



# Mary Lin

education foundation

School Year 2023-2024

Annual Report

Report Date: November 2024





November 20, 2024

## Dear Mary Lin Community,

We trust that your 2024-2025 school year is going well! In anticipation of the Mary Lin Education Foundation's main fundraiser, the Rocket Fuel Fund Classroom Competition, we wanted to share a look back on last year's results. The Classroom Competition officially kicks off in January 2025, with a preview on **Giving Tuesday** on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. We are pleased to inform you we had another successful year of supporting Mary Lin, funding \$157,526 in grants to support curriculum enrichment, staff development, educational supplies purchases, and capital improvements to the school during the 2023-24 year!

**Thanks to the efforts of our incredible staff and students, Mary Lin ranks as the #6 public elementary school in the state of Georgia!** Your contributions to the Mary Lin Education Foundation help us maintain that excellence. As we look to earn our STEAM school certification, the MLEF has become an integral partner to help fund that programming. Every year, the Foundation funds the annual subscription costs for key curricular resources that teachers use with our students, such as Lexia and Scholastic. The Foundation also pays for capital improvements to the school grounds, such as repairing the turf on our playground, beautifying the school with murals, and making progress towards more than doubling the functional outdoor space at the school with our updated Habitat/Outdoor Learning Environment. Finally, the MLEF covers the cost for Mary Lin staff to attend various professional conferences to build capacity, and helps supplement instructional supplies & resources not covered by our school district.

### In this report you'll find:

- Details of each individual grant the MLEF awarded.
- Details on the progress we've made on the Habitat/Outdoor Learning Environment to date, along with an outline of the work that remains and how much we need to fundraise to finish this multi-year project.
- Our roadmap for the 2024-2025 school year, including our 2024-2025 fundraising goal of \$125,000 and how we plan to spend your donated funds to continue supporting our school.

## Thank you for your continued support of Mary Lin Elementary School!

Kindest regards,



*Denise Bringslid*, Principal,  
Mary Lin Elementary



*Carolyn Ames Noble*,  
Chair, 2024/2025 Mary  
Lin Foundation



*Emily Newton*, Past Chair,  
2023/2024 Mary Lin  
Foundation



*Eden Smith Parks*, Chair-Elect,  
2025/2026 Mary Lin  
Foundation

[foundation@marylinelementary.com](mailto:foundation@marylinelementary.com)

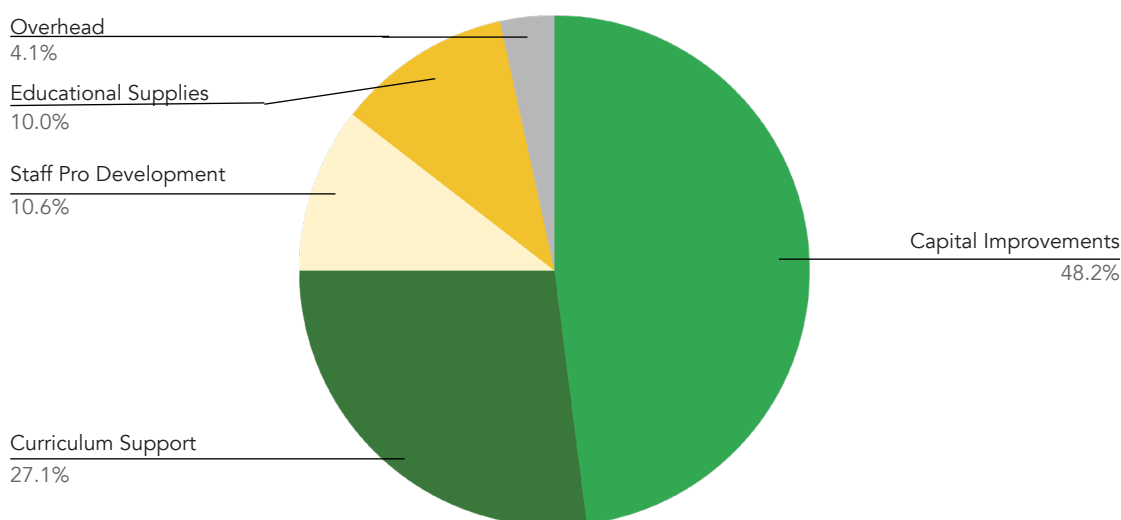
## 2023/2024 Grant Summary

The Mary Lin Education Foundation functions to fund grants to improve Mary Lin, with grants broken down into these categories:

- Capital Improvements - improvements to the building and grounds at Mary Lin.
- Curriculum Support - educational resources teachers use to supplement the baseline curriculum the Atlanta Public School district provides.
- Staff Professional Development - continuing education, certifications, and conferences for teacher development.
- Educational supplies - physical classroom supplies.
- Overhead - costs associated with fundraising or operating the foundation

### Breakdown of grants awarded in 2023/2024:

CATEGORY	
Capital Improvements	\$76,004
Curriculum Support	\$42,698
Staff Professional Development	\$16,637
Educational Supplies	\$15,800
Overhead / Operating Expenses	\$6,387
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$157,526</b>



# Habitat (Outdoor Learning Environment) in Summary

We're in our second year of raising funds for this major multi-year capital improvement to Mary Lin, which will transform 1.25 acres into a functional learning & play environment. This will more than double the total functional outdoor space on Mary Lin's campus and supports Mary Lin's efforts to move towards project-based-learning and STEAM School Certification.

**The total cost for the project is estimated at ~\$235,000, and in 2023/2024 the MLEF spent \$45,400 towards the Habitat Outdoor Classroom, completing this foundational work:**

- Removal of dead trees, kudzu, privet, wisteria, other invasives along with structural pruning of healthy trees plus removal of existing chain link fence and unsightly gravel
- Improvements to stormwater management
- Installation of 150 cubic yards of topsoil, gravel, and bioretention soil to smooth out grades, cover existing rocks + sodding for 0.25 acres
- New fencing to secure adjacent property boundaries

This work was done with substantial volunteer time, donated logistical support from contractors, and donated dirt and sod. This stretched MLEF donations by 50%, meaning we only need to raise an additional \$170,000 to complete the project instead of needing to raise an additional \$190,000 to complete the project.

**In 2024/2025 and beyond the MLEF must raise a total of \$170,000 to complete this transformation for Mary Lin, broken down as follows:**

- \$30,000 for: New commercial-grade garden beds with ADA accessible sidewalks to access them and the existing Chicken Coop area
- \$90,000 for: Covered outdoor STEAM classroom with new pavement, electrical, sink and landscaping
- \$50,000 for: ADA-compliant sidewalks to access the lower habitat / project-based learning environment with (+/-) 1/8-mile loop.

## Grants Awarded in 2023/2024

### Capital Improvements

*Total spend: \$76,004*

- Outdoor Learning Environment: we spent \$45,400 towards the Outdoor Learning Environment, completing Phase 1, as described above.
- Playground turf repairs: we spent \$22,225 to repair turf on the playground.
- Murals: we spent \$5,000 on murals to beautify Mary Lin's campus, adding a mural in the media center and a mural outside.
- Chicken Coop: we spent \$2,900 to build the new chicken coop at the school.
- Signage: we spent \$479 towards improved in-school signage.



## Curriculum Support

**Total spend: \$42,698**

- Lexia annual subscription: key adaptive program for all components of literacy for kids K-5, with individual logins for each student.
- Scholastic annual subscription: crucial component of Mary Lin's reading curriculum for every grade. This subscription enables teachers to assess students individually, gives teachers appropriately-leveled reading material for students, print-outs and tools for independent work and small groups.
- Stemscope Science annual subscription: tool for covers math and science curriculum.
- Progress Learning annual subscription: online content provider for independent student practice and custom assessment builders.
- Reflex annual subscription: software with progressive lessons to help students with math fluency for grades 3 - 5.
- Generation Genius annual subscription: K-8 teaching resource for school science standards, paired with educational videos, lesson plans, activities, quizzes, and reading material.



## Staff Professional Support

**Total spend: \$16,637**

- Kennesaw State Project Based Learning: Mary Lin's contract with Kennesaw State to help teachers across all grades build project based learning (PBL) units, to train our teachers on PBL, and to help advise Mary Lin on grade-level standards.
- STEAM Conference: we sent teachers from each grade to the Georgia Department of Education STEM / STEAM annual conference.
- Gifted Conference: we sent 5 teachers to the Georgia Association for Gifted Children's 2024 conference. The teachers learned instructional practices and strategies to use with gifted identified and non-gifted identified students.
- Math Conference: we sent 5 teachers to a local conference on elementary school math education.
- Future Problem Solvers Competition: we sent 1 teacher to accompany Mary Lin students to the Future Problem Solvers of America annual competition. This grant also covered the registration fees for 4 Mary Lin students who qualified for this competition (note: students' families covered their students' own travel costs).
- Georgia School Counselors Association: we sent 1 teacher to a conference for school counselors in Georgia.
- PAIR: we sent 1 teacher to a training from the Professional Arts Integration Resource organization.
- American Orff-Schulwerk Association: we sent 1 teacher to attend a conference from the American Orff-Schulwerk Association professional development course.

## Educational Supplies

**Total spend: \$15,800**

- Walkie Talkies: we bought 18 new walkie-talkies for use by school administrators, staff, and teachers.
- STEAM supplies: we bought various supplies to support STEAM learning for all grade levels, including lab materials and supplies for our wonderful chickens.
- Books: we bought 150+ new books for Kindergarten - 2nd grade as part of the Tournament of Books. This program selects books that are highly engaging, culturally diverse, and have typically won multiple awards like the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Awards or National Book Award.
- Art: we bought clay and clay paints for all grades.



# 2024 / 2025 Roadmap

In 2024 / 2025 we're aiming to raise \$125,000. With those funds, we hope to support:

- **Curriculum Support** - we will continue to purchase subscriptions to key learning tools like Lexia and Scholastic for our school. Similar to last year, we expect to spend ~\$45,000 in 2024/2025 to cover the cost of Mary Lin's existing curriculum support subscriptions.
- **Capital Improvements** - our main focus is the Habitat Outdoor Learning Environment. Similar to last year, we hope to spend at least \$40,000 towards this multi-year project. If we raise more than our goal of \$125,000 we will be able to increase our funding towards this project. We will also plan fund various smaller capital improvement grants as needed.
- **Staff Professional Development** - we will continue supporting our amazing staff by covering costs to attend conferences and trainings. The amount we spend on this category will depend on the grant requests we receive and how well we meet our fundraising goal.
- **Educational Supplies** - we will continue reviewing staff grant requests for physical classroom tools, like STEAM resource grants. The amount we spend on this category will depend on the grant requests we receive and how well we meet our fundraising goal.
- **Overhead** - we will continue to have overhead expenses like our donor management system, state filings, and expenses that support fundraising like yard sign purchases and fundraising parties.



Before (2023)



After Summer 2024



## Mary Lin Education Foundation Board

*Thank you to our 2023/2024 Board members for all they accomplished for Mary Lin!*

### 2023/2024 MLEF Board:

Chair: Emily Newton  
 Chair Elect: Carolyn Ames Noble  
 Past Chair: Claire Oates  
 Secretary: Parikshit Ram  
 Treasurer: Deanne Uroic  
 Grants: Stacey Burton White  
 Fundraising: Natalie Rogovin  
 Communications: Jeannie Yoo Beckett  
 Special Projects: Todd Fuller  
 Special Events: Peter Kruskamp  
 Principal: Sharyn Briscoe  
 Teacher Representative: LynAnne Brennan

### Our current 2024/2025 Board members are:

Chair: Carolyn Ames Noble  
 Chair Elect: Eden Smith Parks  
 Past Chair: Emily Newton  
 Secretary: Parikshit Ram  
 Treasurer: Deanne Uroic  
 Grants: Sarah O'Dell  
 Fundraising: Natalie Williams & Natalie Rogovin  
 Communications: Sharon Haber  
 Special Projects: Todd Fuller  
 Special Events: Peter Kruskamp  
 Principal: Denise Bringslid  
 Teacher Representative: LynAnne Brennan