

Mount Bethel Elementary School Foundation



Annual Report
2019-2020

Enrich, Empower, Excel

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When you donate to the Foundation you fund the technology, enhanced academic support, world-class trained instructors, and learning methodologies that make Mount Bethel stand out, and that are typically available only in private school environments.

A Message from the Principal

Dear Mt. Bethel Families,

My letter for the Foundation's Annual Report usually focuses on test scores and how we have performed coupled with longitudinal data. I typically discuss how the training our Foundation provides sets our students up for success and to knock it out of the park on standardized testing. We were not able to have concrete data comparing last year to this year's progress. So many things were cancelled. Instead of focusing on data, I would like to offer a narrative of what has transpired with our Foundation's partnership with the school over the past seven years to make Mt. Bethel a better place for students.

During the 2013-2014 school year, our Foundation was focused on providing classroom grants. Individual teachers would write grants for items such as chair bags to hold textbooks, academic games for skill and drill practice, and other items that were classroom specific.

That year, our Foundation also dipped into reserves to provide a resource that our teachers asked for on a large scale: math workbooks. At the time, Cobb County Schools did not have a textbook adoption that aligned with the standards, and our Foundation stepped up and provided workbooks to support learning across grade levels.

In the years ahead, our Foundation shifted the focus from providing individual classroom grants to funding a school-wide revolution. The Foundation works to day to ensure every student the opportunity to ENRICH.EMPOWER.EXCEL. through provision of resources and teacher training.

How have we shifted from 2013 – 2020? What has been provided by our Foundation?

- Extensive training in Readers and Writers Workshop – through Columbia Teachers College in Lucy Calkins Units of Study. Units of Study teacher materials for each teacher K – 5. Direct training from Columbia Teachers College staff during two summers.
- Extensive training in Orton-Gillingham Phonics/ Reading Instruction – through Reading is Essential for All People (REAP). Research-based multi-sensory phonics instruction professional learning for all teachers K-3 and Morphology (Greek/Latin Roots) training for 4th & 5th. Continued support.
- Extensive training in Orton-Gillingham Math Instruc-

tion with math manipulatives. Kindergarten through Second Grade teachers have been trained, receive ongoing support, and we will move the multi-sensory math methodology to third grade in the coming year!

- A shift in providing SCIENCE instruction during the specials rotation to STEM instruction. Our Foundation has supported two STEM Labs where science and technology standards are addressed, along with coding, robotics, creativity, and much more.
- Character education through implementation of The Voyage. As we explicitly taught character traits this year, we saw an increase in student voice – and their desire to make a positive impact on the school and the world!
Extensive support by funding computers and iPads.
- Support for our oldest Buccaneers and their parents with Organization and Academics.
- Training in Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures – to increase engagement and to teach skills helping students to engage in conversation, curriculum, and coaching! **KAGAN STRUCTURES WILL BE CRITICAL FOR ALL TEACHERS/STUDENTS AS WE LEARN TO BE BACK TOGETHER!**
- The Turf Field! Such a benefit to all of our Buccaneers! Much, much more!

I want to thank our Foundation and each of you for your support. As the Mt. Bethel Principal, I was able to dream big – to have what some may call an unreasonable vision – and to work with YOU to make that vision become reality. I genuinely feel that we have been able to provide the BEST professional learning, the BEST methodologies, the BEST resources, and to make Mt. Bethel the BEST school in Cobb County!

Tucker Smith will continue to lead, continue to support, continue to collaborate, and will continue our tradition of EXCELLENCE IN ACTION.

With much love and appreciation,
Jessica Appleyard





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A Message From the Co-Presidents

Dear Mt. Bethel Families,

Thank you for your constant commitment and generous support of the Mt. Bethel Foundation!

We had another successful year with our families showing their Buccaneer pride by supporting our Foundation. Your donations funded advanced technology, new learning methodologies, enhanced academic support, world-class trained instructors, and so much more!

During these challenging times, our phenomenal teachers have been able to stay engaged from afar with our students through Foundation funded resources like SeeSaw and Microsoft Innovative Educator. When we return to a classroom environment, the Foundation funded Kagan strategies will be essential in re-teaching students how to work together in a cooperative and constructive way.

Thank you Mt. Bethel families, now more than ever, for providing our students with resources that keep their learning active and engaged, whether together or apart!

We hope you have a wonderful summer, and we can't wait to all be together again at Mt. Bethel!

Alison Krizner and Kate Lasky
Foundation Co-Presidents

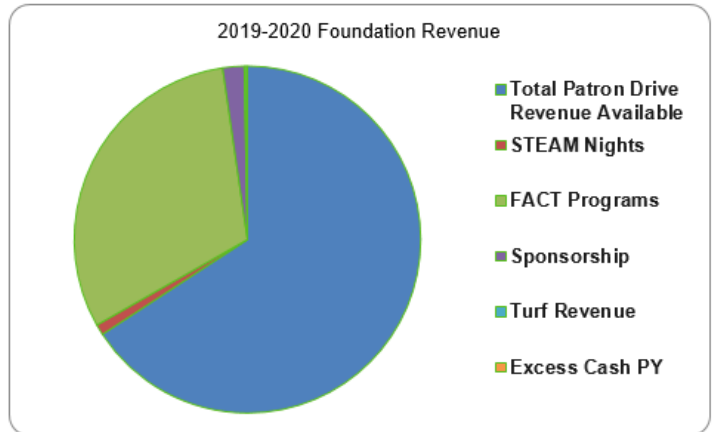
Our Mission

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 \$1.5 million back to the school since 1994. The Foundation is committed to **ENRICH, EMPOWER, AND EXCEL** every child's education.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019 - 2020 Statement of Funding

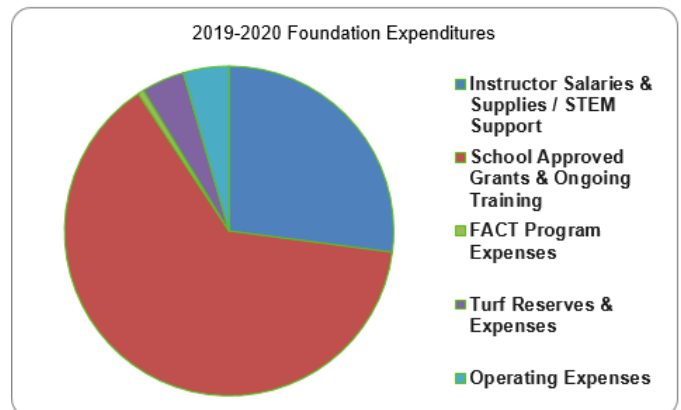
2019-2020 Revenue Fiscal Year End July 31, 2020 *

Total Patron Drive Revenue Available	\$161,159
STEAM Nights	\$1,177
FACT Program	\$75,555
Sponsorship	\$2,830
Turf Revenue	\$388
Excess Cash from PY	\$2,398
Total Revenue	\$243,507



2019 - 2020 Expenditures Fiscal Year End July 31, 2020 *

Educational Expenditures	
Instructor Salaries & Supplies / STEM	\$66,056
School Approved Grants	\$154,074
Total Educational Expenditures	\$220,130
FACT Program Expenses	\$1,450
Turf Reserves and Expenses	\$10,150
Operating Expenses	\$10,924
Total Expenditures	\$242,654



* Projected Year-end Statement of Funding

Mt. Bethel went ALL IN and provided the following for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Technology Resource Coordinator
- STEAM Assistant
- Kagan Training
- The Voyage- Character Education Program
- Laptops & Carts for 2nd & 3rd grades
- Orton Gillingham Math Training for 2nd grade
- 5th Grade Organizational Classes/ Parent Class and 4th Grade Study Skill Classes
- STEM Supplies
- STEM Days
- SORA - ebook subscription
- Phonological Awareness Materials for K & 1st
- SeeSaw program

Approved March 2020 but not yet purchased

- Next Step Guided Reading Assessment Kits
- iPads for 4th & 5th Grades

PATRON DRIVE INCENTIVES

Each year in 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! While some of our fun Patron Drive incentives were not able to happen this year due to the pandemic, Ms. Appleyard went above and beyond to ensure we could still have some fun from home for our Principal of the Day winners!



Principals of the Day...Digital Version!

Frozen Yogurt Parties!

Any class with over 80% participation in the Patron Drive received a frozen yogurt party from Menchie's, extra Turf time and bragging rights!

Jeans for Teachers!

Teachers of classrooms with 80% participation or higher also won the chance to wear jeans any day they wear their Foundation t-shirt to school! This is such a treat to our teachers who are so dedicated to our students!

Principal for a Day!

Any family that donated \$125 per student during the Patron Drive was entered into the drawing to be selected for Principal for a Day! These students had the chance to make grand proclamations, and enjoy a Zoom lunch with Ms. Appleyard and Chic fil A delivered to their homes!

Personalized Parking Spot!

Any family that donated \$500+ had a chance to win their own parking spot at school! There were also winners for parking spots to be used during 5th grade graduation!

ALL IN for FACT Clubs

FACT programs, **F**oundation **A**fter-School **C**lub **T**imes, are after-school enrichment programs for all 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 offer over 25 clubs in a variety of interests! From sports, to STEM, to music, and theater, there is truly something for everyone! Not only do our FACT clubs provide exceptional enrichment opportunities for our Buccaneers, but each FACT club gives back a portion of the tuition as a donation to the Foundation! **This year, our FACT clubs gave back over \$75,000 to the Foundation!** All of this money went right back to ensuring our students have the best technology and educational resources available! Many thanks to all of our Clubs for offering such exceptional opportunities to truly enrich, empower, and excel our Buccaneers!



Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding fall FACT clubs. Please visit www.mbesf.org or email fact@mbesf.org with any questions.

ALL IN for STEM Labs & 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.” Additionally, the Arts (visual, musical and movement) are naturally and regularly integrated into our program, therefore exposing students to STEAM learning. 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.

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. Some themes include: Mt. Bethel Cardboard Arcade, Winter Olympics and Amusement Park. 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. Each grade level has a specific challenge, selects classroom winners to go up against all others on the grade level, and then a grade level winner is selected for their creativity, superior problem solving and innovation.

Days such as these require a vast amount of supplies- everything from cardboard, to straws, craft sticks, tape, pipe cleaners and more. Not only does our Foundation generously purchase the myriad supplies needed to conduct these days, they fund our invaluable STEAM paraprofessional, Melissa Pumpian, whose time and organization outfit each and every classroom with the specific supplies needed for their challenge.

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 \$30,000 back to our Foundation!

Full STEAM Fridays are a recent collaboration between Mt. Bethel Foundation’s FACT program and Club Buccaneer. On these fun-filled evenings (hosted monthly), students are welcomed to the STEM Labs from 5-8pm for dinner (pizza and fruit) and theme-based STEAM activities. Full STEAM Fridays are a time for your child (1st-5th grades) 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 \$3000 for our Foundation. Stay tuned for future dates and themes coming for the 2020-2021 school year! Further details can be found on our Foundation’s website or at clubbuccaneer.org

We greatly appreciate all that our amazing Foundation provides to get our Buccaneers buzzing with STEAM innovation and creativity!

By: Sammy Jo Reyes & Kerry Griffie—STEM Teachers



ALL IN for Foundation Funded Teachers

Carolyn Cooper, Technology Coordinator

Mt. Bethel is fortunate enough to have had a technology coordinator, funded by the Foundation! Over 200 iPads are being used each and every day in the classrooms, music, art, STEM, and the Learning Commons, for individualized instruction and project based learning. Carolyn Cooper ensured all of our iPads are updated with the proper apps and tools so that teachers and students can use them effectively in the classroom. Our teachers and students use many different online tools throughout the day. Carolyn kept the student databases updated for our software subscriptions to those programs. By maintaining the subscriptions, the burden is taken off the classroom teacher so that they can focus on instruction. In addition, she would troubleshoot and resolve technology glitches, so teachers could keep our students engaged and get back to instruction as quickly as possible! Carolyn also helped the administration prepare for online high stakes testing, published the Buccaneer Bytes Tech Blog, and assisted in production of the morning announcement broadcast. **Carolyn truly made an impact on Mt. Bethel and will be greatly missed!**

Melissa Pumpian, STEAM Assistant

What is STEAM? Science Technology Engineering Arts & Math. Melissa Pumpian supports both STEM Labs, the Music Room and the Art Room. She coordinates and delivers all materials for our school-wide STEM days, preps materials for art projects and for the art show, as well as assists with curriculum implementation in specials. Melissa can be seen on any day hustling around the building to offer an extra set of hands in specials when an in-depth project is taking place!

Melissa helps lower the student teacher ratio in specials and ensures that our students can fully engage in art, music, and in Science Technology Engineering & Math!

ALL IN for Laptop Carts

The Mt. Bethel Foundation has gone above and beyond once again in supporting all students in the 3rd grade by purchasing a laptop cart with 25 new laptops. This has greatly impacted all students by providing more accessible, updated technology in the classroom. They have been widely used and are an effective way to help foster collaboration in the classroom through many online educational resources. The students become engaged, interested, and excited to learn when they can utilize a variety of tools, with technology being one of those. Laptops also provide curriculum support to teachers by reaching all different types of learners, in all content areas. Laptops help provide more engaging activities for students as well as allowing for the creation of more individualized lessons. **The foundation funded laptop cart has truly been a much-appreciated contribution that benefits everyone. Thank you, Mt. Bethel Foundation!**

By: Michelle Boutwell, 3rd Grade Teacher

ALL IN for Kagan Training

For the past few years I had heard the word Kagan being thrown around and wondered what the buzz was all about. Last July during pre-planning week Mount Bethel staff had the privilege of becoming trained in Kagan. This program teaches teachers and staff how to use Kagan Structures in the classroom to increase academic achievement, improve relationships, and develop students' social skills. When our trainer, Bill, said that we would be walking away with strategies we can start applying immediately, my ears perked up! Prior to sitting down in the cafeteria, I thought of all the other things I could be doing to prepare for the new school year. By lunch I had a sheet full of activities and strategies I could not wait to implement with my new class.

Each day I hold class meetings and it was nice that many of activities lent themselves to this part of the day. Before long, my students were able to take part in timed pair share, rally-robin and quiz-quiz- trade effortlessly. During math one day I used fan-n-pick as a way to review for an upcoming assessment. Prior to beginning this task, we went through each step carefully and made a chart together that the students could reference. While walking around the classroom, I was very impressed to see all the students so engaged with the activity. For example, the students knew their responsibility within each role, and they worked on solving the problem independently. In addition, I heard many students say, "I can help you" or "I solved the problem using this strategy". When it was time to review for the next unit assessment several of the students asked if we could play fan-n-pick again. This quickly became a class favorite!

Kagan's Cooperative Learning class really emphasizes the way a child or any learner should feel inside a classroom. This experience allowed me to reflect on my own experiences as a student. I thought about why my second-grade teacher still stands out to me as my favorite teacher which is because she made everyone feel comfortable to participate. I honestly don't remember the teachers that taught me strictly using worksheets. Instead I remember the teachers that made learning fun, allowed me to interact with my peers and encouraged me to do my best. Over the course of this year my students have built relationships with their classmates, learned how to kindly communicate with one another and celebrated each other's successes. I was proud to see that the class was able to adapt many team building structures which aided their willingness to work together. I have learned that with these structures in place, students become more engaged and motivated to learn.

By: Stephanie McCoy, 5th Grade Teacher



ALL IN for The Voyage

Mt. Bethel 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, along with parent newsletters and take home action points. 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 in the front of the building for all to admire. Also, the Voyager of the Month earns a bag tag to identify the student as a role model to all!

The amazing thing 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 :

- *Cooperation: working well with others
- *Perseverance: never giving up, even when the task is hard
- *Courage: doing the right thing, even when it is hard
- *Kindness: caring about the well-being of those around you
- *Responsibility: making good choices and owning your behavior
- *Honesty: being truthful in all situations
- *Humility: thinking of others first
- *Generosity: giving unselfishly

It has been a fantastic adventure this year and we are excited to embark on a new journey next year with eight new anchor words to support the social emotional learning of our students!



By: Meredith Rockwell, 1st Grade Teacher

ALL IN for Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds in words. Phonics and phonemic awareness (while both important in literacy instruction) are not the same. Phonics involves how speech sounds correspond to the written letter or letter combinations. Phonemic awareness is only about hearing and manipulating the individual speech sounds in words. The best way to remember the difference between these two terms is that phonemic awareness skills are only auditory. Learners can build phonemic awareness with their eyes closed!

Before children learn to read and write, they need to become aware of how the sounds in words work. They must understand that words are made up of different sounds, or phonemes (the smallest part of sound in a spoken word that change a word's meaning). Phonemic awareness typically includes isolating initial, medial, and final sounds; blending, adding, deleting, and substitution of sounds in words; as well as segmentation of sounds in words.

In kindergarten, we instill phonemic awareness with various listening "games" that require the students to listen to and manipulate sounds.

An example might sound like this:

Teacher: "The word is rate."

Students: "Rate."

Teacher: "Change the /r/ to /g/." (The letter sound not the letter name.)

Students: "Gate!"

Similar listening games can be played to focus on segmenting, adding, deleting, and identifying sounds.

Phonemic awareness is a critical component of early literacy instruction because children must understand that the sounds they hear in speech are the same sounds represented by the written letter. That might sound obvious to a fluent reader, but this must be taught to an emerging reader! Phonemic awareness is the ability to identify, think about, and manipulate sounds in spoken speech. It is a critical component of reading instruction and in building successful readers and writers.

Roxanne Loescher, Kindergarten Teacher

Thank you Ms. Appleyard

Ms. Appleyard,

We want to thank you for your dedication and love you have given to Mount Bethel and the Foundation over the past seven years. Due to your leadership, the Foundation has grown and brought so many amazing programs to Mount Bethel including Lucy Calkins, Orton Gillingham Reading, Orton Gillingham Math, Gifted Endorsement Training, two amazing STEM labs, many technology updates, and so much more. We are forever grateful for your vision to make Mount Bethel the best it can be. We will miss you and are thankful for your support to enrich, empower, and excel every student at Mount Bethel!

With love,
MBES Foundation Board of Trustees

Welcome Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith,

Welcome to Mount Bethel! We are excited to have you as a Buccaneer. We look forward to showing you what makes Mount Bethel so very special, and working alongside your leadership to continue the Foundation's success!

See you in the Fall!

MBES Foundation Board of Trustees