Dear Friends,

The 2019-20 school year in Ravenswood was one for the record books! Working hand in hand, the Ravenswood City School District and the Ravenswood Education Foundation provided unprecedented high-quality support to the district’s students, families and staff. Tremendous progress has been made. In 12 short months, the district has established a strong leadership team led by Superintendent Gina Sudaria, developed a comprehensive 3-year strategic plan, made the courageous and fiscally responsible decision to consolidate school facilities, refocused on rigorous instruction, invested deeply in its vision for a high-quality middle school, and responded to the consequences of a global pandemic. These transformational changes, and so much more, were all made possible by the generosity of the REF community.

As you read this annual report, I hope you feel proud of the impact you’ve made in the Ravenswood community this year and inspired to continue to join us on this journey to equity together.

Warmly,

Jenna Wachtel Pronovost

Mission

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

Vision

All Ravenswood students will receive the education they need to achieve their highest potential and become valuable contributors and leaders in our global society.

Our Values

EQUITY
All children deserve a great education regardless of where they live.

STUDENTS FIRST
We focus our investments on improving teaching and learning for every student.

COMMITMENT
We are committed to investing in educational excellence for Ravenswood students over the long-term.

ACCOUNTABILITY
We carefully manage our resources, track implementation of funded programs, and measure results.
Welcome our Superintendent

On April 6, 2020 the Ravenswood District Board appointed Gina Sudaria as permanent RCSD Superintendent. Gina’s roots in the community go deep as she has been an incredible teacher and leader in Ravenswood for over two decades. She brings to this new role a fresh energy, inspiring vision, clear wisdom, and an openness to strategically partner with outside experts.

“"Our partnership with the Ravenswood Education Foundation has been pivotal to the progress we’ve made this year. REF volunteers and donors have enabled us to weather significant transitions and the impacts of sheltering in place all while focusing on what is most important - our students. Your compassion, care and financial support is particularly meaningful during these challenging times. Thank you for choosing to be part of the Ravenswood community!”
GINA SUDARIA, SUPERINTENDENT

6 schools

2,068 students

330 staff members

A NEW DAY OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN RAVENSWOOD

Developed and adopted a student focused strategic plan with support from Attuned

Provided professional development for principals and district level staff with New Leaders

Enhanced the quality of instructional coaching with New Teacher Center

Focused on standards-aligned rigorous instruction with support from Instruction Partners

Explored models for increasing teacher compensation with ERS

STRATEGIC PLAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COACHING SUPPORT IMPROVED INSTRUCTION VALUING TEACHERS
Academic Supports

From learning to love reading and writing to awe-inspiring creative opportunities, the Ravenswood literacy and STEM initiatives, including Makerspaces and science labs, are the foundation of all future knowledge. REF invests in these core programs by funding essential staff, instructional materials, and professional development.

STEM & Makerspace

“We want the Makerspace to be a safe and fun place for students where they can draw, explore science principles using the light table or wind tunnel, work on coding challenges, play chess, observe bugs, create sculptures out of modeling clay, build towers or bridges out of magnetic blocks, program a robot or just read and enjoy their school experience.”

BILL CORRELL, MAKERSPACE TINKERER

“100% of students had access to Makerspace

“I like Makerspace because it is fun since we get to do so many different things like art, soldering, making shirts, designing projects for the laser cutter and 3D Printing.”

AIDA, 6TH GRADE RMS STUDENT
Literacy Supports

“I have been able to collaborate, observe, and analyze student work with teachers. Our conversations were amazing and really driven by teachers while looking at student work. The teachers were really the ones making strong instructional decisions, next steps, and planning deeper instructional practices to meet the needs of their students.”

GRETCHEN SCHWARZ, LITERACY COACH
Whole Child Initiatives

REF invests in art, music, drama, and P.E. instruction to create an enhanced student experience that is proven to increase academic achievement. Using professional enrichment teachers not only provides students with an exceptional learning experience, but also allows for classroom teachers to engage in professional development and collaboration during the workday. Additionally, REF invests in mental health support so all students have an engaging holistic experience.

Enrichment Teachers

“REF has been such a support to our art, music and drama teachers. Helping to buy supplies, materials, and funding the Donors Choose projects provided the technology to help make the classes possible!”
MELISSA BROWN, ART TEACHER

“Nothing will bring a smile to your face faster than watching 5th grade boys unabashedly belting out “Let it Go” with each other!”
BRITTANY CASE, MUSIC TEACHER

100% students had access to Art & Music
Mental Health

“My CASSY therapist is very nice and helps me to solve the problems I bring to them.”

LOS ROBLES-RONALD MCNAIR ACADEMY STUDENT

“My therapist is very good and understanding. I felt like I could talk whenever I needed and felt very comfortable.”

RAVENSWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
Ravenswood Middle School

The 2019-20 school year marked the first year that all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students attended the new Ravenswood comprehensive middle school. REF is proud to support the district’s vision of a high-quality, rigorous, and stimulating experience for all Ravenswood students to promote superior long-lasting outcomes. These transformative school enhancements were made possible by your generous contributions and the visionary support of the Peery Foundation.

“Our children deserve to have their voices heard and to receive our very best. So, every day we strive to make Ravenswood Middle School a warm, welcoming, safe, and inspiring place to be!”

AMANDA KEMP, RAVENSWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
668 Middle School students

22 REF funded RMS staff

260 Middle School students had one-on-one sessions with the RMS Guidance Counselor

"For many 6th and 7th graders, it was their first time away from home and out of the city. Our week at Outdoor Education felt magical. It also built community among our 6th grade class. It was magical to witness one of our students experience the ocean for the very first time."

KYLE TANA, 6TH GRADE TEACHER

100% of 6th & 7th grade students had access to overnight field trips*. 

*8th grade trip was postponed due to COVID-19
COVID-19 Response

When school closures were announced March 13, 2020, the REF community immediately stepped up to support Ravenswood students and families. Your generous support enabled the district to quickly provide essential technology for distance learning, and address basic needs related income loss, childcare, and safety. The tremendous outpouring of support communicates we truly are one community.

“COVID-19 has been hard on my children and my health. There have been guardian angels around for my children at RMS but unbeknownst to me, they have always been there for me too. The individuals have been coming out to the shelter to check on my family and me. Most importantly, they listen. They go above and beyond their titles as teachers and counselors. They are caring human beings with their own families to protect but they still made and found time for mine. Thank you all for being so selfless. My family is very grateful for all you have done and all that you continue to do for us. Thank you.”

A RAVENSWOOD PARENT

$1,075,195
raised for REF Emergency Fund as of June 30, 2020

605 donors, including 472 new donors

927 gift cards provided to families
1,700 Chromebooks and headphones distributed to 2nd-8th grades

400 iPads and headphones provided to TK, K and 1st grade

500 hotspots provided to families in partnership with CZI

Emergency Fund Expenses as of June 30, 2020

- 5% COVID Personal Protection Equipment Supplies
- 2% Teacher COVID Support and Appreciation
- 31% Family Basic Needs Support
- 20% Childcare for Essential Workers
- 42% Distance Learning Supplies
REF Numbers

Demographics*

English Learners
- 56%
- 7%

Students from Low-Income Families
- 89%
- 9%

Students who are Homeless or Housing Insecure**
- 55%
- 4%

Controlling for Student Need, Spending Per Student***
- $10,313
- $23,162

Average Teacher Salary
- $72,029
- $108,830

Our Students

- 83% Latino
- 8% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 6% Black or African American

2019-2020 Revenue
- $9,155,504

Program Expenses

- 23% RMS Campus Support Initiatives & Other
- 17% Teacher Support
- 14% Literacy Initiative
- 16% Expanded Learning / Collaboration
- 3% Mental Health Initiative & Student Services / Homeless Support
- 5% Makerspace & STEM
- 5% REF Emergency Fund
- 2% School Site Accounts / Parent Engagement
- 6% Strategic Planning
- 8% Technology & Facilities Projects
- 1% Early Care & Education / Summer Academy
- 5% Teacher Support

Program Expenses

- 23% RMS Campus Support Initiatives & Other
- 17% Teacher Support
- 14% Literacy Initiative
- 16% Expanded Learning / Collaboration
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- 8% Technology & Facilities Projects
- 1% Early Care & Education / Summer Academy

* Source: www.ed-data.org, 2018-19 school year; Neighboring Districts is an average of Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Las Lomitas, Woodside, and Portola Valley

** Source: Ravenswood Student Services Dept

*** Source: Source: http://www.ed-data.org: ERS analysis of per weighted pupil funding based on LCFF Weights of 1.2% for FRPM/EL/Foster, and 1.5 for Concentration Weight [above 55%]
You Can Make the Difference

Donate
Ravenswood Education Foundation
PO Box 396
Menlo Park, CA 94026
EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS
www.doublethedonation.com/ravenswoodef
YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE
Tax ID# 26-0166433

Get Involved
VOLUNTEER / VISIT US
www.ravenswoodef.org
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
info@ravenswoodef.org
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Jenna Wachtel Pronovost
jenna@ravenswoodef.org
SOCIAL MEDIA
@RavenswoodEduc1
@RavenswoodEF

Make A Difference

$600
5-week summer academy
for 1 student

$1,600
Art & music teachers
for 4 students

$3,500
Mental health counselors
for 41 students

$5,000
Literacy support
for 12 students

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SOCIAL MEDIA
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Make A Difference

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for 1 student

$1,600
Art & music teachers
for 4 students

$3,500
Mental health counselors
for 41 students

$5,000
Literacy support
for 12 students

Ravenswood Students Depend On You. THANK YOU!

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Accel-KKR
ADE Management Corporation
Adobe, Inc.
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Endowment Foundation
Answered, Inc.
Apple, Inc.
Aurora Innovation, Inc
Authors of Institutional Racism in America Book
AYCO Charitable Foundation
Baby Basics of the Peninsula
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bridgewater Fund
Bright Funds Foundation
Champion Charities
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, LLC
City of Menlo Park
Colflesh Charitable Fund
Committee to Create Safer Schools, Vote Yes on Measure Q & S
Congregation Beth Am
Dropbox, Inc.
Edwards Foundation
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F2 Family Foundation, Inc.
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Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Franklin Templeton Investments
G. Willard Miller Foundation
Gap, Inc.
Genentech, Inc.
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund
Google, Inc.
Google.org Giving Week 2019
Grace Presbyterian Church
Greystar Dev, LLC
Haffenreffer Family Fund
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Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund
J.P Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
John & Marcia Goldman Foundation
Jordan Park Mission 1st Fund
Jose I. Ibarra Memorial
Just Give
Kaiser Permanente
La Entrada Middle School
Las Lomitas Sports and After-School Activities League
Levenberg Ames Charitable Fund
Lichterman Loewenberg Foundation
LinkedIn, Co.
Marin Community Foundation
Matlof Family Trust
McFarlane Connelly Charitable Fund
Menlo Church
Moralian Family Giving Fund
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
Nasiri Foundation
Netflix, Inc.
Network For Good
New Community Church
New Creation Home Ministries
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Palo Alto High School Class of 1989
Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund
PayPal Giving Fund
Peery Family Fund
Peery Foundation
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PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
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Silicon Valley Youth
Silicon Valley Youth
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Yellow Chair Foundation
Yoga Soul
Your Cause, LLC
Zen Heart Sangha

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Robyn and Jason Wheeler
Melody Westervelt
Helen and Maurice Werdegar
Paula and Paul Welander
April and Tim Watson
Tamara Russel and Steve Wastie
Lisa and Mark Wan
Kathryn Kaminsky and Eric Wakin
The Wagstaff Family
Molly Wachtel
John Volckmann
Kimberly Vogel
Cristina and Alex Vitale
Gregory Vaughan
Jennifer Urmson
Keri and Griff Tully
Sheree and John Shoch
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Gregory Vaughan
Cristina and Alex Vitale
Kimberly Vogel
John Volckmann
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April and Tim Watson
Karen and Van Weiss
Paula and Paul Welander
Helen and Maurice Werdegar
Melody Westervelt
Robyn and Jason Wheeler
Lauren and Matt Williams
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Elizabeth and Larry Wiseman
Ruth Woodruff
Wendy McPherson and Djuna Woods
Connor Woodson
Janet and Danny Yeh
Suzanne and Adam Yonkers
Kimberly Young
Jill and Steve Zanolli
Stacie and Gerard Zell

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David Ackerman
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Joshlyn De Ala
Marisa Albert
Irene Allen
Barbara Allen
Melanie Allen
Elyse Anderson
Jennifer and Eric Antonow
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Stacy Arevalo
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Shannon Axelrod
Amy Baggot
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Kevin Ball
Sergey Baranov
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Katie Davis
Lisa and Bruce Deal
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Zen Heart Sangha
Sarah Santoro
Caitlin Sargent
Jake Sargent
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Teresa Valdivia
Rachel Valencia
Vanderhoven Family
Sarah Vared
Maria Varela
Kyra Vargas
Mariameza De la Vega
Jorge Venegas

IN MEMORY OF JOSÉ IVAN IBARRA
Beloved Belle Haven kindergarten teacher José Ivan Ibarra’s commitment to Ravenswood was unparalleled. Mr. Ibarra taught in the district for 23 years and was known for his students’ academic outcomes, his advocacy, and the community he created amongst the families in his room. He inspired all of us who knew him.
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2019-2020

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Gina Sudaria
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Superintendent

STAFF
Jazmin Sosa