

# MEETING THE MOMENT TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



RAVENSWOOD  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION



## Dear Friends,

The 2020-21 school year tested us like never before. The disproportionately high COVID rates in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park created very real, unprecedented challenges in Ravenswood. Navigating remote learning in less-than-ideal circumstances coupled with concerns around housing, food, and health, did not set us up for success.

Yet, the Ravenswood Education Foundation and Ravenswood City School District came together to meet the moment. Our community collaborated in innovative ways to serve our students and families. We partnered with community-based organizations to launch learning hubs, ensure technology access and support, and bring kids back to campus with their teachers as safely and quickly as possible. We invested in essential programs to provide both intervention and enrichment while creating new supports to address basic needs. Meaningfully, we worked together to create a plan and budget to address the impact of the pandemic on our students.

As we reflect on the past year, we are in awe of what the Ravenswood and REF community accomplished together. In a time when many people turned inward, we are grateful for the way so many in our community came out for each other. And, despite the extraordinary challenges of the past year, we are now in an exceptional position to make meaningful change for the children in our schools. Thank you for choosing to be part of this team, for your generous support of Ravenswood teachers and programming and for your investment in this important community - we truly are OneRavenswood.

Warmly,

Jenna and Gina

Jenna Wachtel Pronovost  
Executive Director,  
Ravenswood Education Foundation

Gina Sudaria  
Superintendent,  
Ravenswood City School District

### June 2020

Convened parents, staff and community members for ongoing Schools Reopening Taskforce to determine parameters for when and how to safely reopen



### July 2020

Offered regular COVID-19 testing on school campuses for the community



### August 2020

Ensured all students had backpacks, supplies, home Wi-Fi, and devices for distance learning



### September 2020

Partnered with community organizations to launch supervised student learning hubs





January 2021  
Opened first  
in-person TK class  
at Costaño school



February 2021  
Began in-person  
learning one class  
at a time



May 2021  
Invited all students  
back to campus for  
in-person learning



June 2021  
Launched largest  
in-person summer  
school to date

December 2020  
Provided 2000+  
new holiday toys for  
children

**Our mission** is to support equitable and high-quality educational opportunities for Ravenswood students.

# Our Community

**93%**  
Students From  
Low-Income  
Families

**53%**  
English Learners

**41%**  
Students Who Are  
Homeless or  
Housing Insecure

**84%**  
Latinx

**8%**  
Hawaiian or  
Pacific Islander

**6%**  
Black or  
African American

**4**  
Schools

**1,764**  
Students

**332**  
Staff Members



Source: Data provided by the Ravenswood City School District

“

It [This past year] was hard because I had to ask my parents and family members to help, but they also had to learn what was going on and how to help me. My teachers have done such a great [job] by teaching me things and keeping school fun and entertaining.”

From a young age, Jalen always had a passion for technology and robotics. When asked about his favorite subjects in school, Jalen gushed over the Makerspace and Robotics class. As a result of his hard work and the opportunity to engage in these programs, Jalen placed first in one of the robotics Vex Rise Above Tournament’s challenges this year!



Meet Jalen  
Robotics Champion

“

Distance learning has made me more confident because on Zoom I’m on a screen and then in person I’m wearing a mask and it covers my face. It helped me...I’m not as shy as before. I feel like I’ve become more outgoing.”

A star 5th grade student, Sabella has excelled in all her classes. While distance learning may not have been easy, Sabella found the silver lining and used the opportunity to become more outgoing. Sabella found the courage to try out for Costano School’s virtual musical and captured a lead role as Sharpay!



Meet Sabella  
Virtual Performer



# Investing in Education

Our vision is that all Ravenswood students will receive the education they need to achieve their highest potential and become valuable leaders and contributors in our global society.

REF and the district's integrated partnership focuses on improving student achievement, supporting teaching excellence, and engaging parents in the education of their children. The following key initiatives are designed to benefit the diverse and unique needs of every student in the district.

## STEM

REF invested deeply in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Throughout the year, we partnered with the district to offer specialized science resources, Makerspace and tinkering experiences for students, as well as math coaching for teachers. To ensure STEM learning continued during remote instruction, hands-on STEM kits were sent home with each child so they could engage in experiential learning even when not in the classroom.

## Literacy

To improve reading proficiency and foster students' love of reading, REF funded 8 literacy specialists to provide one-on-one and small group literacy interventions. The specialists also coached fellow classroom teachers to develop and support their literacy instruction.



## Daily Enrichment

REF supported ongoing programming investments in art, music, drama, and P.E. instruction provided by dedicated subject-area teachers to enrich Ravenswood students' academic experiences. This specialized learning opportunity also allowed for classroom teachers to have essential collaborative planning time.

## Professional Development

REF supported high-quality professional learning opportunities in areas such as leadership, instruction and curriculum. The sudden move to distance learning was a tremendous alteration to the very structure of learning. Supporting teachers in adjusting to a new way of teaching was paramount to facilitating an equitable student experience.

## Pandemic Response

In the midst of the unprecedented health and economic crisis that is COVID-19, it has been impossible to predict the full range of needs our community would experience or fully plan for the potential long-term consequences. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, REF was able to quickly address unanticipated COVID-19 related urgent needs. REF provided pandemic response support including technology for students and teachers, reopening schools assistance, COVID testing and vaccination distribution, as well as launching in-person summer school. REF remains a flexible, responsive, and present partner for the district to supplement the strategically leveraged public funding the district has secured.

## Whole Child and Family Support

REF provided basic needs support for our most vulnerable children and families including those experiencing housing insecurity. Support included mental health care and gift cards for food and other essential needs.

## Middle School Initiative

REF made critical investments in support of stronger instruction and learning by funding 33 additional educators. These staff members provided enhanced mental health support, academic intervention, athletics, family engagement, and more to ensure that our middle school students had the support they needed to thrive.

# Volunteer Efforts



Through the extensive generosity of REF volunteers, our children’s hearts and lives have been radically touched. Whether the volunteering has been to organize a library, help a teacher set up a classroom, or set up a staff luncheon, every volunteer hour has resulted in our children having a stronger, more enriched educational experience. The staff and I would not be able to do what we do without our REF volunteers. On behalf of Costaño’s extended community, we offer our deepest appreciation.”

PRINCIPAL ROBIN PANG-MAGANARIS, COSTAÑO SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



## 1,520 Volunteer Hours

The REF community supported the Ravenswood district by coordinating over twenty projects focused on supporting teachers, cleaning facilities, donating supplies, donating toys, and so much more. Volunteers were an integral part of this impactful effort.

## 1,143 Backpacks Filled with Grade Specific Supplies Collected at the Backpack Drive

In response to families being required to set up learning environments in their homes, REF facilitated a backpack drive to ensure every student had supplies necessary to excel.





## **2,000** Toys Collected During the Holiday Toy Drive

With the support of over 200 volunteers and donors, every Ravenswood student was gifted a brand new toy or gift card. Ravenswood parents had the opportunity to select the perfect donated gift for their children in time for the holiday season.

## **45** School Reopening Volunteer Hours

To prepare for the exciting return to in-person learning, REF volunteers rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Volunteers provided services to school sites by setting up social distance markers and related signage to ensure a safe return to campus.

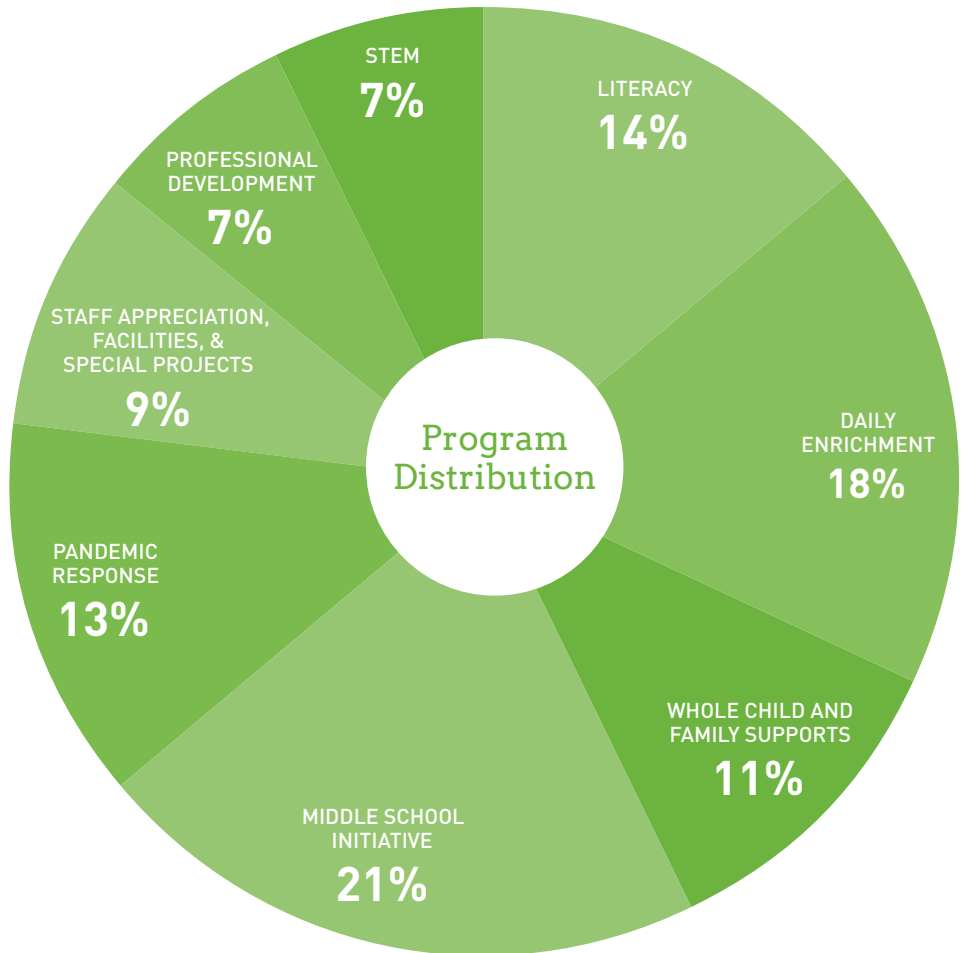
# REF by the Numbers

Total Revenue \$9,406,000



Ravenswood Education Foundation's partnership with the district gives us the resources we need to fulfill our mission. REF's programs have increased instructional quality through coaching and collaboration time, provided SEL supports, offered enrichment through the arts, strengthened our middle school, and so much more. We are grateful for REF supporters' consistent commitment to the district, thus allowing us to serve students holistically with an education more similar to those of neighboring districts."

WILL EGER, CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICIAL,  
RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT





Donate Here!



# Make the Difference

## Your Impact

**\$600**

Professional development training  
for 3 teachers

**\$1,600**

Social work services for 10 students

**\$3,500**

Makerspace classes for 17 students

**\$5,000**

Literacy support for 11 students

**\$11,000**

Daily Enrichment classes for 18 students

## Donate

**Ravenswood Education Foundation**

PO Box 396  
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**Employer Matching Gifts**

[www.doublethedonation.com/ravenswoodef](http://www.doublethedonation.com/ravenswoodef)

**Your Gift is Tax Deductible**

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Jenna Wachtel Pronovost  
[jenna@ravenswoodef.org](mailto:jenna@ravenswoodef.org)

## Get Involved

**Volunteer / Visit Us**

[www.ravenswoodef.org](http://www.ravenswoodef.org)

**Join our Mailing List**

[info@ravenswoodef.org](mailto:info@ravenswoodef.org)

**Learn About Our Community Partners**

[www.ravenswoodef.org/partners](http://www.ravenswoodef.org/partners)

**For More Information**

Jenna Wachtel Pronovost  
[jenna@ravenswoodef.org](mailto:jenna@ravenswoodef.org)

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# Rhonda “Leni” Ward

8th grade, Cesar Chavez  
Ravenswood Middle School



**Watch me blossom  
watch me regrow  
my petals loom in and my giving  
tree starts to grow.”**

Leni dedicates her poem to children who are from places that are overlooked. Watch Leni’s captivating performance of her poem using the following QR code.



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