

Sarah Smith
Education Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018





Since 2006, the SSEF has invested more than \$2,500,000 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.



**DONATE TO THE
STAR FUND
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TODAY!**

Go to 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 four areas:



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



2 Talent management that encourages teaching innovation and excellence



3 Systems and resources that support our school community



4 Cultural investments that promote a positive school environment





2017/2018 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In the 2017/2018 school year, the Sarah Smith Education Foundation (SSEF) provided approximately \$368,000 worth of curriculum related items, 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 \$374,462 in the 2017/2018 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	\$255,325
+ Auction Event	\$95,909
+ Super Star Supporters	\$23,228
= Total Fundraising	\$374,462
Interest Income	\$774
Total Revenue	\$375,236

Expenses

Total Fundraising	\$44,208
General Administration	\$6,220
Revenue in Excess of Expenses	\$324,808
SSEF Curriculum and Classroom Funding	\$367,823

Reserve Fund

Balance (7.01.2016)	\$413,468
Decrease to Reserve	\$(43,015)
Total Fund Balance	\$370,453





2017/2018 Budgeted Curriculum Expenses

The SSEF funded approximately \$368,000 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 went to academic enrichment and curriculum-enhancing educational programs. These dollars supported curriculum initiatives that further all SRS students mastery of Math, Science, English and the Arts.

Academic Competition Programs.....\$1,117

Provides funds for academic competitions such as the Technology Fair, National Geography Bee and the First Lego League Competition, where select SRS students from the Robotics Club present their solution to the First Lego League (FLL) problem. Provides support to students to learn and compete and additional support to teams that advance in the competition.

Grades: 4-5

Specialist Programs - Art, French, Music & PE.....\$11,342

Provides funds for program-enhancing materials and equipment. **Grades: All**

Technology Integration.....\$57,497

Instructional technology and hardware provided to assist in the goal of equipping every classroom with state-of-the-art teaching tools including 180 Chromebooks, TV studio and a laminator. 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 EAF tutoring provided by qualified tutors from a non-profit tutoring organization to qualified students. **Grades: All**

READING & ELA:

Classroom Instructional Texts.....\$18,121

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

Grammar & Writing Resources.....\$10,369

Shurley English program uses concrete, multi-sensory strategies to develop a systematic process for developing grammar and writing skills. It 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: 2-3**

Handwriting.....\$8,963

Handwriting Without Tears materials to promote developmentally appropriate handwriting techniques (K-3) and fine motor skills for cursive handwriting in 4th and 5th grades and handwriting paper for all grades. **Grades: All**

Junior Great Books.....\$9,073

A reading program aimed at improving reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. This rigorous collection of stories provides opportunities for students to engage with both fiction and non-fiction text structures. Funds also pay for consumable books for each child. **Grades: K-2**

Learning-to-Read Resources.....\$23,750

Wilson Language (Foundations, Handwriting and Just Words) 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: K-1**

Media Center.....\$3,443

Each year we aim to update the selection of children's literature at both the Primary and Intermediate Campus. Fiction, non-fiction, magazines, and other forms of media are purchased. **Grades: All**

MATH:

Math Manipulatives.....\$4,049

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

On-line Math Programs.....\$6,330

A comprehensive website that offers on-line practice and assessments in math. The IXL program can be accessed online for home and school practice and customized to track progress and enhance student growth. **Grades: All**

SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES:

Captain Planet Gardens.....\$569

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

High Touch High Tech.....\$21,067

Hands on science experiments and programs provide opportunities to expose students to fun ways to learn STEM and enhance the science curriculum, making it come to life through in-house "field trips" conducted by scientists in the science lab.

Grades: All

Science Lab.....\$2,404

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

Social Studies Resources.....\$3,850

Social Studies supplements, such as TIME For Kids, introduce students to a wide range of real-world topics and current events. The supplements help teachers meet Common Core State Standards, National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies and National Science Education Standards. **Grades: All**

TOTAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS \$211,944



GARDENS

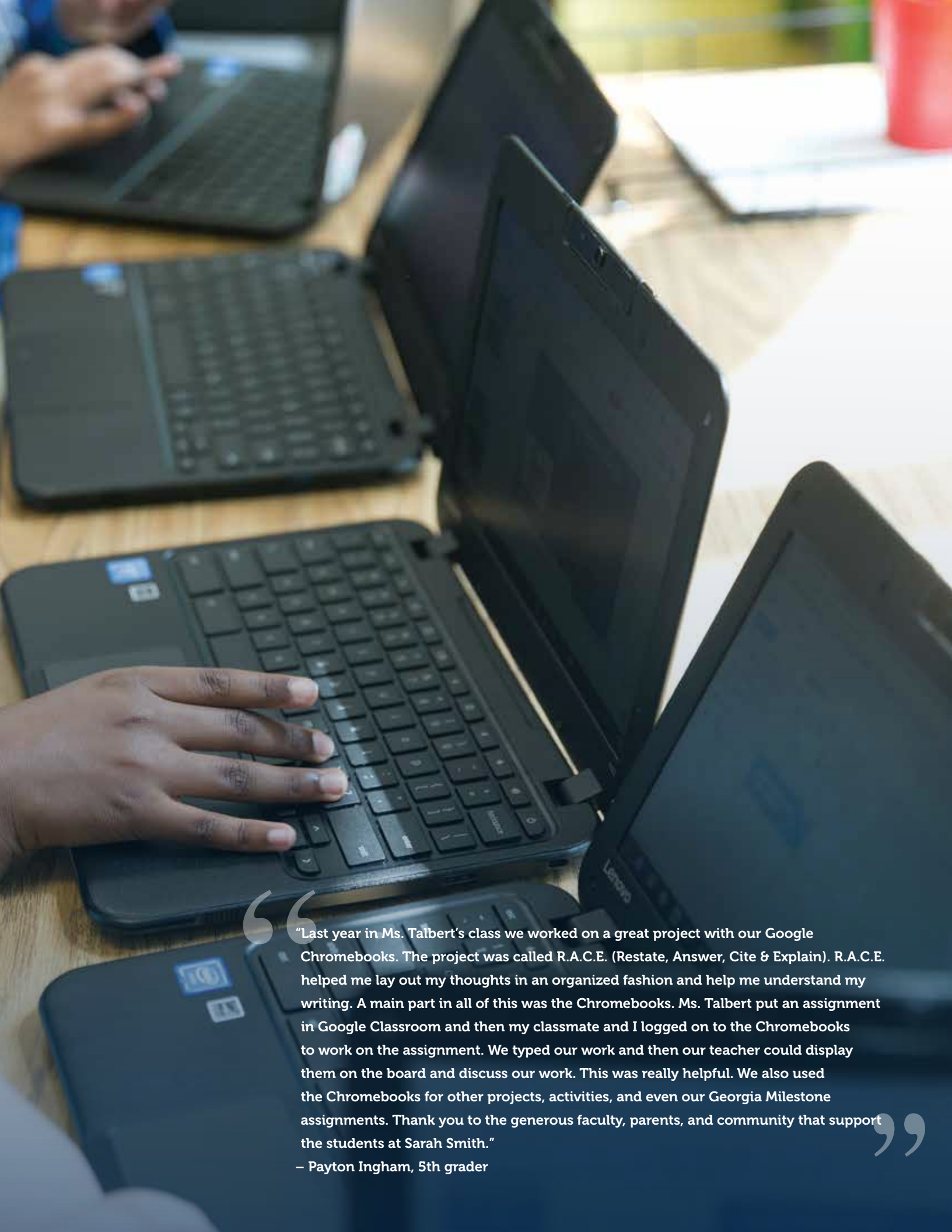
SSEF Funding Helps Our Garden Grow

The Sarah Smith Learning Garden is thriving thanks to funding from the SSEF! The gardens, located at both campuses, have been in place for 4 years. But as more and more teachers started to incorporate the garden into the curriculum, it became clear that in order to serve the needs of the students, the garden needed an update. In 2017, two major initiatives were added to the gardens at both campuses 1) a composting system and 2) pollinator gardens.

Composting is such an important concept to introduce to students not only for the reduce/reuse/recycle aspect, but also the science of why composting will enhance the yield of the garden. Two stand-alone composters were purchased by the SSEF and installed in each garden. The composters are very "kid-friendly" in that it is easy for children to add and combine the compostable materials. Now when the students are doing their plantings in the spring and fall, they are able to utilize the compost to add much needed nutrients to the soil and ensure a bountiful harvest.

The pollinator gardens also have opened up a whole new world to the students as they explore how pollination works, why honeybees and butterflies are so important and more. The gardens were installed with help from Bejay Osby's 5th grade class who worked with the garden committee and Dunwoody Nature Center to start Milkweed seedlings. They planted them in the newly created beds along with dozens of other pollinator species. Another group of 5th grade students from Melanie Payne's class was so inspired by the new pollinator gardens that they devoted their IB Exhibition Project to it. As a result of funding from the SSEF, they were able to purchase and place pollinator houses throughout the gardens.

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!



“Last year in Ms. Talbert’s class we worked on a great project with our Google Chromebooks. The project was called R.A.C.E. (Restate, Answer, Cite & Explain). R.A.C.E. helped me lay out my thoughts in an organized fashion and help me understand my writing. A main part in all of this was the Chromebooks. Ms. Talbert put an assignment in Google Classroom and then my classmate and I logged on to the Chromebooks to work on the assignment. We typed our work and then our teacher could display them on the board and discuss our work. This was really helpful. We also used the Chromebooks for other projects, activities, and even our Georgia Milestone assignments. Thank you to the generous faculty, parents, and community that support the students at Sarah Smith.”

– Payton Ingham, 5th grader



CHROMEBOOKS

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

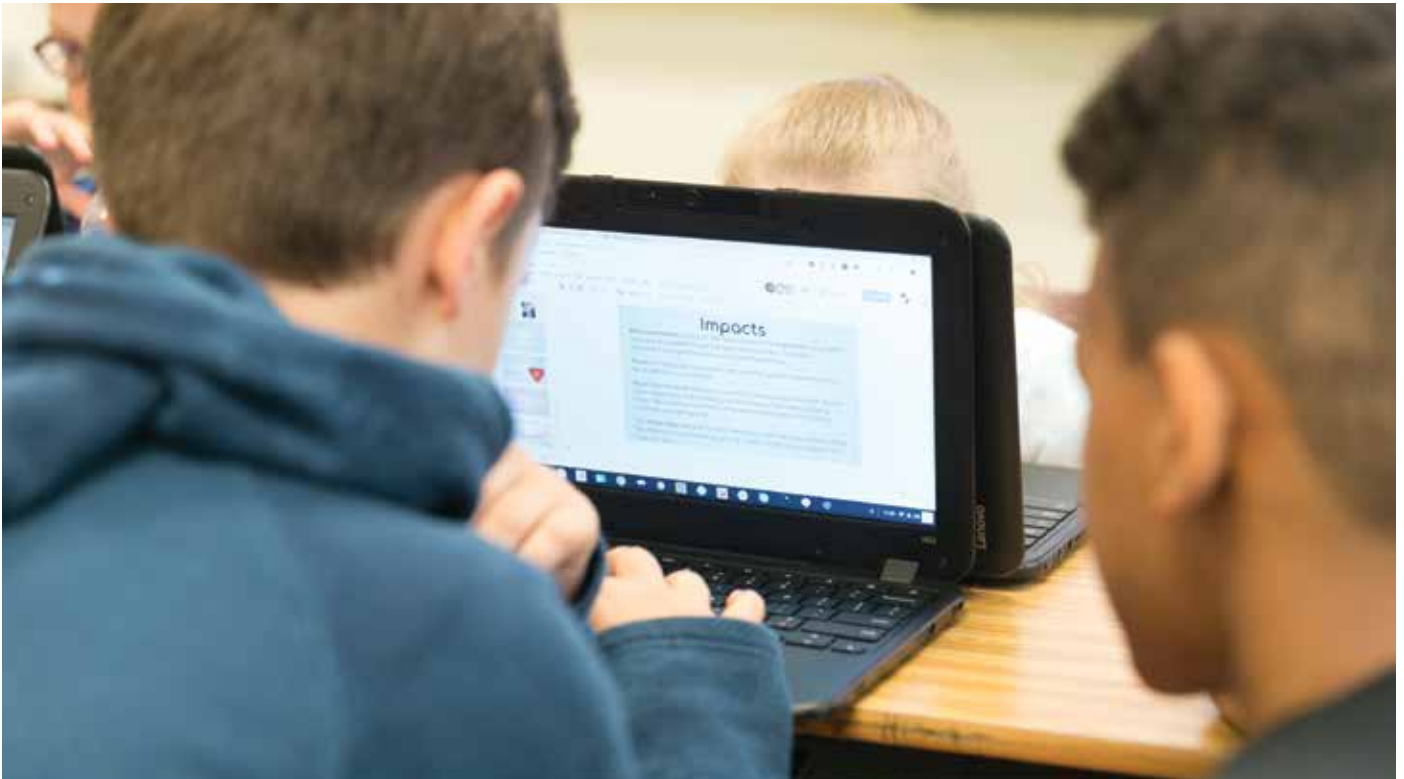
- All students beginning in Kindergarten have access to Chromebooks which allows teachers to assign special projects and assignments as well as have students work on IXL, AR practice quizzes, and take standardized tests.
- Through generous donations, the SSEF was able to purchase a Chromebook for every fifth grade student in 2017/2018. Additionally, Chromebooks were purchased for the fourth grade teams resulting in each teacher team having a dedicated Chromebook cart for their shared classrooms.



The 4th grade is so grateful to the Foundation for our new Chromebooks. Ms. Kent and I reached out last year for additional carts and we were immediately invited to share our ideas with the Foundation Board. We felt so welcomed by them and were delighted to hear they honored our request! We can't wait to use the additional carts this year to ensure our students are ready for the future.



Carolyn Talbert
4th grade teacher



"Fifth grade is excited about the benefits of having a Chromebook for each student. Students will be able to make regular reflection journal entries in their digital portfolio, practice much needed typing skills while responding to essay assignments on Google Classroom, explore the landforms of Georgia through a webquest, and maximize the use of our purchased online math program, IXL.

They are thrilled to create a Google slides project, or make a Kahoot! Review game. There are so many wonderful motivating possibilities and we cannot wait to see what else we find along the way."

– Melanie Payne, 5th grade teacher



LITERACY RESOURCES

Learning-to-Read Resources: Wilson Language Foundations, Handwriting and Just Words

Foundations, developed with Orton-Gillingham methodology, has created 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. During the 2017/2018 school year, SRS classes in Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers implemented Foundations as part of their comprehensive reading program, providing our youngest readers with a solid foundation in literacy. For our emerging readers, this program supports phonics instructional and vocabulary development. As students grow with Foundations, their reading comprehension, spelling, and handwriting skills develop, enabling them to transition from learning to read to reading to learn by 3rd grade. The Foundations program will expand to K-2 in the 2018/2019 school year.

“Foundations has been a wonderful addition to the primary campus curriculum! This program helps to ensure that all of our students become readers, as it offers explicit phonics instruction using the Orton-Gillingham approach. Foundations makes learning fun by incorporating hands on learning. My personal favorite is when students complete daily dictation on their personalized magnetic boards or white boards. ... I believe a huge benefit of implementing Foundations at Sarah Smith is that it creates consistency. It is wonderful for our students that all teachers are now using the same program. We are truly setting our students up for success now that we are implementing Foundations at Sarah Smith!”

– Ellie Boydston, First Grade Teacher

Grammar & Writing Resources: Shurley English

Shurley English is a rigorous curriculum that promotes student-teacher interaction, leverages higher-order thinking skills, and provides measurable academic achievement. The implementation of Shurley English in grades 2-3 cultivates strong writers as students not only understand the components of writing, but they are also equipped with the knowledge to improve how they express themselves.

Classroom Instructional Texts

- 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. The SSEF invested nearly \$18,000 to pay for books for every class, leveled readers, and novels for classroom study.
- In the 2017/2018 school year, the SSEF purchased nearly 4,000 books for the IC & PC and the SSEF has invested more than \$63,000 over the past three years!



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.....\$23,241

With the goal of enhancing the teaching environment at SRS, the SSEF provides a \$300 check to every full-time teacher and \$150 to part-time teachers to purchase individualized classroom supplies in support of the curriculum. **Grades: All**

International Baccalaureate

Training.....\$14,185

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

Teacher Initiatives Program

(Faculty Grants).....\$3,364

The SSEF Teacher Initiative Program gives teachers the opportunity to apply for a grant (up to \$500) to implement innovative ideas and different educational approaches in their classroom. **Grades: All**

Teacher Training & Enrichment.....\$17,345

SSEF funds are available for all 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 as a mentoring program for new teachers joining SRS. **Grades: All**

TOTAL TALENT & MANAGEMENT \$58,135





DUAL IMMERSION

Sarah Smith launched our 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 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 – Second Grade.

"I am delighted to have started the Dual Immersion program at Sarah Smith Elementary. Myself, co-teachers of the program and parents who have their children in the program are deeply committed to bilingualism and biliteracy for every child. I firmly believe that this approach is key for preparing all students for future success. The program is designed to prepare students for short and long term academic, cognitive, and sociocultural success. My personal mission as an educator is to do everything I can to close the achievement gap and to provide every student with an excellent college prep education."

- Alejandro Mendez, Spanish Dual Immersion Teacher



Systems and Resources

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



Dual Immersion.....\$4,352

Funds provide classroom materials and supplies in English and Spanish to support the fidelity of program implementation for the dual immersion 1st grade and Kindergarten cohorts. Additionally, funds support professional learning for the teachers. **Grades: K-1**

Facility & Faculty Support.....\$5,885

Provides funds for 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.

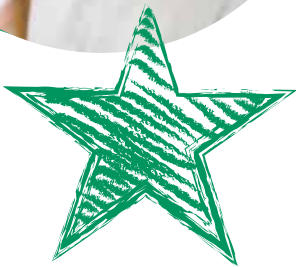
Instructional Materials & Supplies.....\$60,000

This fund is utilized for the general operation of the school. Funds will be used to purchase: paper, ink, classroom supplies, facility operations, materials for in-house professional learning, and more. This line item was created to allow for the school's general funds to be allocated for additional personnel.

International Baccalaureate Inquiry Materials, Resources, Dues & Programming Fees.....\$18,266

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, for required development and training of teachers and for programming fees and dues. **Grades: All**

TOTAL SYSTEMS & RESOURCES \$88,503





"I love learning Spanish, it's fascinating. It's fun to know how to speak two languages. Dual Immersion is very fun because you get to learn a new language all the way until 5th grade."

- Andrew Stevens,
1st Grade Dual Immersion Student



"We've been so amazed by the proficiency students are gaining in the dual immersion program. We took a vacation to Spain this summer and our 7 year old son was able to speak with the concierge at the hotel and navigate us through many situations! We were so shocked by his comfort and fluency in a native speaking environment. Clearly, the dual immersion program is bringing an innovative and effective approach to learning. We are so grateful for the dedication of the teachers in the DI program."

- Pavna Brahma,
Dual Immersion Parent





Culture

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



Administrative Support.....\$4,023

Provides the Principal and Assistant Principals funds for needs not met by APS, such as trophies and medals for the annual student awards. Additionally, this fund is used to support initiatives set by the Administrative team, such as the use of Google Classroom with iPad technology, and to provide recognition for the teaching team.

Agendas..... \$2,324

Students use daily agendas to organize their work and manage their time. **Grades: 2-5**

International Travelers Week.....\$2,894

The International Travelers Program is a week-long immersion in the culture, history, and language of a foreign country. The program, which is unique to Sarah Smith, is a collaboration among a group of dedicated parent volunteers, teachers and administrators and "transports" the school and the classrooms to a new country every year.

Grades: All

TOTAL CULTURE \$9,241

TOTAL 2017/2018 SSEF BUDGET



\$367,823



DONORS



THANK YOU to our 2017/2018 Donors for Supporting the Quality of Education at Sarah Smith! Your contributions and pledges help to maintain the high level of educational excellence that we have all come to expect at Sarah Smith.

Please go to www.sarahsmithelementary.com to donate for 2018/2019 school year.

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