



Ready for the World

Local businesses inspire students to dream and create their best tomorrow

Foster City has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years, and along with new housing, there has also been growth in our local business community. How has all of this growth affected our elementary and middle school public education system?

New housing has brought new families and students to our district, but did you know that business growth in recent years has brought exciting new financial partnerships to benefit our students? Recognizing that local businesses, foundations, and municipalities can also help infuse life, energy, and growth in our schools and communities, the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation has partnered with San Mateo County's Measure K, Gilead Sciences, Inc., Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Chance to Excel, and PlayStation to inspire students to dream and create their best tomorrow.

Many residents believe that annual tax payments adequately fund the school system. Sadly, the San Mateo-Foster City School District's budget was reduced by \$20 million from 2008-2011 due to the 2008 recession. The decrease in budget led to the elimination of almost all funding throughout the district for programs including music and art in the 20 elementary and middle schools. The Education Foundation stepped in to provide assistance to the school district.



“The Education Foundation is committed to reaching every child in our district with the support of local businesses, foundations, municipalities and families. We believe that a strong Education Foundation does more than just support the children in its care, it impacts the entire community”

Diane Shew, Vice President of the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation

Three years ago, the Education Foundation experienced a rebirth under the leadership of former School Board member, Colleen Sullivan. With the need to prepare students for 21st Century skills and provide a well-rounded experience for students across the District, the Education Foundation reexamined its mission and fundraising model. **The Foundation made a commitment to increase fundraising to address these needs.**

Since then, the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation has increased the total amount raised by approximately 60% every year. This year, the Education Foundation has achieved its highest level of fundraising yet: \$794,000, to support the nearly 12,000 students in Foster City and San Mateo schools.

Strong schools that educate the whole child and offer a wide range of programs create students who go on to become our future leaders. Strong schools also help create a feeling of belonging and pride in our communities. However, the funds given to the school district each year from the state are still not enough to give our kids the kind of well-rounded education they deserve.

Colleen Sullivan noted, “When my son was in 5th grade, instrumental music was made possible through the Education Foundation. Twelve years later music continues to inspire him. The discipline, concentration, creativity, and sense of belonging he gained from playing the trumpet are gifts that continue to enrich his life.”



The Education Foundation hopes to exceed its 2020 goal of \$1 million.

Recent gifts from donors and partners have gone to support:

- Chromebooks
- Science education and materials
- Literacy materials to support English language arts and development
- Math professional development for teachers
- Character development training for student athletes and their families
- Uniforms for middle-school athletics
- Music education, instruments, and materials
- Art education

Since 1989, the non-profit San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation has raised and donated more than \$3.8 million to the district, supporting art and music, as well as makerspaces, technology, science and math, literacy and libraries. These essential aspects of learning foster creativity, independent thinking, entrepreneurship, and growth in students. **Nearly 12,000 children in the district every year benefit from the Foundation’s partnership with parents, corporations and broader Foster City and San Mateo communities.**

“Having additional Chromebooks allows our students to have access to technology on a more regular basis. Students have more time to use math and science simulations, learn research skills, write and peer edit their drafts and create presentations,” added Eleni Maynard, 4th grade teacher.



For more information about the Foundation and its goals to inspire students to dream and create their best tomorrow, visit smfcedfund.org