for your generous contributions and support of our school's mission.

It is our goal to prepare students to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, and responsible citizens in a global community. We take great honor in serving you and your families.

Each day at Sarah Smith, we are focused on providing academic programming that improves students' knowledge and performance across all content areas. Our goal is to create a community where students learn and thrive through real world experiences, relevant, and rigorous curriculum. We strive to create a community where students read and write with clarity and fluency. Additionally, we aim to offer a rigorous curriculum focused on the integration and application of math, science, and technology. Through this vital work, our students will become engaged 21st Century learners. To do this critical work, great intention has been taken to develop our teachers' capabilities and efficacy through quality professional learning.

The Sarah Smith Education Foundation (SSEF) was established in 2006 to support the curriculum and academic investments that enhance and differentiate the Sarah Smith Elementary student experience both in-person and virtual.

The investments for 2019-2020 included:

- Math manipulatives to develop conceptual understanding of mathematical principles
- Expanding our classroom libraries to align with IB Planners and current Georgia Standards of Excellence
- Tutoring resources
- Hands-on science experiences through in-school field trips and labs
- Supplemental literacy, science, and social studies materials
- DLI materials and professional learning for teachers
- Offering funds for our teachers to explore innovative teaching ideas and approaches
- Technology and TV studio support

The annual report details the programs and initiatives funded by your donations to the SSEF. It is my honor to work alongside our Foundation Board of Directors to create a schoolwide culture of high expectations, trust, strong communication, and inclusion. Our board encompasses dedicated and compassionate advocates for children in our community. Through our work together, Sarah Smith Elementary will continue to be one of Georgia's most admired and successful schools.

Your Principal, Emily Boatright

Since 2006, the SSEF has invested nearly \$3,000,000 in our school's curriculum, including programs and technology that benefit EVERY student at Sarah Smith EVERY day.

★ WHY ★  
does a public school  
need a foundation?

The Sarah Smith school community values a first-rate education that goes beyond the ordinary. We want our students to receive an extraordinary education that public resources alone cannot support. The SSEF provides the supplemental funding to help Sarah Smith maintain its standard of educational excellence.

★ HOW ★  
is the Sarah Smith  
Education Foundation  
funded?

The SSEF is funded through generous contributions from our parents, grandparents, staff, faculty, and community partners.



Go to [www.sarahsmithelementary.com/foundation](http://www.sarahsmithelementary.com/foundation) to learn more about the SSEF and make your contribution today.



The Sarah Smith Education Foundation (SSEF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that supports the quality of education at Sarah Smith Elementary through strategic investments in curriculum and instructional programs that directly enhance the school's mission of academic excellence for all Sarah Smith students. We accomplish this by providing funding in three areas:



Academic enrichment and supplemental curriculum materials not covered through the Atlanta Public School's budget



Faculty development opportunities that encourage teaching innovation and excellence



International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme





# 2019/2020 Financial Overview

★ In the 2019 / 2020 school year, the Sarah Smith Education Foundation (SSEF) invested more than \$243,280 in curriculum related items, such as technology, classroom equipment and professional development opportunities for our teachers.

With the generous support of many parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and community partners, we raised \$276,363 in the 2019 / 2020 school year.

The SSEF is committed to its mission – supporting the quality of education at Sarah Smith through strategic investments in curriculum and instructional programs that directly enhance the school’s mission of academic excellence for all Sarah Smith students.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

#### REVENUE

Annual Campaign	\$221,573
+ Auction Event	\$33,061
+ Super Star Supporters	\$18,720
= Total Fundraising	\$273,354
Interest Income	\$3,009
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$276,363</b>

#### EXPENSES

Total Fundraising	\$14,362
General Administration	\$5,324
Revenue in Excess of Expenses	\$256,677
SSEF Curriculum and Classroom Funding	\$243,280

#### RESERVE FUND

Balance (7.01.19)	\$411,810
Increase to Reserve	\$13,398
<b>Total Fund Balance (as of 6.30.19)</b>	<b>\$425,208</b>





★ **2019/2020 Budgeted Curriculum Expenses**  
The SSEF funded more than \$240,000 in educational enrichment programs, materials and training. The following is a comprehensive list of investment areas funded to support our standard of excellence and benefit every student at Sarah Smith.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The largest percentage of SSEF funding was Academic Programming. These dollars supported curriculum initiatives that further all SRS students mastery of Math, Science, English and the Arts.



### Academic Competition Programs.....\$1,750

Provides funds for academic competitions such as the Technology Fair, National Geography Bee, and other competitions. Provides learning and competition opportunities, and provides additional support to teams that advance in competitions. **Grades: 4-5**

### Classroom Libraries.....\$7,500

In addition to the school's media center, classroom libraries and the bookroom provide close proximity to literary resources. In-class libraries help enhance literacy, increase time spent reading and help improve fluency, phonics, phonemic awareness, and reading comprehension. Funds pay for books for each class, leveled readers, and novels for classroom study. **Grades: All**

### Specialist Programs - Art, French, Music & PE.....\$12,000

Provides funds for program-enhancing materials and equipment to supplement what APS provides. **Grades: All**

### Technology Integration.....\$20,000

Instructional technology and hardware provided to assist in the goal of equipping every classroom with state-of-the-art teaching tools. Student-centered use of technology to create, blog, and code is the focus of this initiative. **Grades: All**

### Tutoring and Enrichment.....\$30,000

Additional, special and basic tutoring provided for students in reading on an identified basis by qualified tutors from a non-profit tutoring organization. **Grades: All**

## READING & ELA:

### Grammar & Writing Resources.....\$53,303

This program uses concrete, multi-sensory strategies to develop a systematic process for developing grammar and writing skills. Shurley English utilizes key concepts from the Complete Reading Series program to make abstract language arts concepts clear and logical in order to support all types of learners. **Grades: 1-5**

### Learning-to-Read Resources.....\$600

Wilson Language, developed with Orton-Gillingham methodology, has developed instructional models and a powerful literacy action plan that builds a solid foundation for beginning learners, closes the reading gap for struggling students, and provides valuable resources for teachers to support early learners. **Grade: All**

## MATH:

### Math Manipulatives.....\$2,000

Math manipulatives, consumables, workbooks and "hands-on" tools to support the Common Core Curriculum, Math Exemplars, Eureka Math, the APS math program. **Grades: All**

## SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES:

### Captain Planet Gardens.....\$250

Funds support the school learning garden. Students get hands-on experience in the garden with curriculum that ties to their classroom instruction and aligns to the common core standard in an interactive way. **Grades: All**

### High Touch High Tech.....\$22,000

Local scientists set up and oversee 'in-house' field trips. Hands on experiments are conducted in the classrooms, which correlate directly with the Science curriculum. **Grades: All**

### Science Lab.....\$2,000

Uses hands-on activities and lab experiments to help each SRS student discover the joy of science, critical thinking and scientific methodology. The curriculum is driven by Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and the IB Inquiry-based Units. Science labs are developed at both the IC and PC. **Grades: All**

**TOTAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:**  
**\$151,403**



## GARDENS

### SSEF funding helps our garden grow!

The Sarah Smith Learning Garden is thriving thanks to continued funding from SSEF! The gardens, located at both campuses, have been in place for 6 years. New to the gardens this year is a special tribute at the PC to honor Ms. Eden called “Eden’s Garden.” Ms. Eden retired in 2019 after 32 years at SRS teaching K through 4th grade. Thank you Ms. Eden for all of your years of service to SRS. You will be missed!

“The school garden was such a great learning experience for my class. One of the standards for third grade science includes soil types, plant adaptations and habitats. The school garden was a terrific hands on resource to make science come to life for the students. The connections the students made from what we were doing in class and what they saw from exploring and learning about the garden made for a meaningful experience. One thing they also loved was planting different vegetables and then later eating the vegetables they had grown! I know my class will always remember using the garden and the fun they had! ”

DOMINIQUE DOWELL • 3RD GRADE TEACHER

The Learning Gardens are a perfect example of how the SSEF works directly with the administration to identify needs for the school and open up new horizons of learning for our students. Stop by to see what is growing today!



## TECHNOLOGY

### 650+ Chromebooks and 120+ iPads purchased by the SSEF since 2006

- All students beginning in Kindergarten have access to Chromebooks which allows teachers to assign special projects and assignments as well as work on AR practice quizzes, and take standardized tests.
- Through generous donations, the SSEF provides 1:1 Chromebooks for 5th graders and team Chromebooks for our 4th graders.



“The Sarah Smith Education Foundation provides opportunities for our students with technology that are engaging and purposeful. The Chrome Book carts that were purchased by SSEF give teachers the freedom to experiment with new web based projects, websites, and online learning games. During our IB units of study, my second grade class was able to complete three different technology projects during the first semester of school. For one of the research projects, the students created a Google Slide presentation and presented it on the stage using the microphone for all of the parents. Having technology readily available means we have time to connect it with other life skills including public speaking. They also created their own websites during our study of Early Georgia to showcase historical figures and the founding of our state. As students progress through Sarah Smith Elementary, the teachers aim to build upon all of their knowledge from the previous year(s), including technology. Our goal is for our children to leave Sarah Smith equipped with skills to be 21st century learners. The generosity of the SSEF allows teachers the flexibility to utilize several resources to enhance the lives of our children. Thank you!”

ANNIE CECIL • 2ND GRADE TEACHER







## SCIENCE

“The science lab enables the majority of our science instruction. The lab is fully stocked with items such as baking soda, light bulbs, straws, washers, magnets, batteries, wires, sand, pebbles, clay, and vinegar. And, the list goes on and on. Essentially, having this space and extensive supply of materials allows us to make learning about science so much more powerful. Students are able to build circuits, model weathering, observe physical and chemical changes and so on. This type of experiential, hands on learning helps students to internalize what they are learning in a way that merely reading about science could not do. I can't overstate the value of the science lab. If we didn't have access to this resource, science would look very different at Sarah Smith.”

ASHLEY BARNETT • 5TH GRADE TEACHER



## LITERARY RESOURCES

In 2019–2020, SSEF funded over \$50,000 to support Reading and ELA programs such as Shurley English, Foundations, Classroom Libraries, and the Media Center.

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★ **Learning-to-Read Resources: Wilson Language Foundations, Handwriting and Just Words**  
Foundations, developed with Orton–Gillingham methodology, has developed instructional models and a powerful literacy action plan that builds a solid foundation for beginning learners, closes the reading gap for struggling students, and provides valuable resources for teachers to support early learners. All Students K–5 have been learning with Foundations.

“As a teacher who has taught in both public and private schools, I believe the Foundation is what differentiates Sarah Smith. The tools they provide give us the ability to reach every child—no matter where they may be. One of the most significant programs that the Foundation has given us is Foundations. Wilson Foundations provides materials and strategies necessary for laying the groundwork for literacy. It is a multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics, spelling, and reading. It benefits all students and has become such a passion of mine to teach. When students begin to see the connection between what we do in phonics and how they use what they’ve learned while in guided reading groups and writing stories, it’s just an “aha moment.” I love teaching my first graders using the Foundations program. I love it even more when my students tell me that it is their favorite part of their day!”

MICHELE CULBERTSON • 1ST GRADE TEACHER

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★ **Classroom Libraries**  
In addition to the school’s media center, classroom libraries help enhance literacy, increase time spent reading and help improve fluency, phonics, phonemic awareness, and reading comprehension.

“Here at Sarah Smith our classroom libraries are an important part of our daily instruction for many reasons. They function to support literacy instruction, help our students learn about books and book selection, provide opportunities for independent reading and curricular extensions. Through independent reading, exploration, and research, the classroom libraries serve as a place for students to talk about and interact with books.”

ANDREW MONTANO • 4TH GRADE TEACHER

## TALENT AND MANAGEMENT



The SSEF is committed to supporting faculty development opportunities that encourage teaching innovation and excellence. Investments in this area include a focus on improving teacher efficacy in International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.

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### Classroom Investment Funds.....\$22,850

With the goal of enhancing the teaching environment at SRS, the SSEF provides a \$300 check to every full-time teacher to purchase individualized classroom supplies in support of the curriculum. **Grades: All**

### International Baccalaureate

#### Training.....\$21,800

SSEF provides funds for teachers to attend IB training and development opportunities. **Grades: All**

### Teacher Initiatives Program

#### (Faculty Grants).....\$3,000

The SSEF offers a grant program to allow teachers to apply for up to \$500 through the Teacher Initiative Program, to try innovative ideas and different educational approaches in their classrooms. **Grades: All**

### Teacher Training & Enrichment.....\$11,500

SSEF funds are available for teachers to attend staff seminars, staff retreats, and local staff development opportunities. Funds are also available for staff retreats to analyze student data and plan for instruction as well and a mentoring program for new teachers joining SRS. **Grades: All**

**TOTAL TALENT & MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: \$59,150**

## TUTORING RESOURCES

This year the Foundation invested \$30,000 to provide EAF tutoring administered by qualified tutors to qualified students.



The tutoring program provided by the Sarah Smith Education Foundation literally saved my son. He had fallen very far behind his peers in reading. His teacher identified him as a candidate for the tutoring program and it gave him the extra instruction that he needed to be able to get back on track and start reading at his grade level. He was almost held back, but because he was able to take part in this SSEF funded program, his abilities and his confidence really soared! Today he is one of the top readers in his class. Our family will be forever indebted to the SSEF for giving him the chance to shine. ”

ROBIN ORTALE • SRS PARENT





## MATH MANIPULATIVES

The Foundation invested \$2,000 Math Programs in 2019/2020.

“The use of Math Manipulatives are so very important when building conceptual understanding. I have found over the years that it truly helps the students transition from concrete to abstract thinking. ‘Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.’ (Benjamin Franklin) ”

LATRENDIA WILLIS • KINDERGARTEN TEACHER



## TEACHER TRAINING & ENRICHMENT

In 2019–2020, the Foundation funded \$11,500 in Teacher Training and Enrichment to allow staff to attend seminars, retreats and local development opportunities.

“With the generosity and support of the SSEF, I was fortunate enough to attend a Foundations Training. This training provided a variety of resources that enhance my reading and writing instruction. These lessons provide students with multiple opportunities to meaningfully practice concepts, skills, and strategies. ”

SUSAN ANDERSON • 2ND GRADE TEACHER





## SPECIALISTS PROGRAMS

In 2019/2020 the Foundation provided \$12,000 for program enhancing materials and equipment for Specialists Programs.

“ Sarah Smith Education Foundation has played a key role in providing the high-quality materials needed for high-quality teaching, learning, and moving to take place for all students. I would not have the almost endless array of equipment, retractable video screen, wireless microphone headset, or superlative sound system if it wasn't for the SSEF. I have also been able to provide recess items to all grade levels at the Primary Campus as well as both recess areas. I know that if there is ever a need that I can write an SSEF grant request for additional items if/when needed by me or my students. I myself am an annual donor, and I am infinitely thankful for all the support and resources afforded to me and my students by the Sarah Smith Education Foundation. ”

BEJAY OSBY • PE TEACHER



## DUAL IMMERSION

Sarah Smith launched the Dual Immersion program in 2016/2017 at the Primary Campus with the help of the SSEF. The dual language model at Sarah Smith Elementary is a cohort of participants in a 50/50 Two-Way Spanish Model. It is a rigorous academic program that develops high linguistic and academic proficiency in two languages while simultaneously fostering positive cross-cultural attitudes.

The Sarah Smith Education Foundation funds instructional materials & supplies this year dedicated solely to the Dual Immersion program. These funds provide classroom materials and supplies in English and Spanish that support the fidelity of program implementation for the dual immersion cohorts from Kindergarten through Third Grade.

“ I have been teaching for 10 years (8 years at Sarah Smith!) The SSEF has been instrumental in making sure we have access to a variety of materials to support our students’ needs such as the Fountas and Pinnell interactive read alouds that provide our classrooms with culturally relevant instructional materials that we can embed into our daily instruction. These materials help our students bridge that connection between home and school. I currently have two children enrolled in the DLI program at Smith Elementary and have complete trust in the instructional practices and curriculum that Smith Elementary provides to our children each day. I have seen my children go from non-native Spanish speakers, to becoming excellent readers in Spanish in a very short period of time. This experience provided by the DLI program at Smith is one that is uncommon in most areas and is a true asset to our public schools. We’re thankful the Foundation supports us in our needs. ”

CHAUNDRA YARBROUGH, ED.S. • 3RD GRADE TEACHER

## CULTURE



The SSEF strives to foster and support a positive, informed and engaged school culture and community.

### Administrative Support.....\$5,500

Provides funds for the Principal and Assistant Principals for additional needs not met by APS, such as trophies and medals for the annual student awards. Additionally, these funds are used to support initiatives set by the Administrative team, such as the use of Google Classrooms with iPad technology to providing recognition for the teaching team.

### Agendas..... \$2,500

Students use daily agendas to organize their work and manage their time. This agenda expense reflects 2 years. **Grades: 2-5**

### International Travelers Week.....\$4,000

The International Travelers Program is a week-long classroom immersion in the culture, history, and language of a foreign country. The program, which is unique to Sarah Smith, is a collaboration among a cadre of dedicated parent volunteers, teachers and administrators and “transports” the school to a new country every year. **Grades: All**

**TOTAL CULTURE: \$12,000**



## SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

The SSEF invests to build systems and resources to support IB and Dual Immersion implementation and ESOL community support.



### Dual Immersion.....\$6,000

Funds provide classroom materials and supplies in English and Spanish to support the fidelity of program implementation for the dual immersion Kindergarten through Second Grade. Additionally, funds support professional learning for the teachers.

**Grades: K-3**

### Facility & Faculty Support.....\$2,850

Provides funds for the annual maintenance contract plan and ink cartridges for the copiers in the IC and PC teacher workrooms, the Staff mentoring program and additional faculty support.

### International Baccalaureate Inquiry Materials, Resources, Dues &

### Programming Fees.....\$14,480

SRS was first awarded IB status in 2006.

The IB program encourages students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals, and engaged world citizens. This program impacts the whole curriculum at SRS, teaching each student essential skills for learning and becoming a productive global citizen. SSEF funds pay for inquiry materials for each grade, and for required development and training of teachers and for programming fees and dues.

**Grades: All**

**TOTAL SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES: \$23,330**

**Total SSEF 2019/2020 Investment ★\$243,280★**





# DONORS

Thank you for supporting the quality of education at Sarah Smith. Your contributions help to maintain the high level of educational excellence that we have all come to expect at Sarah Smith.

## ★ BRIGHT STAR

**\$10,000+**

Tiffany & Brian Calloway  
Tommie Ann & Patrick McCormack  
KK & Riti Mehta  
Angie & David Nix

## ★ SHOOTING STAR

**\$5,000–\$9,999**

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**\$2,500–\$4,999**

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Sweet Charlie's  
Tacos and Tequilas  
The Big Ketch Saltwater Grill  
Verde Taqueria  
Willie-Jewell's Old School Bar-B-Q  
Wolf Photo Design Bar

# Thank You For Helping Us Reach Our Goal!

Please go to [www.sarahsmithelementary.com/foundation](http://www.sarahsmithelementary.com/foundation)  
to donate for the 2020-2021 school year.

Donation levels reflect actual donations/pledges received as of 05/6/2020.  
Corporate matching gifts are included upon receipt. We strive for accuracy;  
however, please inform us of any errors. Pledges should be fulfilled by 6/30/2020.

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**Marketing & Communications Elect** – Katie Williams

**Administrative Liaisons** – Emily Boatwright

**Faculty Representatives** – Michelle Culbertson & Dominique Dowell

**Auction Co-Chairs** – Jane Bockel & Dana Gillis

## Committees 2019 – 2020

### AUCTION COMMITTEE

Susan Popowski

Rebecca Blanchette

Jane Bockel

Elizabeth Sharpton

Kirsten Fionte

Ann Cooper

Carmen Chartrand

Tiffany Calloway

Ginny Smith

### CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Wait

### ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Barbara Steiger

### DATABASE

Alison Graham

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