

Mount Bethel Elementary School Foundation
We Are One

WE ARE ONE

MT. BETHEL
FOUNDATION

Annual Report
2020-2021

Enrich, Empower, Excel

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When you donate to the Foundation, you help provide technology, enhanced academic support, world-class trained instructors, and learning methodologies typically available only in private school environments.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mount Bethel Community,

I want to thank you all for your support during this unprecedented year! As a school and as a community, we have worked through many changes, unknowns, and circumstances that none of us could have ever expected.

When the school year started, my #1 priority was the safety of the staff and students. Our Foundation stepped in and supported us by providing desk shields for teachers and hand sanitizer stations throughout the school. Although this year was nowhere near a “normal” school year, through Foundation’s leadership we were able to continue doing great things for our students. We began the year 100% virtual and unsure about what direction the Foundation would take. Once we returned to face-to-face instruction on October 5th, we immediately got to work on the game plan for 2020 - 2021.

Our commitment was to honor Ms. Appleyard’s vision of **dreaming big!** Even during a worldwide pandemic, the Mt. Bethel community stepped up during the Patron Drive to allow us to continue the many initiatives and trainings from previous years along with several new instructional plans.

Through your support, the Mt. Bethel Foundation continued to fund:

- The Voyage
- Orton-Gillingham Fluency Training
- Orton-Gillingham Math Training
- SeeSaw
- KAGAN Training
- 5th Grade Organization Classes

New this year:

- Patterns of Power:
- Next Steps Guided Reading:
- FRECKLE Math and ELA

Coming soon:

I am thrilled to announce that through the generosity of our Foundation, we received a grant to re-design our large computer lab. This will allow for a more flexible and collaborative teaching and learning environment. Through the grant, we purchased 30 new laptops, a laptop cart, interactive furniture, flexible seating, and three wall-mounted large screen monitors.

Mount Bethel’s theme this year was **#InThisTogether**, and your support of Mt. Bethel and our Foundation shows the ongoing strength of our community!

I am excited to wrap up the 2020-21 school year and look forward to opening our doors next year!



Tucker Smith, Principal



Board of Trustees

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Dear Mt. Bethel Families,

Thank you for your constant commitment and generous support of the Mt. Bethel Foundation! Despite the trying circumstances of this year, Mount Bethel families once again showed their Buccaneer pride and supported our school by donating to the Patron Drive.

Your donations funded supplies to make our school safer and help get teachers and students back in the classroom, advanced technology, new learning methodologies, enhanced academic support, world-class trained instructors, and so much more!

During this unprecedented year, our phenomenal teachers have been able engage both face-to-face and virtual students through Foundation-funded resources like See-Saw and Microsoft Innovative Educator. Our new Foundation-funded state-of-the-art computer lab will be up and running for students to utilize during Milestone testing and will be fully ready by the start of the next school year as a place for students to research and collaborate.

Thank you Mt. Bethel families, now more than ever, for providing our students with resources that keep their learning active and engaged, whether on campus or at home! We hope you have a wonderful summer, and we can't wait to see you in the Fall!

Kate Lasky & Kelly Wilkins
Foundation Co-Presidents

Our Mission

The Mt. Bethel Elementary School Foundation (MBESF) is an educational, non-profit public foundation established in 1994 to provide resources to enhance Mt. Bethel's ability to create rich educational experiences for all students. Thanks to donations from parents, staff, and friends of Mt. Bethel Elementary school, the Foundation has been able to provide nearly \$2.3 million back to the school since 1994. The Foundation is committed to **ENRICH, EMPOWER, AND EXCEL** every child's education.

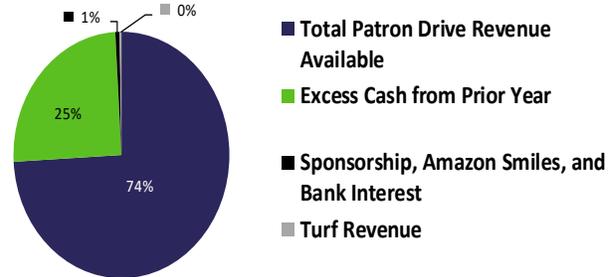
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020 - 2021 Statement of Funding

2020-2021 Revenue

Fiscal Year End July 31, 2021 *

Total Patron Drive Revenue Available	\$159,391
Sponsorship, Amazon Smiles, and Bank Interest	\$1,374
Turf Revenue	\$585
Excess Cash from Prior Year	\$53,692
Total Revenue	\$215,042

2020-2021 Foundation Revenue

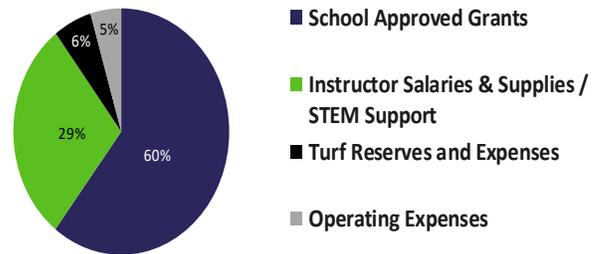


2019 - 2020 Expenditures

Fiscal Year End July 31, 2021 *

Educational Expenditures	
Instructor Salaries & Supplies / STEM Support	\$51,462
School Approved Grants	\$106,580
Total Educational Expenditures	\$158,042
Turf Reserves and Expenses	\$10,150
Operating Expenses	\$8,121
Total Expenditures	\$176,313

2020-2021 Foundation Expenditures



* Projected Year-end Statement of Funding

The Mt. Bethel Elementary School Foundation provided the following for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Technology Resource Coordinator
- STEAM Assistant
- COVID Face To Face Supplies – Table Shields and Hand Sanitizer Stations
- Computer Lab Laptops and Furniture
- iPads for Target Program
- The Voyage – Character Education Program
- Next Step Guided Reading Assessment Kits
- Orton-Gillingham Training and Manipulatives
- Patterns of Power Plus Grammar Kits
- Subscriptions for Seesaw, ABCYa!, and Freckle
- 5th Grade Organizational Classes

2020-2021 PATRON DRIVE RESULTS

We are so thankful for our Mt. Bethel families who generously supported this year's Foundation Patron Drive. In a year with so much uncertainty and so many challenges, our community again showed up to prove that We Are One! Your donations and support make it possible to continue to provide educational resources for each and every Buccaneer, above and beyond those provided by the Cobb County School District. Please see our wonderful results of the Patron Drive as of March 5, 2021:

2020-2021 Foundation Patron Drive Results

Personal Donations: \$98,425

+

Corporate Matching: \$13,914

Total: \$112, 339

*Please note, we expect to receive corporate matching funds throughout the remaining school year.

- 15 donations of \$1,000 and above**
- 58% school-wide participation at any dollar amount**
- 51% school-wide participation at the suggested amount of \$125/student**

Classrooms with 80% Participation or Greater at any \$ amount!

Mrs. Barnes, Kindergarten
Mrs. Mullins, 1st grade
Mrs. Cabral, 2nd grade
Mrs. Boutwell, 3rd grade

Classrooms with 80% Participation or Greater at suggested \$125/student amount!

Mrs. Rockwell, 1st grade
Mrs. Salamone, 2nd grade
Mrs. Hoeflinger, 3rd grade

**This year's classroom winner named our Mt. Bethel street sign!
Mrs. Hoeflinger, 3rd grade**



Winning classes enjoyed popsicle and frozen yogurt parties with extra recess time on the Foundation-funded turf field!



Principal Smith with the grade level winners for Principal of the Day!



We Are One with the Voyage

MBES has been on a journey to guide students' perspectives of the decisions they make and the actions they take. This character education journey not only connects to all grade levels and multiple standards such as reading, writing, speaking and listening, but parents can join in as well! The engaging lessons inspire students to have a positive impact in their classrooms and community.

During the year long journey the students have learned a new word each month for a total of eight words. The journey consists of videos and teacher lessons and activities. These weekly teaching points allow students to dig deeper and have a better understanding of the anchor words. Furthermore, teachers have built excitement by having a Voyager of the Month! This is a student who has exhibited the anchor word throughout the month. The Voyager of the Month earns a certificate which is displayed.

As we know, we started off the year full remote. One way to build rapport and class community was through using The Voyage and incorporating it into our daily lessons. The word we started with was respect, and our staff couldn't think of a more appropriate word to help navigate online school. It was amazing to have common language and foster the importance of positive character traits even through a computer screen! The activities that were provided were easily adapted into a remote setting which was wonderful for planning and was still engaging for the students.

Another incredible attribute about The Voyage is it provides students with lifelong character traits. This school wide journey has helped developed a common language throughout the school which benefits all children in the lunchroom, at recess, on the bus, at their homes and in the community. The Foundation recognizes that character education and social emotional learning are an integral part of a child's development, and The Voyage provides a foundation to teach the whole child. This journey has provided students with traits that will help them be future leaders. The anchor words we focused on this year were:

- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Patience
- ◆ Self-Control
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Trustworthy
- ◆ Independence
- ◆ Appreciation
- ◆ Self-Control

It has been a fantastic adventure this year, and we are loving building character traits within our students. Thank you, Foundation!

Meredith Rockwell, First Grade Teacher



We Are One with See-Saw

Seesaw for Schools is a school-wide digital portfolio with powerful administrative tools that provide real-time insight into student learning. Mt. Bethel's premium account, generously provided by our Foundation, makes it easier than ever for families to engage in their child's learning. Through school-wide collaboration, even the least tech savvy teachers are able to connect student work to skills or standards and see growth over time with portfolios that carry over from year to year.

Mt. Bethel began using Seesaw back in 2018, thanks to a grant from the MBES Foundation that has been renewed to this day (at the rate of \$5 per student/year). Seesaw provides plentiful and high quality online training materials for teachers, and many staff members were quick to embrace the opportunities provided through this 21st Century learning tool right away. In spring 2020, our Instructional Technology Committee provided an EdTech Camp during a professional learning day for all MBE teachers to further their knowledge and use of Seesaw. The timing proved to be more apropos than we could have known, as the pandemic and digital learning made Seesaw a more valuable tool than ever before for keeping our students and families engaged.

Now more than ever, remote learning solutions are essential. Since integrating Seesaw into our MBE community, there have been over 61,500 visits by family members, and it is at the heart of our home to classroom connection. As of March 2021, students and teachers have uploaded nearly 100k posts! Virtually half of those have come after our EdTech camp and as a result of home, asynchronous and hybrid learning.

Mt. Bethel's Seesaw for Schools account has enabled meaningful learning from everywhere and anywhere, for every student. It has encouraged creativity and feedback that makes students excited to learn. We are grateful for the MBE Foundation and the generosity of our MBE community for their contributions in making our Buccaneers true 21st Century learners!

Sammy Jo Reyes & Kerry Griffie—STEM Teachers

We are One with Next Steps Guided Reading Assessment

The Next Step Guided Reading Assessment program has been an invaluable tool for teachers to use in the classroom! We could not be more thankful that the Foundation provided these kits to us.

In comparison to the old system we used, the Next Step Guided Reading program gives the teacher very detailed information about each student, breaking skills down and isolating exactly where the student is lacking and/or where their strengths lie. The program contains four main components: the Reading Interest Survey, the Developmental Word Knowledge Inventory, Listening Comprehension Assessment, and Individual Reading Assessment Conferences.

By completing the Reading Interest Survey, the students can convey what they are interested in, and the teacher can use that information to better select books for that student. The Developmental Word Knowledge Inventory gives the teacher very valuable information about how each student decodes words and where spelling gaps might be. This assessment is given three times a year to monitor growth. The Listening Comprehension Assessment helps to understand students' higher-level thinking skills, and questions are broken into six different categories: vocabulary, key details, character analysis, inferencing, main idea, and evaluation. By breaking the questions into these categories, a teacher can more easily create strategy groups to work on specific skills. The Individual Reading Assessments are then used to find a student's individual independent reading level. The students enjoy these books and passages because the stories are interesting, memorable, colorful, and engaging. They also have the choice between fiction and nonfiction books or passages for each level.

Overall, the Next Step Guided Reading Assessment kits are a HUGE asset for our school, and we are so grateful to have them provided to us by the Foundation!

Lindsey Eipper, 2nd Grade Teacher

We Are One with Patterns of Power

The Patterns of Power process is a classroom routine developed by Jeff Anderson that provides an opportunity for students to think about grammar and conventions in a new way.

Instead of pointing out mistakes to avoid, Patterns of Power encourages students to think about the patterns of language and the meaning that the conventions create. Authentic texts are used to illustrate the language patterns and illuminate the purpose that each convention holds in a sentence which, in turn, creates more proficient writers!

Mount Bethel has 10 teachers (2 from each grade level) piloting the Patterns of Power process using grade level specific Patterns of Power Plus kits to support and guide their daily instruction. The kits provide teachers with resources and a detailed plan for instruction that are easily woven into the academic day.

Teachers have enjoyed the simple implementation of the Patterns of Power routine and have seen improvements in students' consistent use and understanding of grammar and conventions.

Ashley Nichols, Instructional Specialist



We Are One with Kagan Training

At Mt. Bethel, we have been blessed through our amazing Foundation to have had two years of Kagan training for our entire staff. Kagan is an amazing instructional strategy that is used worldwide in K-12 classrooms and even some colleges. The focus of each structure is providing ALL students a sense of safety that promotes engagement and active learning.

As a teacher, I have found Kagan strategies to be extremely effective within my classroom. I love using the strategies at the beginning of the year to create a classroom culture that promotes a sense of community. This allows all students to feel comfortable sharing answers and promotes greater engagement in all academic areas for all students. Kagan structures allow students the opportunity to work in partners or in teams in addition to whole group teaching. This allows me the chance to float between the groups and truly assess how each child is processing the current skill.

The last thing that I love about Kagan is the fact that it allows for constant movement while learning. Most of the structures involve some type of movement before the students partner up and talk. Movement creates activity in the brain which allows the learning to sink in deeper for greater understanding and retention.

Thank you to all our parents who have donated to our Foundation over the years. Thanks to your help, we are creating a school full of teachers that are trained with the best practices for active engagement in the classroom. Mt. Bethel truly is one of the best schools to teach and learn in!

Megan Kaminskas, Second Grade Teacher



We Are One with OG Fluency Training

We were so incredibly lucky this year to be able to spend two days learning all about the importance of reading fluency in order to help our amazing students continue to grow as readers! Our two training days were a great addition and extension to the Foundation's OG phonics trainings we have already received. The fluency training expanded on an area that many of us were finding students needed additional support. We have always known fluency is important but through this training we were able to learn the research behind, and the importance of, teaching fluency in effective ways. Fluency is the bridge between word recognition and comprehension and is imperative to growing strong readers!

Fluency is the ability to read effortlessly and automatically with enough speed, accuracy, and expression to comprehend. Through our wonderful trainings we are now equipped with many instructional techniques, resources, and instructional activities that we were able to immediately bring back to our classrooms and start using with our students! Fluency is so important and is a key aspect of reading achievement for all readers-from the struggling readers through our advanced readers. With the knowledge we gained we were all able to immediately put into action the newly learned guided, oral, repeated reading practices with all of our students and reading groups!

Although we have only been using and implementing our new fluency resources for a couple of months, we as teachers are seeing reading growth in our students that we feel is directly related to our new effective instructional techniques and practices. The biggest impact we have seen is the increase in comprehension due to student's speed, accuracy and expression all improving!

We can not thank our fabulous Foundation enough for always supporting our school and continuing to provide these training opportunities for us, so we can continue to implement the best, research-based and proven strategies, instructional techniques and activities in order to provide every student at Mt. Bethel the best education and foundation possible. We are so lucky to have such a supportive organization at Mt. Bethel so we as teachers can continue to do our best to help the children grow each day! Thank you!

Heather Mullins, 1st Grade Teacher

We Are One with Organizational Classes

As in years past, the fifth grade classes were happy this year to welcome Natalie Collins as a guest speaker. Natalie Collins, M.Ed., is a learning specialist and former teacher who works with students of all ages to help them become more organized, and to teach them how to study. Mrs. Collins presented many great tools and tips for our 5th graders. For example, she helped students organize their agendas and discussed ways to use this tool most effectively, now and going forward into middle school.

The presentations looked a little different this year as Mrs. Collins joined classes virtually to present, but the program was just as effective. We look forward to having Mrs. Collins present again in the spring, this time to our 5th grade students along with their parents. The spring presentation is very helpful as our rising 6th graders prepare to transition into middle school.

The fifth grade teachers and students are extremely grateful to the Foundation for providing this presentation. Natalie Collins' advice and tips help our 5th graders to become more independent and successful students.

Farish Wheeler, 5th grade teacher

We Are One with OG Math

Orton Gillingham Math is a multisensory approach that provides learners the opportunity to visualize and build mathematical concepts. Learners are super charged as they move through Bloom's Taxonomy knowing the "how" and "why" to math. OG (Orton Gillingham) Math manipulatives enable learners to see, touch, and build concrete models to apply and move to the abstract level of Bloom's Taxonomy. Some of the math skills that third grade has already used OG Math kits for have provided students hands on materials to conquer addition and subtraction with regrouping, Distributive Property of Multiplication, and comparing fractions.



Students learn to discover and self-correct as they solve math problems. You know you have a valuable resource when the kids cheer while using it! Thank you, Foundation, for providing us with these hands-on interactive materials and training to keep students engaged and happy while learning math.

**Lisa Bredickas & Ann Saour,
3rd grade teachers**

We Are One with Freckle

This year students and teachers at Mt. Bethel Elementary have adjusted to starting off the school year virtually and having one asynchronous day a week where students complete assignments digitally. The Mt. Bethel Foundation has supported teachers and students with digital learning by providing the premium version of a technology tool called Freckle. Freckle is a personalized adaptive online learning platform which allows students to practice math and reading skills at their level. Why Freckle? Freckle reaches students at their various levels, is research-based to improve student growth, and saves time for teachers by having the differentiated instruction all in one place.

First, Freckle is a useful tool because it meets students where they are and personalizes learning. When students first log into Freckle for math or ELA they take a diagnostic pre-test, which figures out the student's level and starting point where they will practice skills at their own pace. As students get questions right, Freckle adjusts so that every child is met at their personalized level whether that is at, above, or below grade level.

Next, Freckle is a great tool to use with Mt. Bethel students because it is research-based and proven to show student growth. According to research studies of Freckle by KnowProgress and West Ed, students showed an increase in classroom performance when given materials at their instructional level. Also, in the 2017-2018 school year, Freckle's top districts saw 0.9 grade level growth across their active students in just a 6-month period. When students are met at their level, they can grow and fill in holes in their learning.

Lastly, Freckle helps teachers differentiate instruction for their students by having it all in one place. As standards are taught teachers can assign the ELA or math standard to their students with targeted math practice. Teachers are then able to see which students are at a similar level for the standard which makes it easy to sort students into small groups.

Thank you to the Foundation for providing the premium version of Freckle for us! This program allows us to meet our student's needs on asynchronous days and help with using the data to guide our instruction. Students can access this program by logging into Clever and then choosing the Freckle button. Thank you to our awesome Foundation for helping support us on our digital learning journey this year!



Erica Oakhill, 5th Grade Teacher

Sources

Renaissance Learning. (2020b). *Trends in student outcome measures: The role of individualized Freckle Math practice*. <https://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R63038.pdf>