



Annual Report

2023-2024

A Message From the Co-Presidents

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Co-President: Allison Smoker

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FACT Co-Chair: Neha Govil

Communications: Alison Crump

Data Processing: Jacob Brand

STEM Fair: Sarah Varon

Corporate Match: Julia Buerger



Dear Mount Bethel Families and Supporters,

Your dollars matter.

Especially when it comes to our children and their education. We think we can all agree on that. Foundations like ours, funded by families like you, support initiatives at schools that go beyond school district funding. And thus, *your* money most definitely matters.

This past year, your donations supported a few new initiatives, including Acadience, REAP, Digital Citizenship, Dreambox, Typing Club, and phase 1 of the Learning Commons renovation. Recurring initiatives that have proven to be vital to our school, including instructor salaries, STEM Days and STEM support, and maintenance on the Turf Field were also made possible by your donations.

The Foundation is committed to **ENRICH** each child's education, **EMPOWER** our students, and provide students with tools to **EXCEL** to the best of their ability, and the initiatives that power our mission were possible only with your financial support. This year, you personally donated \$116,727, and your employer matching programs raised another \$29,989. These funds will be used to continue our mission and support recurring and new initiatives during the next fiscal year.

Your donations to the Foundation emphasize the value that our community places on public education. Thank you for your constant commitment and generous support!

We look forward to serving our school next year with thought and purpose to continue impacting the success of every student at Mount Bethel!

Jamie Salimi & Allison Smoker

Co-Presidents, Mount Bethel Elementary School Foundation

OUR MISSION

The Mt. Bethel Elementary School Foundation 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 more than \$3.0 million back to the school since 1994. The Foundation is committed to **ENRICH, EMPOWER, AND EXCEL** every child's education.

A Message From Our Principal

Mount Bethel Community,

It's been another exciting year of learning at Mount Bethel! The support our community continues to show for our school is amazing. Your financial support of the Mount Bethel Elementary School Foundation has allowed us to continue the many initiatives put in place, and to further enhance our instructional practices to deliver the best education to all our students. Throughout the Foundation's history, the community has supplemented and added to the many great things happening at our school. The Foundation has supported and provided funding for:

Instruction & Academics

- ◇ Structured Literacy
- ◇ Acadience Reading Assessment Tool and Benchmark Assessment Books
- ◇ Dyslexia Endorsement
- ◇ Technology committee attended the GAETC conference
- ◇ Quarterly STEM days
- ◇ Tinker, Quiver, and Mystery Science Subscriptions for the STEM Lab

Schoolwide

- ◇ Field Day sponsorship
- ◇ Two large screen monitors in the cafeteria
- ◇ Updated sound system in the cafeteria
- ◇ Learning Commons Renovation

Staff

- ◇ STEAM Assistant, Melissa Pumpian
- ◇ Technology Coordinator, Shawn Lieth

For many years, our Foundation was focused on and supported innovation and technology enhancements for our students and staff. When CCSD made the move to 1:1 computers for all students, we shifted our vision to providing our staff with the highest level of professional development and training to have a direct impact on all our students. The Foundation has been vital to our development as experts in reading instruction and assessments. As the leader of the school, I am so grateful for the continued support of ongoing professional development to provide our staff with the instructional tools necessary to make a positive impact on our students every day.

I speak for the entire staff at Mount Bethel when I say thank you for all your support and everything this amazing community does for our school!

Tucker Smith, Principal

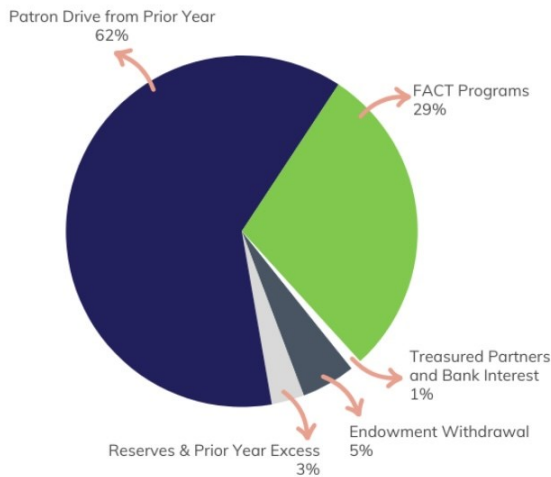
Mount Bethel Elementary School



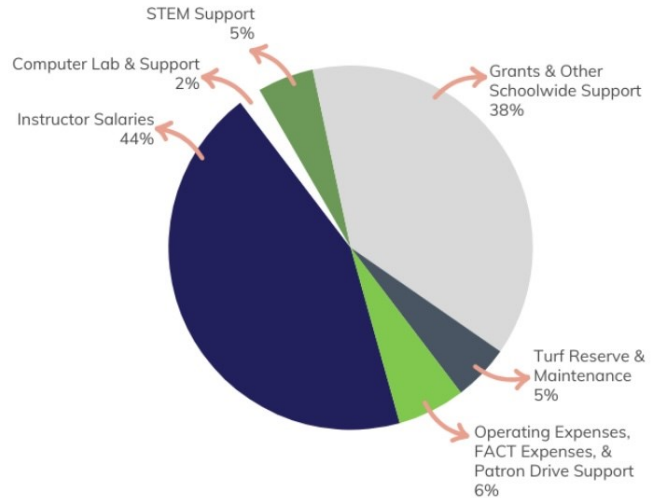
Financial Statement

2023-2024 Statement of Funding

FOUNDATION FUNDING



FOUNDATION EXPENDITURES



FUNDING

Prior Year Patron Drive	\$119,697
FACT Programs	\$ 56,771
Treasured Partners	\$ 1,004
Bank Interest	\$ 254
Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 10,000
Reserves & Prior Year Excess	\$ 6,000

TOTAL FUNDING **\$193,726**

EXPENDITURES

Instructor Salaries*	\$ 84,853
Computer Lab & Support*	\$ 3,832
STEM Support*	\$ 9,899
Grants & Schoolwide Support	\$ 74,077
Turf Reserve & Maintenance*	\$ 9,850
FACT Expenses	\$ 1,051
Patron Drive Support	\$ 5,706
Operating Expenses	\$ 4,508

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$193,776**

*See page 12 for Funds Invested during the 2023-24 year

Patron Drive

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

THIS YEAR WE RAISED \$146,716



RECORD BREAKING 77% PARTICIPATION



Reading: REAP & Acadience

The ten-day REAP (Reading is Essential for all People) training was the **best professional development I've ever had!** By delving into the systematic and explicit teaching of phonics principles, we gained a deeper understanding of how language works, which **allows us to support struggling readers and advanced learners alike better.** Every training session provided us with multisensory techniques and instructional strategies that could be immediately implemented with our students, equipping us with both the knowledge and actionable steps to support students. Our students have made improvements in decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and overall reading comprehension thanks to the REAP training!

-Sharon Marsh, 4th Grade Teacher



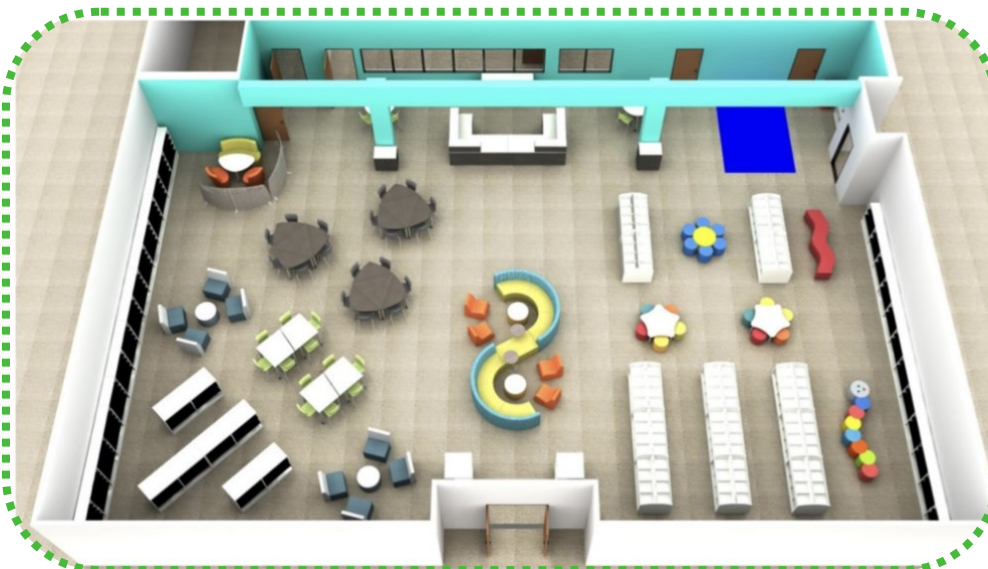
Acadience Reading is a screening and progress monitoring assessment that measures the acquisition of early literacy skills. Having access to this type of assessment tool allows Mount Bethel teachers to better understand and monitor their student's reading progress. It helps to pinpoint both strengths and weaknesses in early reading skills and streamlines grade level data discussions as well as promote vertical alignment within the school. Acadience Reading directly aligns with the Foundation funded structured literacy training our staff has participated in through Reading is Essential for All People (REAP) and is the **essential link to ensure all Mount Bethel students become strong readers!** Thank you, Foundation!

-Ashley Nichols, Instructional Specialist

Learning Commons Renovation

The MBES Foundation provides opportunities for staff to invest in experiences that **benefit all children**. Although the school is blessed with a large space for the Learning Commons, the existing layout does not lend itself to the highest and best use of the space. Our vision is to create a **welcome, inviting, and safe place** for all staff and students to enjoy throughout the school day. We are in the process of replacing the wall shelving to open up the left side (looking from the door) so that worktables, chairs, and soft seating can be added to meet the needs of small **collaborative groups, individual study, and individual reading** areas. Soft seating will be added throughout the room so that young students have an area to call their own and the older students have more mature but kid friendly seating. If not for the Foundation, this vision would have no chance of materializing. We are so grateful.

-Susan McCurry, Media Center Specialist



Work on the Learning Commons is underway! Completion is expected during the 2024-2025 school year.

Pictured: A rendering of the completed project, including more efficient shelving and expanded soft seating.

FACT Clubs



FACT Clubs **enrich learning** experiences at Mt. Bethel in many ways. Teachers who offer FACT Clubs present special interest learning opportunities to our students in fun and engaging ways that we do not always have time for in the normal classroom setting. FACT Clubs also donate financially to the Foundation. These donations in turn go to support Foundation-funded grants throughout the school that enhance learning and add meaning. Mt. Bethel's Foundation has a symbiotic relationship with FACT Clubs that allows them to create an experience that is **above and beyond** for all of Mt. Bethel's students.

-Catherine Trosclair, Art Teacher



This year, FACT clubs gave back over \$56,000 to the Foundation!

This money rolls right back to the school and ensures our students have the best technology and educational resources available.

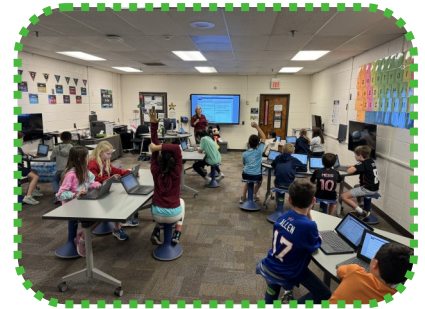


Foundation-Funded Instructors

SHAWN LIETH

One thing students may dread is standardized testing. When it comes to taking tests, Shawn Lieth has done an amazing job at helping ease any stress or nerves about taking the Milestones for Mt. Bethel students. She has set time aside to show, teach, and let kids explore the online program. She has shown the students the tools, how to use them, and given them time to become comfortable navigating through it all. Her patience and calm demeanor would make anyone comfortable, and the students respond so well under her instruction.

-Michelle Boutwell, 3rd Grade Teacher



Shawn Lieth

Melissa Pumpian



MELISSA PUMPIAN

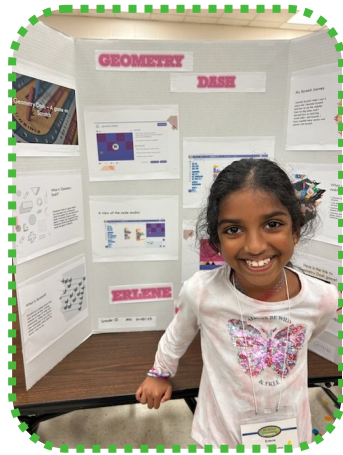
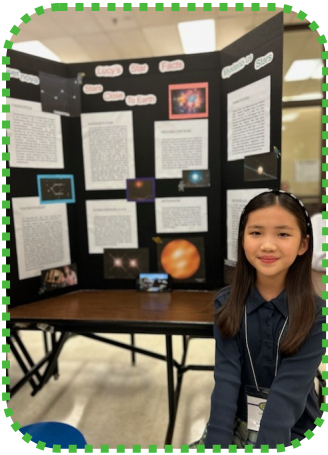
Melissa Pumpian is an invaluable asset to the Specials classes as she supports each and every student at Mt. Bethel. As the Foundation-funded STEAM paraprofessional, she is the glue that holds Specials classes together. She has countless hours of behind-the-scenes work to support students in the classroom through everyday lessons, as well as organizing materials and helping to lead schoolwide STEM days.

-Catherine Troclair, Art Teacher



STEM Fair & STEM Days

The Mt. Bethel Elementary School Foundation proudly organizes an annual STEM Fair in October. This non-judged event is a great way for all emerging scientists to **demonstrate their knowledge and creativity** using the scientific method and a variety of exciting (and maybe messy?!) experiments. Students may work individually or in pairs, and are encouraged to get creative in the name of science. This year we had over 60 participants showcase a wide range of subjects, including The 5-Second Rule, the role genetics play with fingerprints, weather, and space.



We are grateful for the Foundation's continued sponsorship of schoolwide STEM days. It is a joy to see our students thrive as they work together to create, design, and build projects that simply amaze! STEM days provide a unique opportunity for hands-on learners to shine, enhancing the feeling of being a valued member of the classroom community. **STEM days promote student independence and ownership of their learning.** These experiences empower our students, as they learn that they can do hard things. Thank you for making this a valuable experience for our students!

-Melissa Watts, 1st Grade Teacher



Special thanks to our
STEM Fair Sponsor:
MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center



Field Day



For field day, we are very fortunate that our Foundation has helped provide the turf field for activities. This gives a space that is **safe and accessible** for our kids and allows us to provide enough stations for each classroom to be at during field day. Foundation has also provided the blow-up obstacle courses that the **kids love** to do. They get so excited when they finally get to these stations and can race each other through the obstacles. Last, they provide the dunk tank where the kids can throw balls at a target and dunk a teacher in water. This has become one of the most popular stations!

-Megan Randolph, 2nd Grade Teacher



Funds Invested 2023-2024

