RAVENSWOOD EDUCATION FOUNDATION GIVING CLOSE GOES FAR

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017





Our mission is to ensure equitable and high-quality educational opportunities for Ravenswood students by building on local strengths and engaging the entire community.

OUR STRATEGIES



IMPACT

Our support improves the school day for 100% of students, not targeted subsets of children



INTEGRAI

Our funding provides equity, consistency, and quality that student can count on year after year.



PARTNERSHIPS

Our approach is to work side-by-side with Ravenswood leaders and the local community to meet students' needs.



Dear Friends:

After 10 years, we have a "new normal" in Ravenswood. Because of your support, the eight schools in the Ravenswood City School District have art and music teachers, science labs and Makerspaces at every school, collaboration time for teachers, more professional development opportunities, a solid foundation to meet teacher needs, and so much more. We are truly narrowing the opportunity gap in our schools.

Our approach is unique, building upon the strengths of Ravenswood and bringing the community together to make a difference in the school day for all students. There is no "ours" and "theirs" but a belief that all students deserve the best possible education.

While we work to maintain and grow the equity of programming in our local schools, we remain flexible in meeting the needs of the Ravenswood community in many ways, including adding funding for mental health counseling and basic needs for our homeless families, growing our work to support teachers with new programs and volunteer opportunities, and adding literacy intervention coaches to accelerate student growth.

We invite you to grow with us as we continue to invest in the students of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

Sincerely,

Renu Nanda

650.539.9577 / rnanda@ravenswoodEF.org

APPROACH

REF FUNDED

Science

REF supports the district in preparing students for success in high school science classes. Our programs engage 100% of middle school students in hands-on science labs, support science teacher professional development, and ensure alignment of middle school and high school curriculum.

Science Lab materials and supplies

Science Coordinator District wide, K-8

STEM Fair materials and supplies

STEM

The Challenge: Ravenswood students are at risk of getting left behind. Without access to robust science, technology, engineering, and math programs, Ravenswood students will be excluded from the opportunities Silicon Valley has to offer.

Makerspace

REF initiated the piloting and expansion of Makerspaces. This innovative program infuses excitement for technology as students explore coding and robotics, create self-directed projects, discover new passions, and acquire skills needed to pursue STEM courses in high school.

Makerspace Labs at all eight school sites

Tinkerers to staff each Makerspace and guide student learning

OUR IMPACT

9th Grade Success

30% increase

% of RCSD students with a C grade or better 1st semester, first year high school science

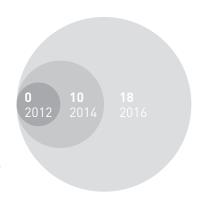


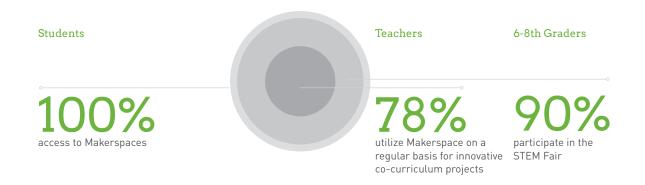
Science Labs

80%

increase

average number of 6-8th grade science labs a year from 2017





Teacher Support

The Challenge: Ravenswood teachers are strongly attracted to the opportunities they have to affect students' lives and connect with the families in the district. Yet, with teacher salaries on average \$30,000 lower than those in neighboring districts, the Ravenswood district must takes steps to attract, develop and retain outstanding teachers.

Our Approach: **REF encourages teachers to thrive** in their jobs. To help retain our strongest teachers, we invest in promoting professional development and leadership opportunities, strengthening site leadership, supporting collaboration time, and facilitating teacher appreciation.



REF FUNDED

Collaboration Time

Tri weekly teacher collaboration time while students are engaged in REFfunded art and music enrichment classes

- Teacher

 + Leaders
 Funding for Grade
 Level/Content Area
 Teacher Leaders
- Professional

 Development
 funding for
 professional growth
 opportunities

Site Leadership Grants Funding for site

priorities at all schools

- Teacher
 + Events
 Teacher
 appreciation
 events
- Teacher

 + Coaching
 New Teacher Center
 professional learning
 and coaching through

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OUR IMPACT

Making a Difference

"From teacher appreciation gifts to professional development opportunities to matching teachers with volunteer support when needed, REF's support eliminates barriers so teachers can focus on providing the best instruction possible."

JEN GRAVEM
PRINCIPAL BRENTWOOD ACADEMY





Summer Academies

The Challenge: By fifth grade, summer learning loss can leave low-income students $2\,1/2$ to 3 years behind their peers.

Our Approach: REF stems summer learning loss by helping to fund free 5-week summer school programs for all K-5 Ravenswood students. Certificated teachers focus on reading and math workshops, leveled literacy intervention, and oral language development.

REF FUNDED

Small Class Size

Teachers and materials to support small summer classes for 594 students

OUR IMPACT

Reading Improvement

1.5x faster improvement than during the school year

Participation

30% of K-5 Ravenswood students, 594 in total participated in summer academies

High School Transition

The Challenge: Ninth grade students, particularly low-income students, are at risk of lower grades, decreased attendance, and dropping out of school.

Our Approach: **REF invests in building the district's capacity** to support student progress toward 8th grade graduation and work closely with local high schools to foster smooth and successful transitions for Ravenswood students and their families.



AVID Coordinator

Supports middle school AVID classes to develop strategies for academic success

High School Guidance Counselor

Provides academic counseling to help students meet 8th grade promotion requirements

Meets with all 8th graders regarding academic resources and college requirements

High School Transition Coordinator

Supports students and parents with high school registration, preview days, and transition events

Connects with M-A High School to support student transition



OUR IMPACT

10

High School Transition
Events to support
articulation and alignment
between M-A High School
and Ravenswood

"Working with a guidance counselor in 8th grade made me feel like I wasn't alone. I had someone guiding me and helping me select my classes to meet my A-G requirements. My goal is to get into advanced science classes so I can become a doctor, and starting on the right track will help me make that happen."

ASHLEY ESCOBAR 10TH GRADER AT M-A

Making a Difference Through the Arts

The Ravenswood district is excited about its vibrant growing Arts program. Just eight years ago, the district had only one part-time art teacher at one school. Today, REF supports 14 certificated art and music teachers, and students at every school take it for granted that guitar, choral groups, ceramics, and drama are an integral part of their daily curriculum. The district hopes to expand its programs to support advanced arts electives that will prepare students to participate in high school band and orchestra, and provide more opportunities for students to interact with and perform for the surrounding community.



"Having art and music

at school promotes an understanding and sharing of different cultures and engages all students regardless of their academic level."

MELISSA BROWN, ART TEACHER, BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

"I have seen many students adjust their fixed mindsets and begin to change the way they approach problems and learning... all from music."

SARAH MOULDER, MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND AND ORCHESTRA LEADER "Art has been an amazing way for my students to express themselves and use their creativity."

ALLISON PHILIP, ART TEACHER, WILLOW OAKS





\$30,000 Salary Gap

vs Neighboring Districts*

87% Low Income

vs 7.4% in Neighboring Districts**

65% English Learners

vs 7.8% in Neighboring Districts**

44% Homeless Students

vs _44% in Neighboring Districts**

- Average salary gap between Ravenswood teachers and surrounding districts
- ** Data is an average of percentages reported for Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Palo Alto Unified, Woodside, and Las Lomitas school districts

Program Expenses

32%

5%

Teacher Coaching

School Site Grant and

Parent Engagement

31%

5%

Expanded Day

Summer Academies

7% 4%

Teacher Support Science and Technology

and Retention

6%

4%

Makerspace

Mental Health HR Support

Special Projects

6%

High School Transition

25%

increase in Annual Revenue

\$3,816,105

\$3,059,465

2015-2016

How Can You Help?

\$120

Supports a reading specialist for two students

\$600

Supports a 5-week Summer Academy for one student

\$1,245

Supports REF programs for one student



\$12,000 Supports mental health counseling for 150 students



\$3,000 Supports art and music teachers for 10 students

\$6,000

Supports science labs for 50 middle school students

STAY INFORMED

Learn how you can support libraries, Makerspaces, science labs, classrooms, and teachers.

Join our mailing list: info@ravenswoodEF.org

Visit Us: www.ravenswoodEF.org

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Renu Nanda, Executive Director rnanda@ravenswoodEF.org 650 539 9577

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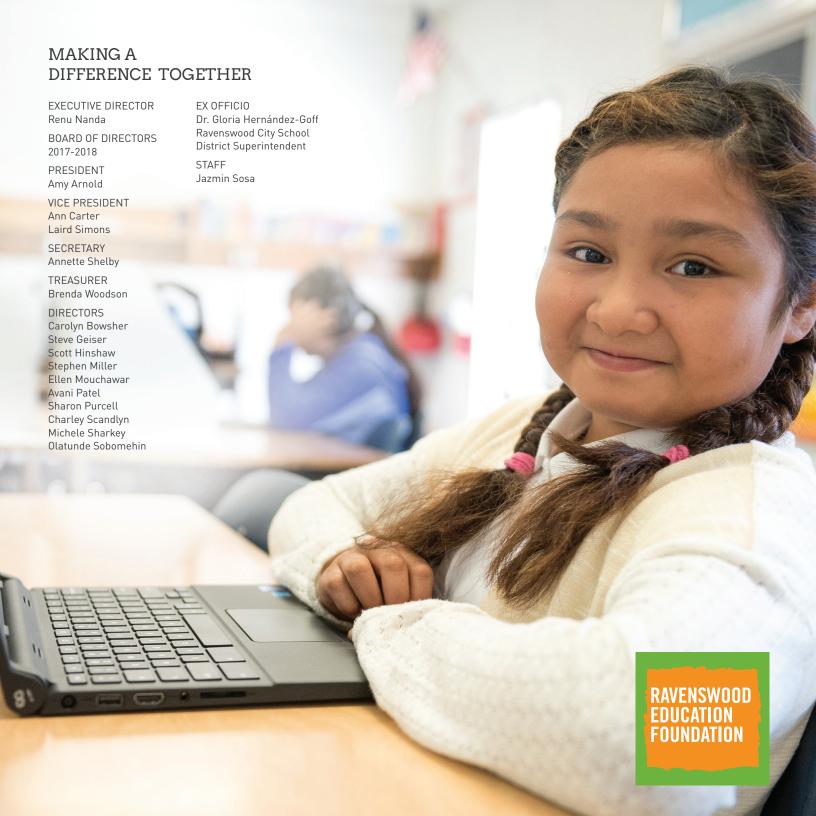
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