



Annual Report
2021-2022

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A Message From the Principal

Dear Mount Bethel Community,

As the 2021-2022 school year starts to wind down, I have had time to reflect on the school year and all the great things that we were able to accomplish together. Through your generous donations and the hard work and dedication of the Foundation, we were able to ensure that any learning gaps from last year were identified, supported, and successfully handled by our amazing staff! The MBESF provided ongoing support to the school through: **Orton Gillingham Reading, Orton Gillingham Math, Learning Lab support, Kagan Cooperative Learning, the Turf Field, STEAM Assistant Melissa Pumpian, Technology Coordinator Shawn Lieth, 5th grade organizational classes, and the J. Serravallo Reading & Writing Strategies Resource.**

During the year, we took on several new initiatives that the Foundation was ready and willing to support: **SPIRE Decodable Readers, iPads for Learning Lab & Learning Commons, Generation Genius, Blast Off to Reading, MBTV Updates, Sensory Hallway, Dyslexia Endorsement for Teachers (Cohort Tuition), Acadience Reading, Digital Assessment Tool and Benchmark Assessment Books, and a Speech Grant (Playground Signs & Classroom Technology).**

I continue to be amazed at the support of the Mt. Bethel community and the Foundation. The opportunities provided to the school, staff, and students are second to none! The last two years have certainly presented challenges like we have never seen, and I cannot imagine achieving the level of success we have without all of you!

The Cobb County School District Mission is: One Team, One Goal, Student Success. The Mt. Bethel Foundation is a shining example of these words. Together we work as One Team to ensure ALL our students achieve success each and every day!

I thank you for all your support and everything you do for our awesome school!

Tucker Smith, Principal



A Message From the 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 almost \$1.7 million back to the school since 1994. The Foundation is committed to **ENRICH, EMPOWER, AND EXCEL** every child's education.

Dear Parents,

The MBES Foundation recently asked teachers to fill out a short survey. We wanted to know how often our work as a Foundation impacts our school, and the response was overwhelming. Really, these comments are meant for you—the parents who financially support our school through donations to the Foundation's annual Patron Drive. Please enjoy these direct quotes from teachers; you as donors deserve the thanks!

- ⇒ Thank you so much for all you do for the students and teachers at Mt Bethel!
- ⇒ [Technology Coordinator Shawn Lieth] is always willing to tackle any problem and allows me to teach!
- ⇒ If Shawn weren't here, we would have to wait weeks for help!
- ⇒ It's hard to choose just 3!! (in reference to the 3 improvements that are most beneficial)
- ⇒ [STEAM Assistant Melissa Pumpian] makes it possible for our students to participate in activities that make learning fun, hands-on, and accessible to all students.
- ⇒ I am very appreciative of the OG trainings! It has been the best training I've had in years! Thank you!
- ⇒ From the bottom of my heart, as an educator, thank you for training teachers, supporting us, and making this school able to continue being the best.
- ⇒ Thank you for all you do to make our school a wonderful place to teach and learn.

As a Foundation, we thank you, the parents, for supporting our students and teachers and trusting us to direct your financial support. After all, we are merely stewards of your donations, steering the funding you provide to those who benefit from it: the students and teachers.

Kelly Wilkins & Stephanie Wood
Mt. Bethel Elementary School Foundation Co-Presidents

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Co-President: Kelly Wilkins

Co-President:

Stephanie Wood

Treasurer: Joel Blanchard

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Corporate Matching:

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Secretary: Kelly Sextone

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Jamie Salimi

Patron Drive Co-Chair:

Katie Curlee

Patron Drive Co-Chair:

Tereza Kros

FACT Program:

Hyesung Kang

Communications:

Alison Crump

Data Processing Manager:

Jacob Brand

STEM Fair Chair:

Mary Catherine Church

Financial Statement

2021-2022 Statement of Funding

2021-2022 Revenue

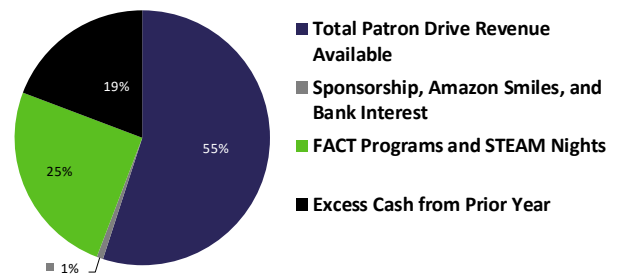
Fiscal Year End July 31, 2022*

TOTAL 2020 DRIVE	\$119,056
Sponsorship, Interest, Amazon Smiles	\$1,778
FACT Programs & STEAM Nights	\$54,058
Excess Cash from 2020	\$41,650

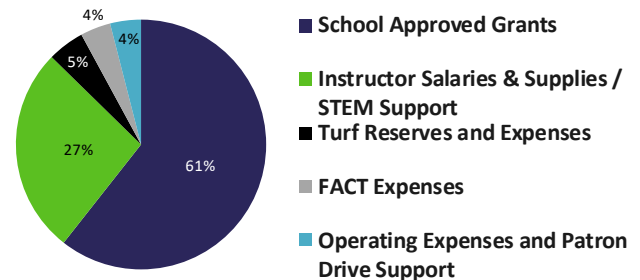
TOTAL REVENUE **\$216, 541**

*Projected Year-end Statement of Funding

2021-2022 Foundation Revenue



2021-2022 Foundation Expenditures



2021-2022 Expenditures

Fiscal Year End July 31, 2022*

Educational Expenditures	\$56,032
Instructor Salaries/STEM Support	
<u>School Grants</u>	<u>\$127,000</u>
Total Educational Expenditures	\$183,031

Turf Reserves & Expenses	\$9,965
FACT Expenses	\$8,218
Operating Expenses	\$8,344

TOTAL Expenditures **\$209,559**

*Projected Year-end Statement of Expenditures

Mt. Bethel STEPPED UP and provided the following for the 2021-22 school year:

- Orton Gillingham Training (Math & Phonics)
- Sensory Hallway
- Subscription to Generation Genius
- MBTV Grant
- Jennifer Serravallo Reading and Writing Strategies Books
- iPads for Learning Commons/Learning Lab
- Dyslexia Endorsement–Teacher Training Tuition
- Decodable Readers
- Speech Classroom Technology & Playground Signs
- Acadience Learning Assessment
- Blast Off to Reading Grant

STEP UP FOR Patron Drive

You really stepped up!

\$121,845.68

**Thank
you!**



During the month of October, the Foundation holds its annual Patron Drive, a time when families, staff, and friends of Mt. Bethel donate generously to the Foundation. The Patron Drive is our only fundraiser and is so successful because donors know that each and every dollar raised goes directly towards improving their child's education at Mt. Bethel. The Foundation offers family and classroom incentives as a thank you for donating to your child's education and enhancement of Mt. Bethel Elementary.

CLASS & TEACHER INCENTIVES

- ⇒ Each class with 80% or more donation participation, in any amount, enjoyed a scavenger hunt followed by a popsicle party.
- ⇒ Classroom at each grade level with the highest percentage of families donating \$125+ was entered in a drawing to name the Mt. Bethel street sign.
- ⇒ Each teacher with 80% participation or higher received an insulated tumbler.



MBES FAMILY INCENTIVES

- ⇒ \$1+: Car Magnet
- ⇒ \$125 (per student): Name entered into a drawing for Principal of the Day with Mr. Smith
- ⇒ \$1,000+: Private tour of the school

STEP UP FOR FACT Clubs

FACT programs, or Foundation After-School Club Times, are enrichment programs for kids in grades K-5. Many of the clubs are run by our very own Mt. Bethel teachers!

Since their implementation, FACT club options have grown each year, and we now have over 20 clubs in various interests. There is truly a club for everyone from sports to STEM, music, and theater!

Not only do our FACT clubs provide exceptional enrichment opportunities for our Buccaneers, but each FACT club gives a portion of their tuition back to the Foundation.

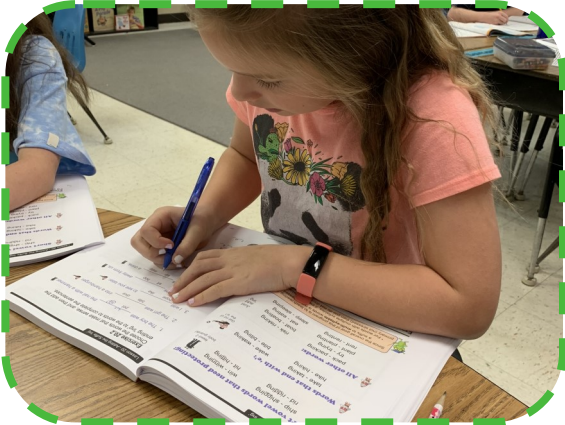
This year, Mt Bethel FACT clubs gave back over \$50,000 to the Foundation! This money went right back to ensuring our students have the best technology and educational resources available.

Many thanks to our Clubs for offering such exceptional opportunities to truly enrich, empower, and excel our Buccaneers!

And we have more exciting news! Terri Powe is the newest member of our team. Terri is our FACT Monitor who makes sure FACT Clubs are running smoothly after school. Terri lives in East Cobb with her husband and two sons. She enjoys running, reading, cheering on the Auburn Tigers, and everything outdoors. She looks forward to seeing the kids' smiling faces at Mt. Bethel daily. "This has been a rewarding and fun experience with all of the kids in FACT Clubs," she says.



STEP UP FOR Blast Off To Reading



Thanks to the Mount Bethel Foundation, all third graders were given a subscription to the “Blast Off to Reading!” program! This program comes with 50 Orton-Gillingham based lessons. Each teacher received a slide presentation with over 1500 slides to enrich each lesson. Students received their own copy of the Blast Off to Reading color workbook with short exercises and word lists. Along with the workbook, students have access to the Blast Off App which contains phonetic tool, games, online phonics flash cards, and a dictation that encourages independent work.

The Blast Off to Reading program reinforces the OG skills that our students have been learning since kindergarten.

It is helping improve and grow our students’ reading and spelling skills. Students have been engaged and working hard through the lessons. To quote a few students when asked about what they think about this program:

**“It is short
and easy
to follow”**

Laura Ferguson, 3rd

**“It lets me be-
come a strong
reader”**

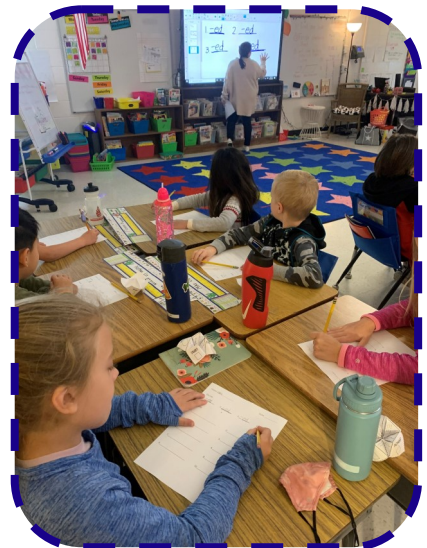
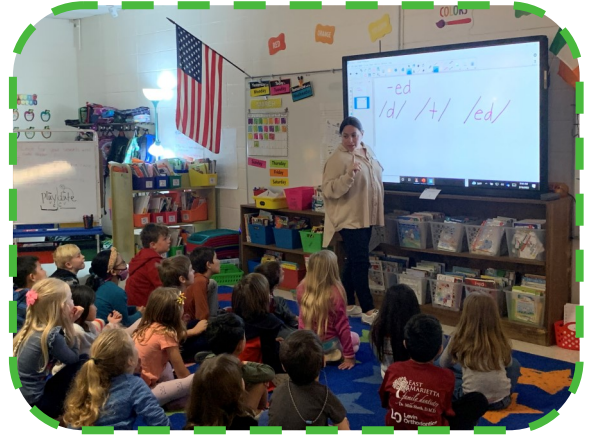
Grade Teacher

**“It has re-
ally fun ac-
tivities”**

STEP UP FOR OG Phonics

I am extremely thankful to the Foundation for funding the Orton-Gillingham training I have received since joining the First Grade team this year. This training has helped me feel more confident as a phonics teacher and has given me the ability to better address the individual needs of students in my classroom. I have been able to attend a training one day, pull the resources and tools learned from that day, and try it with my students the very next day to either introduce a new phonics skill or reteach a concept where students need more support. Additionally, the training has allowed me to contribute to my team by sharing new, engaging tools and resources with them. OG Phonics equips teachers with catchy sayings and instructional techniques to help students remember the various rules used for reading and spelling words. My students have been so excited to interact with me during this time, especially when the lessons include movement. The drill cards and other resources provided or created during the trainings have been so helpful for not only me, but my students as well. I am so grateful to the Foundation for providing this opportunity!

-Caitlin O'Neill, 1st Grade Teacher



STEP UP FOR Dyslexia Endorsement

According to the International Dyslexia Association, up to 20 percent of the population is impacted by a disability in reading. For these students, school can be a discouraging and frustrating experience. Georgia recognizes this and passed Senate Bill 48 in 2019, which calls for statewide screening programs to identify students with dyslexia at younger ages and provide proper supports.

The Georgia Department of Education created a three-year pilot program that runs from 2020-2023 to help prepare for the new requirements. A screening mandate will go into effect for all Georgia elementary schools during the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, a Dyslexia Endorsement was established to provide teacher training in best practices.

The Foundation recognizes the importance of quality training and funded seven Mt. Bethel teachers to earn their Dyslexia Endorsement, beginning in January 2022. The three-course endorsement includes classes on the foundations of literacy acquisition, assessments, and instructional methods to support students with reading and writing difficulties. In the foundations course, our cohort gained background knowledge on the language processing requirements for proficient reading, early indicators of reading disabilities, and fact versus myths surrounding Dyslexia. We also explored the strengths and talents of those with Dyslexia, like their knack for three-dimensional thinking and high levels of empathy. Building a strong understanding of Dyslexia allows teachers to look at the whole child and support their learning while tapping into their strengths.

The endorsement is online, so going through it with colleagues from Mt. Bethel provides opportunities to collaborate and discuss our learning outside of the virtual discussion boards. Participating teachers range from the early to upper grades, which has allowed us to have conversations about how Mt. Bethel students progress as readers moving through elementary school.

We are grateful to the Foundation for funding training that will have a wide-reaching impact on all students, but especially those with reading disabilities. Earning this endorsement will arm us with research-based instructional strategies, the ability to collaborate with our colleagues, and skills to ensure that every student is a reader!

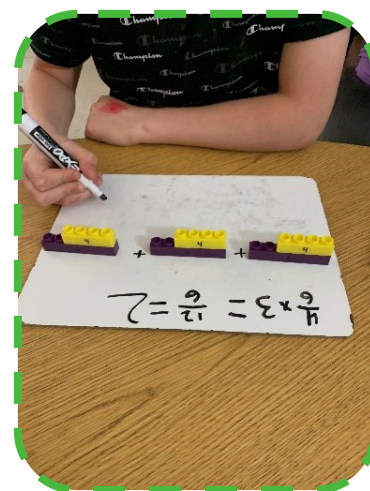
-Sharon Marsh, 4th Grade Teacher

STEP UP FOR OG Math



Math is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms; it is about understanding.

– William Paul Thurston

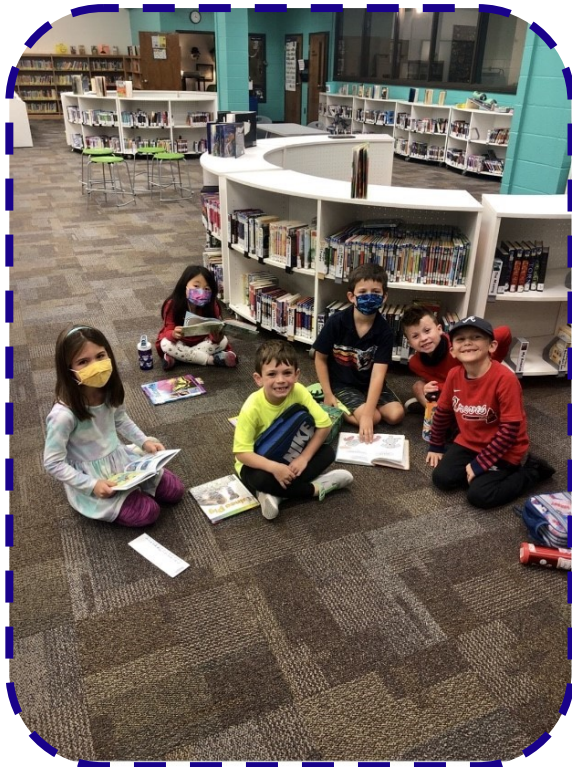


We were very excited that we were given the opportunity to receive Orton-Gillingham math training through funding from our Foundation. Through this training, we were provided a deeper understanding of the math process. The overriding principal of math is imagination, not rote memorization, which supports greater conceptual and visual understanding of mathematics. All that means is that students first learn NEW math concepts using hands on materials (concrete). Then they move on to drawing or using pictures (representational). The last step is converting the information into numbers and symbols (abstract).

Students who struggle with math often have trouble making sense of the abstract, the numbers and symbols. This approach helps students connect what they learn through their senses to numbers and symbols. The OG approach to math provides students with a multi-sensory experience to help cement learning. The training sessions were action oriented with auditory, visual, and kinesthetic elements which reinforced each other for optimal learning. Now, we are able to bring this approach into our classrooms to enhance the learning of ALL our students. Thank you, Foundation for providing our MBES teachers with these opportunities to help enrich, empower, and excel our students.

-Colleen Jankovich, 4th Grade Teacher

STEP UP FOR Acadience Reading



Early Literacy Support

We are so thankful to our Foundation for providing our teachers with the digital subscription and benchmark assessment books for Acadience Learning. Acadience Learning is a universal screening and progress monitoring tool that teachers can use to track data on individual students' Early Literacy Skills. There was a group of 14 staff members who took part in the Acadience Reading training, who then implemented the Digital Assessment tool, while also using the student facing materials purchased by Foundation. These tools were essential in gathering data to be able to implement the appropriate and most specific early literacy support to students. We look forward to continuing our work with these essential tools and are so thankful for the impact it is making on our students!

-Shannon Wise, Instructional Specialist

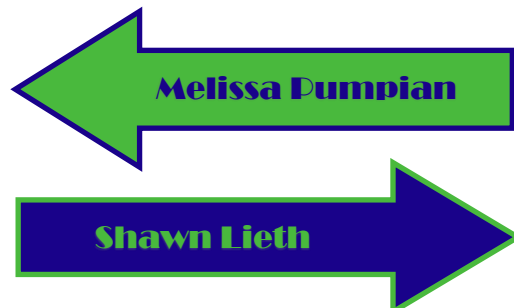
STEP UP FOR Foundation Funded Instructors

MELISSA PUMPIAN

Our Buccaneers are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st Century. STEAM is an educational approach to learning that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking

In order for this collaboration to be feasible in our large population, we must have someone that unifies our STEM, Art, and Music programs in a way that only Melissa Pumpian, our Foundation-funded STEAM paraprofessional, can! Ms. Pumpian is the glue that holds our STEAM team together.

Ms. Pumpian's skills in showcasing our students' work is only one small part of her value to our programs. On a typical day, Ms. P can be found bouncing between specials classes, doing everything from co-teaching, supporting students, preparing the vast amount of materials needed to plan and conduct STEAM lessons, and prepping for schoolwide projects, shows and days. Not only does our Foundation generously purchase the myriad supplies needed to conduct these days, they fund our invaluable Ms. P, whose time and organization outfit each and every classroom with the specific supplies needed for their STEAM challenges.



SHAWN LIETH

Technology has become such a valuable tool in education and that is certainly the case at Mt. Bethel! There are not enough words to say how invaluable Shawn Lieth is to our school! She invests so much time and energy into keeping our technology up-and-running, training students and staff on tech tools, and constantly looking for ways to create 21st Century learners. From troubleshooting issues with iPads and laptops, to creating the Foundation-funded Learning Lab, to working with students at all grade levels on tech resources, to training our 5th graders on how to take the online Georgia Milestones assessment...there is nothing Shawn can't do! She loves her position, loves the students and staff, and wants to do anything possible to make our school the best it can be! We are extremely thankful to have Shawn as our Foundation-funded Technology Coordinator!

STEP UP FOR MBTV Studio Grant



Foundation provided our MBTV studio with a MAJOR UPGRADE. This student-run news-cast is broadcasted out to every Mt. Bethel classroom each morning to keep all our students and teachers in the know. We were able to improve sound quality with 3 new lavalier mics for our anchors. Additionally, the picture quality was improved with a new camera with higher resolution as well as a new HDMI cable/outlet to bring the news to everyone in high def! The studio received 3 new monitors: one that serves as a teleprompter for our anchors and two additional monitors that our crew relies on to see what they're broadcasting out to the school. All the pieces of the puzzle are brought together by our combination mixing board. The mixing board allows us to use our existing green screen and place our anchors in a new mystery location each day. This transformation has made an impact of the overall experience for our rotating group of students as well as the school as a whole.

-Heather Kindschy, Media Specialist



STEP UP FOR STEM Labs and STEAM Nights

It is the goal of the Mt. Bethel STEM program to cultivate well-rounded 21st century learners. Therefore, we strive to find a balance between not only the 4 content areas of STEM, but between science experiments/investigations, technology skills (using both laptops and iPads), engineering challenges, robotics, coding and even “purposeful play” to promote “STEM thinking.” Where and whenever possible, ties are made to the real world: careers in STEAM, problems we face that may be helped with STEM thinking, and how to transition our students and future leaders from being consumers to innovators of technology and engineering.

Led by STEM Teachers, Kerry Griffiee and Sammy Jo Reyes, these lofty goals would not be achievable were it not for the enormous amount of support our school and its STEM program receives from our wonderful Mt. Bethel Foundation. One such example of this support is the Foundation’s role in our hugely fun and successful school-wide STEM Days. Twice a year, our entire student body participates in themed STEM Days. On these days, all classroom teachers are provided with the resources and teaching materials needed to present an epic STEM-based challenge to their Buccaneers.

STEAM is an educational approach to learning that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. Our Buccaneers are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st Century.

In addition to the 4-day STEM rotation and STEM days, MB Buccaneers have a variety of options to pursue their STEAM interests outside of regular school hours. Our FACT program hosts STEM teacher-led after school clubs and summer camp through Club Buccaneer and Buccaneer STEAM Team. Offerings include robotics, coding, engineering and more, **and proceeds have brought more than \$50,000 back to our Foundation!**

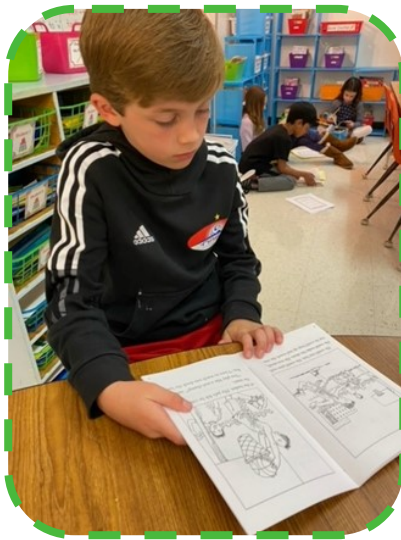
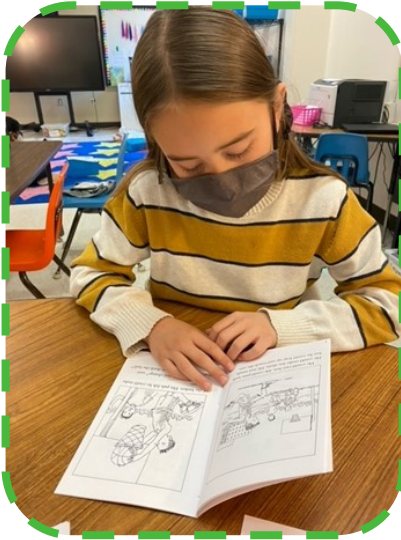
Full STEAM Fridays are a collaboration between Mt. Bethel Foundation and Club Buccaneer. On these fun-filled evenings, students are welcomed to the STEM Labs from 5-8pm for dinner and theme-based STEAM activities. Full STEAM Fridays are a time for your child to engage in LEGO builds, robotics, coding, technology, engineering challenges, creative collaborative projects and more. 15% of all proceeds for these evenings goes back to our Foundation, therefore funding further projects and materials for our Buccaneers’ classrooms. **Thus far, Club Buccaneer’s Full STEAM Fridays have raised over \$6000 for our Foundation.**

Kerry Griffiee



Sammy Jo Reyes

STEP UP FOR Decodable Readers



PHONICS

This year, the Mount Bethel Foundation continued its support of Structured Literacy by providing over 750 decodable texts for our teachers to use during their phonics small group instruction. When learning how to read, it is vital that early learners apply their knowledge of the alphabetic principle and engage in repeated reading practice using decodable texts. These wonderful decodable texts have provided that practice and helped to build skill and confidence in our students. The Mount Bethel Foundation has been an integral part of ensuring all Mount Bethel students become strong readers. This resource is another example of the Foundation's overwhelming support and how it has greatly benefited our students.

-Ashley Nichols, Instructional Specialist

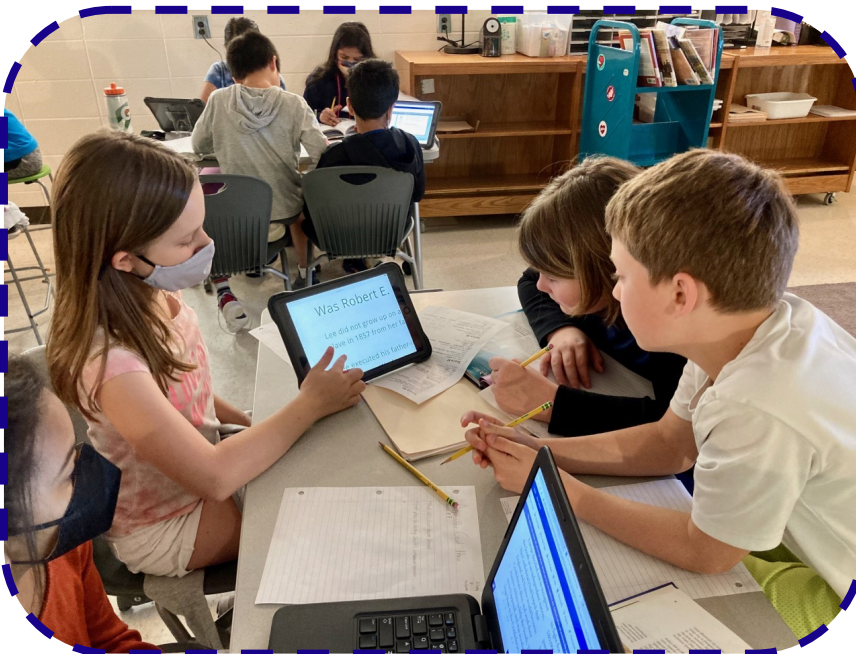


STEP UP FOR Learning Lab iPads

This year the Foundation generously funded a grant for 30 iPads to be used in the Learning Commons and the Learning Lab. These iPads enable all MBES students to create new digital content and develop critical skills to become successful 21st century learners and earners.

Currently, students are using these iPads to create content using Garage Band and iMovie. 5th grade students can create and fine-tune fantastic videos for their iconic Rap Project about important people and events from the 20th Century. 2nd grade just wrapped up their Genius Hour research project. They used these iPads to research famous people, and they recorded their presentations. Once all the videos were recorded, the homeroom teacher then shared the videos with parents using SeeSaw, also funded by the Foundation.

iPads help teaching and learning become more student-centered and allow for more creativity. Many apps available on the iPads enable students to easily work independently, in groups, or as a whole class to develop new skills and process new information. Teachers can create interactive content in a wide range of apps. For example, teachers can pose thought-provoking questions and ideas in Padlet and students can interact with the teacher and each other, providing deeper learning opportunities.



We are extremely grateful to the Foundation for providing the tools needed to prepare our students to be successful in their technology-driven future.

-Shawn Lieth, Technology Coordinator

