



2022–2023 GRATITUDE REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022–AUGUST 31, 2023

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION.
SUPPORTING STUDENTS.

Thank you.

There simply wouldn't be a Bellevue Schools Foundation without you, our donors.

This year, almost 1,000 individuals, companies, and grantors stepped forward to invest in our community. Bellevue, and the nation at large, will depend on Bellevue School District's 18,000+ students to lead our society into the future. But the tools and resources needed for this leadership so often fall through the cracks of local, state, and federal funding structures.

Since 1979, Bellevue Schools Foundation has provided funding for critical programs that wouldn't otherwise exist in our classrooms. During the 2022-2023 school year, our largest investments supported Early Learning, Computer Science, the Mental Health Assistance Team, Culturally-Responsive Libraries, training for our educators, and the signature BOOM program. And on top of that funding, Bellevue Schools Foundation provided each and every classroom teacher with the opportunity to offer their students innovative curricula ranging from author visits to salmon hatcheries. Robotics, music clinicians, artists in residence, and field trips to local museums—yes, BSF funds those initiatives as well!

When we highlight our programming to the community at our Block Party, Spring for Schools, or Education Connections events, you might notice we have a hard time editing our list of featured funding. We are just bubbling over with pride that **your** donations offer our students such a deep and broad range of resources. And at Bellevue Schools Foundation, we intentionally title this annual report in the same spirit we close and enter a new school (and fiscal) year with—**gratitude**.

In return for your gift, we hope you feel joy, inspiration, and pride. You are creating the next generation of leaders in our community. You are impacting the lives of students and educators on a daily basis. And you are choosing to invest in our collective future—one which can only be strengthened by the best possible learning opportunities for the students of Bellevue.

With gratitude,



Stephanie Ferguson

Stephanie Ferguson
Bellevue Schools Foundation
Board of Trustees President:
2022–2023 School Year



Juliet Buder

Juliet Buder
Bellevue Schools Foundation
Executive Director

Mission & Beliefs

The Bellevue Schools Foundation promotes and funds the best possible learning opportunities for ALL students in Bellevue's public schools.

We Believe ...

- ... that education is a foundation for opportunity, growth and success in life.
- ... that every child in our community has a right to the best education available anywhere.
- ... that structural and systemic inequities perpetuating discrimination must be dismantled.
- ... that strong, healthy schools contribute to a strong, healthy community.
- ... that continuously pursuing best practices and piloting innovative educational ideas are essential for Bellevue's public schools to be leading providers of world-class education.
- ... that private support for our public schools makes the difference in our schools' ability to provide the high quality education all children in our community deserve.
- ... that the Foundation is uniquely positioned to be a catalytic agent of positive change and advancement in Bellevue's public schools.



“

As the new superintendent in Bellevue, I couldn't ask for a better partner in supporting our schools, sparking innovation in classrooms, and cultivating joy in our community than the Bellevue Schools Foundation. Every single person who contributes to the Bellevue Schools Foundation is helping to provide mental health services for kids, high quality pre-school, seed money for a district robotics center, STEM and coding for elementary students, artists-in-residence, and so much more. The continued excellence and innovation in the Bellevue School District relies on the generous contributions of our collective community. The Bellevue Schools Foundation is our key partner in ensuring that your generosity touches every student and school across our district. Thank you to every family, community member, and local business for your partnership in supporting our kids and schools!

Dr. Kelly Aramaki
Superintendent, Bellevue School District

”

Your Donation in Action



Mental Health

7,108 students received mental health screenings.

551 students received therapy with counselors.

90 students developed safety plans.

95% of students reported increased coping skills.



BOOM Experience

392 BIPOC students participated in a mentoring event at Bellevue College.



Early Learning

29 part-day preschoolers received financial support to attend a full-day.

95% of families reported that their access to other resources increased while their students were in school.



Arts, Enrichment & Innovation

37 grants were awarded to elementary teachers and **44** to secondary teachers.

Grants funded a variety of music, foreign language, and cultural experiences.



Computer Science

Served **5,960** students at **19** elementary schools and 7 middle schools.

89% of 4th grade girls and **93%** of 4th grade boys reported that they can create things with computer science, coding, or technology.





National Board Certification for Teachers

57 teachers earned a new or renewed National Board Certification.

Bellevue is one of only four districts in the nation with over **40%** of teachers Board certified.



Inclusive Libraries

343 classrooms received library booster packs.

3,771 books were distributed to K-5 students.



Inspiration and Incubation

9 grants funded things like healthy relationships curricula, robotics, and author visits.



Early Learning

With Bellevue School Foundation's support, 29 students who would otherwise not have access to a preschool education received tuition support. These students, enrolled in 12 different school sites, engaged in developmentally appropriate activities and experiences through linguistically and culturally appropriate curriculum. Early Learning educators implement effective, evidence-based strategies that improve the learning and well-being outcomes for all students—and their families. In fact, 100% of families surveyed reported access to preschool has improved family self-sufficiency.



Preschool Parent Feedback

“ My son knew all the letters and sounds, but he didn't connect the letters to read. He now tries to read and sound out words. It's amazing that he easily recognizes familiar words and attempts to read longer. It's amazing progress for him. ”

“ Solo agradecer a todos y cada uno de los maestro El trabajo que stán haciendo con nuestros hijos. *(Translation: Just thank each and every teacher for the work they are doing with our children.)* ”

“ Miss B has been amazing with our son this year. She has been very communicative and helpful with his progress both with social skills and kindergarten readiness. She has really great patience with him and he has forged a strong bond with her and the rest of the teachers in the classroom. ”

EARLY LEARNING

Why Does it Matter?

A 4-year-old child in their second year of preschool at Sherwood Forest Elementary School will be ready for Kindergarten thanks to tuition support from Bellevue Schools Foundation. One child entered speaking only Spanish. Now, the child not only speaks in complete sentences and demonstrates strong pre-writing skills in English, but they also translate to their mother, who speaks Spanish. Not only is this student ready for Kindergarten, but they are able to support their family's communication within our community in a critical way.



Computer Science



Over the course of the last five years, we have worked to disrupt inequities in Computer Science education and level the playing field for access to these highly sought-after learning opportunities.

Bellevue School District's Computer Science Team



Computer Science Educators Yusra Obaid and Dani Ward presented at the National Science Teachers Association Conference.

Social Entrepreneur, Donor, and... Student

Kosha Upadhyay is a senior at Bellevue High School. She is also a BSF donor.

Kosha Upadhyay loves STEM learning. She loves it so much that she and her family created an event called Buzz Bowl, a buzzer-based game with STEM related questions. Buzz Bowl is a large-scale event that requires Kosha to single-handedly manage around 200 participants with the help of 60 high school volunteers. Every year, she prepares a unique level-appropriate (beginners to advanced) study material for many subjects such as math, physics, chemistry, biology, Earth science, and astronomy. Preparing questions to quiz the students requires around 400 questions. On the day of the event, Kosha handles the schedule and role assignments for the volunteers. She has automated the process through a system that collects scores after every game round and ranks them to help decide the winners.

When she saw very few girls at Buzz Bowls, Kosha reached out to her friends and organized weekly game sessions for fun. Over past years, she has impressively grown girls' participation from 6 to over 70 students. In

February 2023, a team of girls became Buzz Bowl champions – the first time in the history of the game.

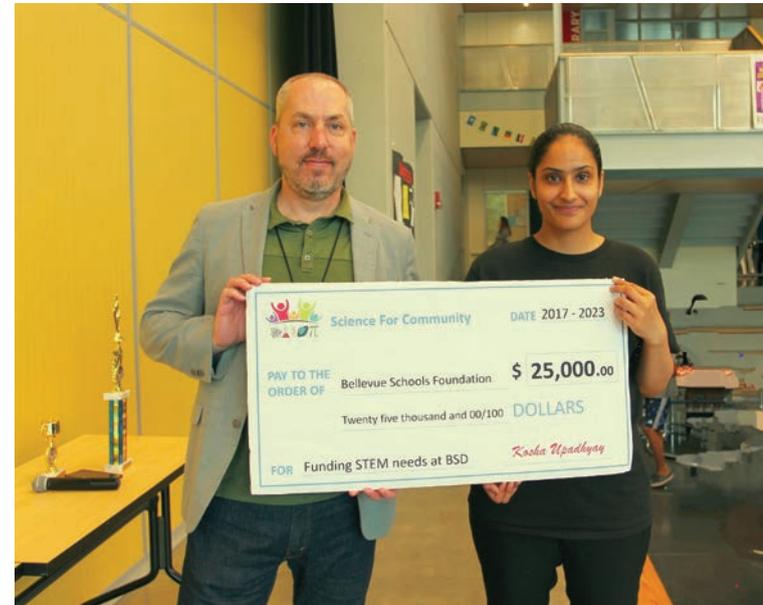
Kosha runs Buzz Bowl as a function of her non-profit, Science For Community. Not only does she support the goals of STEM learning in our community, she also donates the proceeds from the Buzz Bowl event to the Bellevue Schools Foundation.

“So far, Buzz Bowl has helped create a strong community of over 2000 STEM enthusiasts across 60 schools with the help of 600 high school volunteers,” says Kosha. “It has allowed Science For Community, my non-profit, to donate \$25,000 to BSF.”

“We’re grateful to Kosha for her commitment to our students’ learning,” says BSF Development Director, Michael Smith. “She doubles her impact

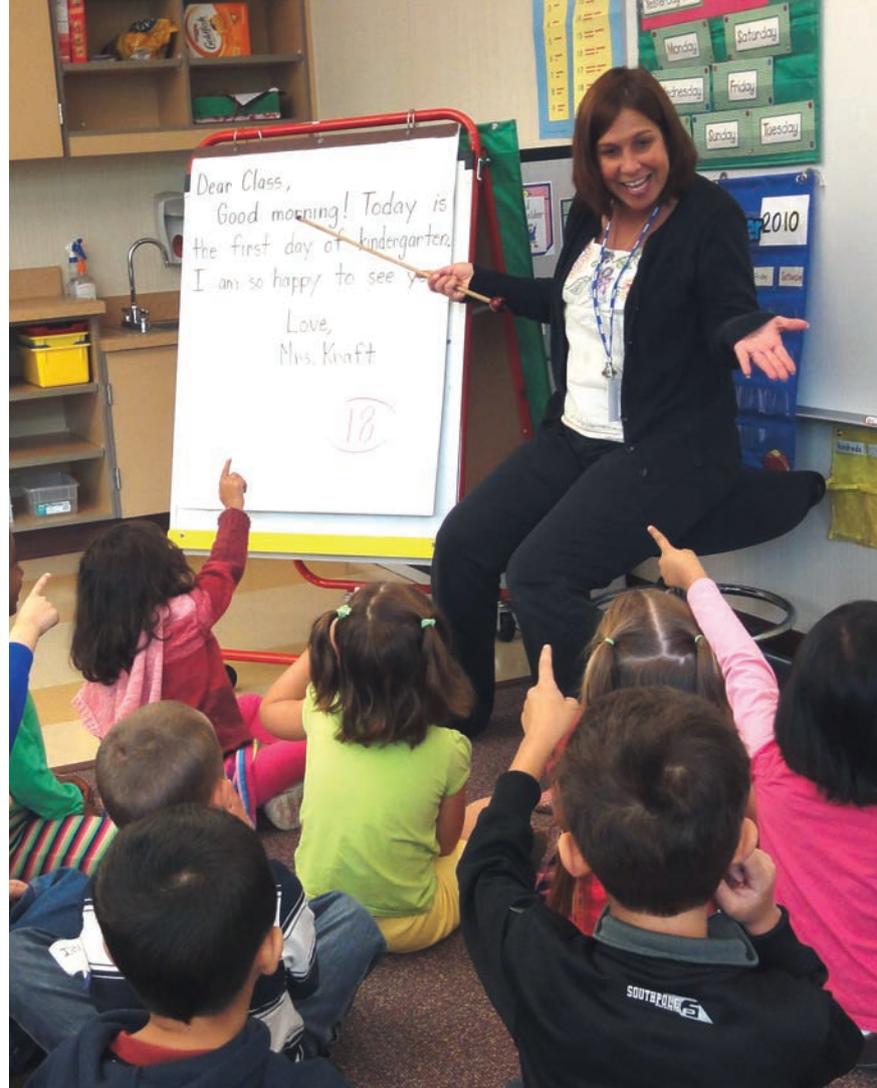
by creating STEM learning opportunities and donating to BSF’s programs as well. BSF and Science For Community share goals in encouraging all students to see themselves as capable in the world of STEM.”

Thank you, Kosha!



National Board Certification

Pursuing National Board Certification is a deeply impactful professional development experience that educators voluntarily choose. It continues to impact their teaching and their students long after certifying, as the skills that were learned and/or enhanced during the process only continue to strengthen with time and experience. The National Board process gives educators time to analyze and reflect on their teaching practice and the impact it has on their students' academic and social emotional learning. Every child deserves an accomplished teacher and we are grateful for the Bellevue Schools Foundation's commitment to our success.



“

I wish to thank the Bellevue Schools Foundation for supporting teachers on the National Board certification journey! BSD assisted with fees, and BSF provided a facilitator and a videographer. The program coordinator, Anna Hatlestad, always made time to answer questions and offer guidance to new candidates. Thank you BSF!

Heidi Von Tersch, 2nd grade teacher, Puesta Del Sol

”

BOOM

BOOM (Breaking Out Of the Margins) creates opportunities for all students to learn about the experiences of those furthest from justice and facilitates the creation of strategies for advocacy and barrier removal, giving opportunity for all students to participate, despite programming being targeted towards some. This year, a first for the BOOM Experience was the inclusion of students from BSD's new Digital Discovery program.



“

I really enjoyed BOOM. I found it to be an educational experience and I strongly believe anyone, and everyone could benefit. I think it is an event that helps raise awareness on many topics and issues. I found the teachers and staff to all be very kind and supportive. Everyone (adults at least) seemed to really care.

11th grade student at Bellevue Digital Discovery

”

“

Boom is an amazing experience to see other people of color in the Bellevue School District as well as learn a lot of inspiring things. I enjoy the food and community.

12th grade student at Big Picture School

”

Mental Health

Approximately 7,000 students were supported in grades K-12 with mental health resources thanks to Bellevue Schools Foundation's support of the Mental Health Assistance Team. Student services provided: identifying students with mental health needs and suicidal ideations; increasing positive outcomes using evidence-based practices, crisis support services; intervention services; and suicide prevention instruction.



The youth mental health crisis in America awakened me to take action, not to cower in fear. Research shows that early intervention and treatment can make a difference for our young people. That's why I'm on a mission to support and bring the best mental health support for our kids in Bellevue School District. They deserve a chance to thrive and succeed and they need to know they are not alone.

Maria Barrios, Bellevue Schools Foundation Trustee



Mental Health Assistance Team Feedback

“

I just want to say how thankful I am that I got to meet you and have you as my MHAT counselor for about a year and a half. I've never met someone as down-to-earth, kind, thoughtful, and caring as you and I don't know how I would have survived school (especially junior year) without you. Not sure if you know how much of an impact your words of advice and praise have had on me, but just know that it meant the world. Everyone needs a Ms. Lancaster and just know that you've saved a lot of people's lives, including mine. Hope I can talk to you still and give you a life-update years down the road. Please never change.

”



Thank You

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Wenyi Mei & Cesheng Wu	Jaime Perez	Rajeev Singh-Molares	Ipsica & Jasbir Vig	Jing Zhou & James Fu	And thanks to those donors who contributed restricted contributions, for use outside of our Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget
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September 1, 2022–August 31, 2023

In total, nearly 1,000 donors contributed to the Bellevue Schools Foundation from September 1, 2022–August 31, 2023.

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“ I’ve seen the direct impact that the Bellevue School Foundation has on our students. As a parent, I’m an advocate for the Foundation because I know it helps not only my kids but those across the entire district! ”
Melinda Wieder, BSF Ambassador, Sherwood Forest Elementary

Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets

For the twelve months ending August 31, 2023

Support & Revenue Sources

Individuals.....	\$688,736
Corporations.....	\$251,847
Grants.....	\$1,417,959
In-kind Contributions.....	\$181,642
Total Support & Revenue.....	\$2,540,184
Net Investment Gain.....	\$189,186
Net Support & Revenue.....	\$2,729,370

Expenses

Program Services.....	\$1,321,133
Supporting Services	
Development & Fundraising.....	\$370,625
General & Administrative.....	\$211,536
Total Expenses.....	\$1,903,294

Change in Net Assets.....	\$826,076
Net Assets Beginning of Period.....	\$3,066,978
Net Assets End of Period.....	\$3,893,054

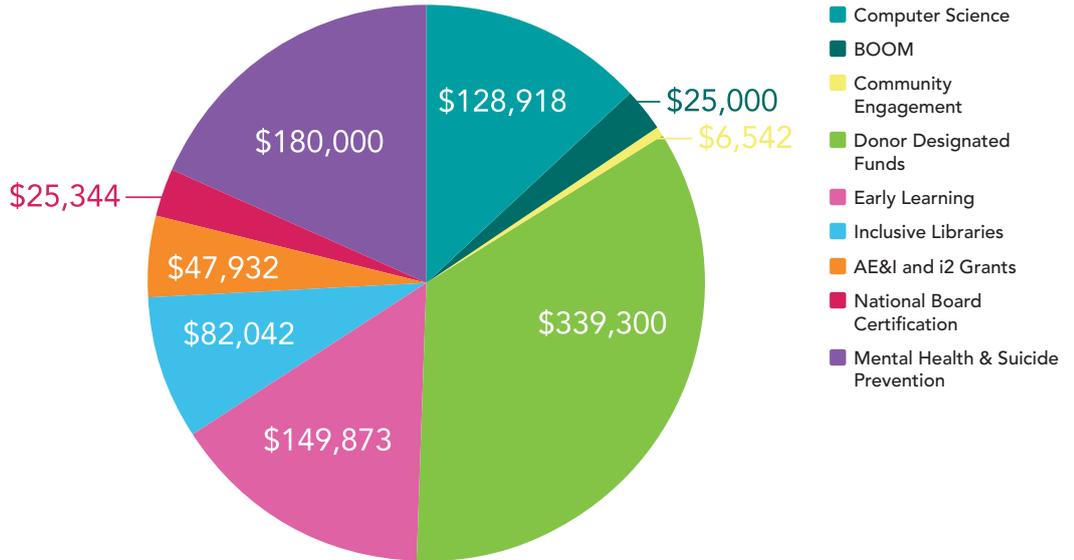
Statement of Financial Position

As of August 31, 2023

Cash & Cash Equivalents.....	\$380,745
Pledges Receivable.....	\$378,262
Operating Reserve.....	\$413,731
Funding Forward Reserve.....	\$908,071
Endowment Investments.....	\$947,458
Donor Restricted Investments.....	\$488,254
Temporarily Restricted Scholarships.....	\$476,316
Other.....	\$22,351
Total Assets.....	\$4,015,188

Total Liabilities.....	\$122,134
Total Net Assets.....	\$3,893,054
Total Liabilities & Net Assets.....	\$4,015,188

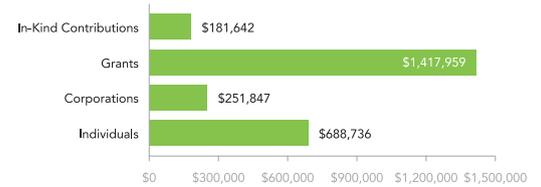
Program Expenses



Expense Ratio

	Program Services	Supporting Services	Total
Gross Expenses	\$1,321,133	\$582,161	\$1,903,294
Less:			
In-kind expenses	\$54,438	\$117,863	\$172,301
Offset by certain other income: Sponsorships		\$246,988	\$246,988
Net Expenses	\$1,266,695	\$217,310	\$1,484,005
Net Expense Ratio (supporting services expenses as a % of total expenses)			14.64%

Total Support & Revenue: \$1,978,258



Total Grants & Expenses: \$1,848,294



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