



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

.....★.....
AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Sarah Smith Community

A community is much more than where people reside. It is action, service, and caring. Your incredible support and care continue to impact the academic future of our Sarah Smith scholars. I am elated to share how your generosity benefits the students of Sarah Smith and advances us toward our goal of being "United in Excellence."

The Sarah Smith Education Foundation (SSEF) funding provides our students with learning opportunities that enhance the school curriculum. Have your children come home excited about High Touch High Tech? Have they shared an incredible science lab that their teachers conducted with them? These are just a few learning experiences SSEF offers our students through your donations. SSEF has also purchased math manipulatives, classroom libraries, and phonics instructional tools, amongst other curriculum resources and supplies for the school.

The SSEF also promotes and encourages innovation at Sarah Smith through teacher grants. Teachers can write a proposal to fund a project, submit it to the foundation, and, if approved, implement their project. The possibilities are limitless! Many of you are aware of the teacher shortage crisis across the nation. SSEF's work to support our teachers with funding for classroom supplies, the International Baccalaureate Programme, phonics, math, and professional learning opportunities is critical to retaining and attracting highly qualified staff. The support our scholars and faculty receive from the SSEF is invaluable and has helped make Sarah Smith a school of choice.

The CARES Act, introduced in March 2020, provided additional funding for schools. With the end of CARES Act funding, SSEF's support has become even more crucial in fostering educational excellence at SRS.

I am incredibly grateful for your generous donations. Your support truly makes a difference for our students and staff. Thanks again for helping make Sarah Smith an exceptional place for students to learn and grow!

Sincerely,
Dwight Hutson
Principal



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



does a public school need a foundation?

The Sarah Smith school community values exceptional education beyond what's ordinary. Public resources alone can't support this, so SSEF provides the extra funding needed to maintain Sarah Smith's high educational standards.



is the Sarah Smith Education Foundation funded?

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



**TO THE STAR
FUND TODAY**

Go to www.atlantapublicschools.us/ssef 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.

\$117K
INVESTED
DURING
2023-2024
SCHOOL
YEAR

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE

Annual Campaign	\$113,303
+ Auction Event	\$33,821
+ Super Star Supporters	\$18,431
= Total Fundraising	\$165,555
Interest Income	\$14,988
Total Revenue	\$180,543

EXPENSES

- Total Fundraising	\$13,067
- General Administration	\$5,904
= Revenue in Excess of Expenses	\$161,572
SSEF Curriculum and Classroom Funding	\$117,086

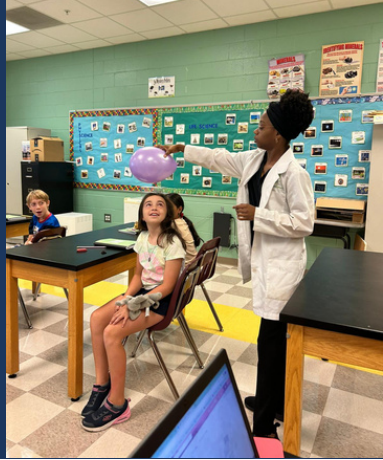
RESERVE FUND

Balance (07.01.24)	\$616,870
Increase to Reserve	\$44,486
Total Fund Balance (as of 7.01.23)	\$661,356

The Foundation strives to maintain a healthy reserve fund, and, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the reserve fund remains a crucial component of our mission to support the stability of our school throughout unforeseen challenges, including unexpected expenses, economic downturns, or fluctuations in revenue. With the end of the CARES act, expected foundation expenses will rise in 2024-2025 and beyond.



CURRICULUM & CLASSROOM
The SSEF funded more than \$117,000 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
\$46,875

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



Classroom Libraries & Learning-to-Read Resources\$2,456

Along with the media center, classroom libraries and the bookroom offer easy access to literary resources. These libraries boost literacy, reading time, and skills like fluency and comprehension. Funds cover books, leveled readers, and novels to support the Georgia Standards of Excellence and IB Inquiry-based Units.

Grades: All

Specialist Programs - Art, Language, Music & PE.....\$4,385

Provides funds for program-enhancing materials and equipment to supplement what APS provides.

Grades: All

High Touch High Tech.....\$17,222

Local scientists set up and oversee ‘in-house’ field trips in order to provide students with hands-on learning directly tied to each grade level’s Science curriculum and the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

Grades: All

International Baccalaureate Inquiry Materials, Resources, Dues & Programming Fees.....\$10,375

SRS received IB status in 2006, which promotes active learning, well-roundedness, and global citizenship. The IB program influences the entire curriculum at SRS, focusing on essential skills for learning and global citizenship. SSEF funds cover inquiry materials, teacher training, and program fees.

Grades: All

Math Workbooks.....\$8,466

Math manipulatives, consumables, workbooks and “hands-on” tools to support the Common Core Curriculum, Math Exemplars and the APS math program.

Grades: All

International Travelers Week.....\$1,975

The International Travelers Program is a week-long immersion in a foreign country’s culture, history, and language. Unique to Sarah Smith, it’s a collaborative effort involving parent volunteers, teachers, and administrators, bringing a new country to the school each year.

Grades: All

Science Lab.....\$1,996

Enhance the IC science lab by providing tools and materials for basic scientific concepts and hands-on experiments.

Grades: 3-5



TALENT & 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.



Classroom Investment Funds.....\$24,100

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.

International Baccalaureate Training.....\$27,357

SSEF provides funds for teachers to attend IB training and development opportunities.

Teacher Training, Enrichment & Grants.....\$18,753

SSEF funds are available for teachers to attend training in the following areas: Foundations, Fountas and Pinnell reading and writing, leadership.

TOTAL TALENT & MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS \$70,210

“As a teacher who has spent her entire 13-year career at Sarah Smith Elementary, I can honestly say that the Sarah Smith Education Foundation has been one of my biggest supporters. Over the years, the SSEF has provided endless support through I.B. professional learning trainings, paid educational endorsement classes, leveled classroom readers, document cameras and much more.



Thanks to the foundation, I've been able to craft out-of-the-box teaching methods that continuously evolve creating a positive and happy learning environment for my students. Their unwavering support has been invaluable.”

- Melissa Baublitz, 3rd Grade Teacher



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.

Parent, Faculty and Community Donors contributed \$180,543 to our fundraising in 2023-2024

★ SUPER STAR (\$5,000-10,000)

Jenny & Frank Fotia
Lau Family Foundation
Jarrett & Amber Sappington

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Kazoo Toys
Pig N Chik
Pizza Forno
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Planet Fitness Brookhaven
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Thank You For Your Donations!

Please go to www.atlantapublicschools.us/ssef
to donate for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Donation levels reflect actual donations/pledges received as of
06/30/2023. Corporate matching gifts are included upon receipt. We
strive for accuracy; however, please inform us of any errors.

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