



2021-22 Philanthropy Report

INTRODUCTION

The School District of the Chathams (SDOC) has long distinguished itself as one of the most outstanding public school districts in New Jersey and the nation. Performance metrics such as test scores, Advanced Placement participation rates, post-secondary enrollment, and rankings by local publications consistently place SDOC at or near the top of highly rated peer schools.

SDOC's competitiveness has been threatened by fiscal and demographic changes. With statutory limits on school budget increases and unreliable financial support from the State, SDOC faces significant challenges in meeting the needs of its students.

HISTORY

To help address these issues, Chatham Education Foundation was born. After formative discussions in the early 1990's, a Certificate of Incorporation was issued on March 11, 1994 and non-profit 501(c)(3) status was approved by the IRS on October 20, 1997. Chatham Education Foundation filed its first tax return for the fiscal year 1997–98 with \$33,000 in revenue and \$9,000 in grants. Thirty years later, revenues and grants have grown ten-fold. Total grants from Chatham Education Foundation to the School District of the Chathams over this period were \$1.6M. Total assets grew to \$1.4M, including a \$1.3M endowment.

DONORS

Chatham Education Foundation's financial support comes from over 700 generous parents, businesses, and community members. Fundraisers include the Endowment campaign, annual fund, teacher tributes, and events such as Winter Wonderland, Trivia Night, and Casino Royale.

GRANT PROCESS

A rigorous process ensures that donor funds are spent wisely: Grants are developed by School District of the Chathams (SDOC) teachers and administrators following Chatham Education Foundation guidelines. Once grants are approved by Chatham Education Foundation's Board of Trustees and by the Board of Education, the funds are paid by Chatham Education Foundation to SDOC. SDOC periodically reviews individual grant accounts and returns any unused grant funds to Chatham Education Foundation. All grant recipients are required to submit a Final Grant Report, showing the expenditure of funds and describing the grant project outcomes, including any material improvements in teaching or learning that were gained. SDOC and Chatham Education Foundation accounts are audited annually by independent auditors.



OUR MISSION

Support educational excellence in the School District of the Chathams through parent and community donations.

OUR VISION

To be the leading philanthropic partner for the School District of the Chathams for collaborating on innovative ideas to enrich education, support future-focused initiatives, and build a sustainable source of funding through an endowment.



FINANCIALS

Chatham Education Foundation's Gross Receipts have grown significantly over the years to over \$300k/year due to the generosity of our donors. However, donations have declined in fiscal year 2022–23 during the recent economic downturn.



Chatham Education Foundation Gross Receipts

"Our \$100k endowment gift to Chatham Education Foundation establishes a permanent legacy benefiting Chatham public schools, where our four children received an excellent education. Chatham schools are the bedrock of the community, and we strongly believe that private support is a vital element in maintaining excellence in these schools. The permanent portion of this endowment will provide over \$3,500/year for grants in real terms in perpetuity. We can't think of a better gift to this wonderful community, and we are hopeful that others will want to follow this example."

The Routh family

If we did not have CEF to help support the science program, the science classes would not be able to experience the 21st century technologies that we see in the science labs. Students experience what scientists do in the field and CEF grants allow teachers to give them 21st century skills that prepare them for college and future careers.

Kristen Crawford, Science Supervisor

ENDOWMENT

In addition to annual grant funding of about \$100,000, Chatham Education Foundation established an endowment. The Permanent Endowment, by producing a reliable stream of income, will bring increased stability and longevity to grant funding, as well as the ability to increase the absolute level of grants. The Term Endowment will help the School District of the Chathams deal with budget shocks resulting from unpredictable New Jersey State funding levels. The Quasi Endowment, built from funds surplus to grant needs, is used to attract endowment gifts via matching.

Chatham Education Foundation endowment portfolio market value



Annual compound return (fiscal years from July 1 to June 30)



There are currently 19 named endowments, including:

Allen Family Endowment Fund

Anonymous Endowment Funds

Asian Community Endowment for Chatham Schools

Battiato Family Endowment Fund

Blue Foundry Bank Endowment Fund

Dickson Family Endowment Fund

Endowment Fund for Environmental Sustainability (Abbott Family)

Epstein Family Endowment Fund

Karpowic Family Endowment Fund

- Kuppenheimer Family Endowment Fund
- Prael Family Endowment Fund

PriVikNik Endowment Fund

PTO Endowment Fund

Quon Family Endowment Fund for Diversity, Inclusion, and Special Education

Rooney Family Endowment Fund

Routh Family Endowment Fund

Ryan T. Ganley Memorial Endowment Fund (Metviner Family)

STEM Endowment Fund (Anonymous)

"We decided to contribute to the Endowment of the Chatham Education Foundation because Chatham is a fabulous place to raise children, and we believe that by strengthening the schools we are giving back to the whole community that we have come to know and love."

The Abbott Family

An Endowment Fund for Environmental Sustainability was started in 2018–2019 with a \$50,000 gift from Kathy and Ken Abbott of Chatham Township. With an additional \$50,000 matching contribution from Chatham Education Foundation, a total of \$100,000 is available to generate approximately \$3,500 in grants each year in perpetuity for environmental education or environmental sustainability projects for the schools' buildings and grounds.



"As Superintendent of Schools, I can think of no better cause to support the School District of the Chathams than Chatham Education Foundation's Endowment Campaign."

Dr. Michael LaSusa

ENDOWMENT MATCHING

Chatham Education Foundation's endowment surpassed \$1.3M and the longterm goal is to reach \$4M. Two matching gift options are available for as long as matching funds last:

- Endowment gifts paid over a five-year period will be doubled.
- Unrestricted endowment gifts paid over a two-year period will be tripled.

Examples:

- A \$20,000 gift paid at \$4,000/year over five years will become a \$40,000 endowment, and a \$20,000 unrestricted gift paid at \$10,000/year over two years will become a \$60,000 endowment.
- Company matching gifts are counted in computing the endowment gift. So, if your company will match your tax-deductible gifts to Chatham Education Foundation, a \$10,000 personal gift can become a \$60,000 endowment in your family's name!

The minimum Named Endowment gift is \$20,000, given over a period of up to five years (\$4,000/year). Endowment gifts thus far have ranged up to \$100,000.

ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT AND SPENDING

The Chatham Education Foundation endowment portfolio is broadly diversified, with 75% of the portfolio invested in a low cost Vanguard S&P 500 mutual fund, and 25% in a low cost Vanguard intermediate-term bond fund.

The grant spending policy for the permanent endowment currently specifies that 5% of a 12 quarter rolling average of the permanent endowment will be allocated to endowment spending to support teacher grants. Funds must be in the endowment for six months prior to being subject to the spending policy. Quasi and Term endowments maintain their investments with no allocation to spending.

Grant spending funds generated from the endowment were \$11K in FY2021–22 and \$21k in FY2022–23.

Grant Awards

Thanks to donors' generous support, Chatham Education Foundation funded the following grants in its 2021–2022 fiscal year, in the sum of **\$108,678**. Of this sum, nine endowments contributed **\$10,845** toward the grants.

The Thinking Classroom — Phase 2 (CHS) \$23,222

Alex Elgart, Meredith Kempson, Kyle Lynott, Laura Scerbo, Stacy Winters, Aaron Yamamoto

This grant expands the "Thinking Classroom" within the CHS mathematics wing to four additional classrooms. The initial phase of CEF's "Thinking Classroom" grant in 2018 demonstrated the validity of the current research that supports students working on whiteboard surfaces in the mathematics classroom, resulting in observed increases in student productivity, critical thinking, and wellness. These design changes include vertical non-permanent writing surfaces on flexible seating/standing tables, and the de-fronting of the traditional classroom setting. This grant was funded in part by the Routh Family Endowment Fund.

Reimagining Geometry (CMS) \$31,524

Stacy Winters

Building off the success of the Thinking Classroom, this grant allows for the redesign of Chatham Middle School math classrooms to coincide with a curriculum sequence change in which 8th grade Chatham Middle School students now take Geometry prior to Algebra 1. This sequence change provided an opportunity to reimagine what students can do with the knowledge of Geometry, and this grant provides the technology and materials to allow students to demonstrate this new knowledge. All three 8th grade math classrooms will be transformed into thinking classrooms, and the grant provides whiteboard vertical spaces and whiteboard desks and tables of different and adjustable heights for students to complete problems. Some of the whiteboards can even be brought into the math hallway, extending the classroom reach so that all students can work on math while social distancing. CMS math teacher Carmelo Sortino says of the grant, "Thank you again for the desks and whiteboards. The students love them and utilize them every day."

Enriching Kindergarten Reading Workshop and Word Study Programs (WAS & MAS) \$2,136

Lisa Kressler, Annemarie Steigerwald, Kelli Finn, Francesca Verducci

Four kindergarten classrooms at WAS and MAS are enriched in this grant with materials to enhance reading and writing, including boogie board tablets, consonant-vowel-consonant games, and manipulatives. The grant materials are supported by research showing that students learn best when learning with a multisensory approach. The boogie board tablets allow students to participate in interactive writing activities, apply letter-sound and spelling knowledge with a quick, easily erasable alternative to paper and pencil and dry erase boards, and can be used for math and other curricular areas. Ms. Finn shared, "Thank you so much for the boogie board tablets and other materials for our kindergarten students. They love them!"

District Choral Festival (LAF, CMS, CHS) \$2,330

Ken Bryson, Amber Blakovich, Dana Goodstein

This grant brought all the choirs in grades 4-12 together on March 10, 2022 for a day of learning, singing, and program development in a first ever district-wide Choral Festival. The students were taught for the day by legendary composer and musical artist, Stacey V. Gibbs. During the event, Mr. Gibbs worked with the students on pieces they are familiar with, including a piece of his that has yet to be premiered, on text expression, music history, and vocal technique, both as individual schools and as a whole unit. In addition to working together musically, they will incorporate social-emotional learning through various musical and nonmusical team building activities. The final performance of the students performing together is being recorded with very high audio recording devices, which were funded by a prior grant from CEF.

This grant is funded in part by the Ryan T. Ganley Memorial Endowment Fund (Metviner Family).

The Scientific Investigation and Collaboration Classroom (CHS) \$16,483

Emily Cafaro and Rebecca Ryan

This grant transforms two science classrooms at CHS, similar to what has been done by CEF for nine math classrooms at CHS and CMS. These classrooms will have different furniture than a traditional classroom, including whiteboard tables, and it creates a more collaborative space to further investigative learning. The grant teachers shared, "Students are consistently completing labs and investigations which require them to share their data analysis and results as well as evaluate peer work. Redesigning the classroom and incorporating whiteboard tables would enable students to easily work through an investigation and share their findings." Ms. Ryan also shared, "Thank you so much for approving our grant. We cannot wait to see the change in collaboration in our classroom dynamic next year."

Bouncybands for Student Wellness (CMS) \$1,399

Lydia MacIntosh-Haye, Lynne Ann Collier

This grant places Bouncybands on almost every chair in CMS's small group and special education instructional spaces, including self-contained classes and resource centers, with a few additionally in selected general education classrooms. Bouncybands allow students to self-regulate by having discreet movement breaks without leaving their seats. Ms. Collier said, "Thank you so much for your continued support. The bouncy bands make a HUGE difference in the classroom."

Farm to School (CHS) \$4,309

James Miller, Emily Cafaro

This grant enhances the environmental science courses by having students grow food with a hydroponic system in the greenhouse and raised beds in the courtyards. The students will be responsible for designing the planting schedule, types of plants, the actual planting, and maintenance of the gardens. Students and cafeteria personnel will participate in harvesting at appropriate times, and the produce will be incorporated into the CHS menu.

Mr. Miller shared, "This grant will be so useful to the students for several reasons. First, students will be able to work in-person with state of the art food production systems, which is a big part of our environmental science curriculum. We will also be able to provide a source of locally grown produce, which we will work with our food services provider Chartwells to incorporate into school lunches. We are very excited to get started with this project and have students involved at every level. Thank you for this opportunity."

This grant is funded in part by the Endowment Fund for Environmental Sustainability (Abbott Family).

Building Social and Emotional Learning Through Cooperative Games (LAF) \$3,997

Cheryl Russo, Cindy Weiner

This grant creates opportunities at LAF during Character Periods for students to have hands-on Social Emotional Learning and related discussion through group play of familiar board and card games. Six classic board games and card games would be purchased for each of the 25 classrooms. By setting up instructional opportunities, the teachers will be able to provide the students with the necessary managing conflict resolution and socialization skills needed to work together in small groups and to manage conflicts on the playground and in other social situations. Cheryl Russo & Cindy Weiner said, "We are thrilled the CEF grant committee supports our goal to help students grow socially and emotionally through games. Managing conflicts, making friends, increasing self-esteem, and improving communication are critical aspects of a student's development. We are confident that these games will promote those skills and so many more to the entire LAF student community for many years to come!"

Self-Contained Classroom Furniture (CMS) \$5,342

Pamela Wichot, Nicole Moschella

Two self-contained special education classrooms at CMS will now receive updated, flexible furniture and seating options. Rocking chairs and floor rocker seats encourage healthy movement and a moderate range of motion, and wheelchair accessible desks with adjustable leg heights fit those that need it. By having flexible seating options, the students will have the opportunity to be in a conducive learning environment tailored for them and their various educational, social, and emotional needs.

Let Our Fingers Do the Poppin' (MAS, SBS, WAS) \$2,365

LeeAnn Wertheim, Aaron Yomamoto, Jessica Vega, Jaime Trauger, Beth Zimmer, Grace Malanga, Amy Kerr, Megan Militello, Katelyn Clifford, Samantha Aquilina, Robin Ciccone, Angela Piazza, Shannon Moran, Dianne Conti, Brooke Hegarty, Megan Stevens, Joyce Luongo, Jacqueline LaBrutto, Helen Oliver, Nancy Volker, Megan Tompkins

Twenty classrooms at MAS, SBS and WAS will have math manipulatives to help their K and 1st grade students understand the relationships between numbers and quantities, and aid in their addition and subtraction skills. This grant was funded in part by the PTO Endowment Fund.

Read for Pure Joy! (CMS) \$826

Lynne Ann Collier

This grant adds alternative, comfortable reading locations in a 6th-7th grade classroom at CMS where small group ELA is taught to struggling students. Ms. Collier explained that when students are comfortable and relaxed, it contributes to a joyful reading experience, which leads to longer sustained periods of reading and a positive connotation with reading. The supervisor for student support services Dr. Kimberly Lanza said, "I can't wait to see our middle school students getting comfy and settling in with their books. We are fortunate to have the support of CEF." Ms. Collier said, "I am so excited to create a warm, comfortable space that will encourage the joy of reading in my classroom. Thank you and the rest of the CEF members for your continued support of learning at CMS."

This grant was funded in part by the Allen Family Endowment Fund.

Writing in Comfort (WAS) \$4,694

Jennifer Taylor, Michelle Busanic

This grant enhances the resource centers at WAS with furniture designed to make students more comfortable when writing. This furniture will allow students to sit and move in various ways so that they can be comfortable while writing and reach their potential. Students assisted the teachers in writing this grant application. Ms. Taylor shared, "Please know Michelle and I are so thankful for your support as we provide the most comfortable environment for our classified students to flourish as strong, confident writers and learners."

This grant was funded in part by the Prael Family Endowment Fund.

Trout in the Classroom (CMS) \$1,958

Jillian Brandt, Ceara Cleaves

This grant project gives 8th graders at CMS a hands-on approach to learning in a year-long process of inquiry and data collection. The students would raise the trout in the classroom from eggs until fingerlings and then release into a nearby, approved location to add to the current ecosystem. Ms. Brandt and Ms. Cleaves shared, "We are excited to bring the Trout in the Classroom program to Chatham Middle School. Our 8th graders will be able to raise trout from eggs to fingerling size that will be ready to be released in the spring. Along the way, the students will focus on how abiotic factors affect biotic factors and learn the importance of clean, cold water. Students will be responsible for checking pH levels, nitrate levels, and nitrite levels daily." **This grant was funded in part by the Kuppenheimer Family**

Endowment Fund.

Be Inspired by Gobi — a Literacy, Wellness & Character Education Event (MAS, WAS, SBS, LAF) \$6,675.75

Danielle Dagounis, Lisa Lattarulo, Karen Leister, Nick Andreazza, Cheryl Russo, Kristine Dudlo, Kathleen O'Connor, Marco Freyre

Finding Gobi is a true story of an ultra-marathon runner who met a stray dog while running a race in China. This grant proposal brings the author for a visit to each school, as well as buying books for each classroom library. It is designed to introduce elementary students to a story of friendship, teamwork, perseverance, and wellness through the book Finding Gobi. It also would accompany newly designed library/media and health/physical education lessons. Danielle Dagounis shared, "We are beyond excited that the CEF is able to fund our grant so that we can host wellness events at each of our elementary schools. This grant will enable our elementary library/media specialists and health & physical education teachers to collaborate and develop learning experiences for our students to discuss and learn about the topics of perseverance, teamwork, friendship, kindness to others, and the importance of physical wellbeing."

TEDxYouth@Chatham (District) \$1,412

James Lawrence, Christina Reed

TEDxYouth@Chatham is a district wide public speaking event that is the culmination of the Talking the Talk elective course at Chatham High School. The program was initiated from a grant in 2018. Students deliver professional TED talks to a live audience which are recorded and uploaded to the TED platform for public distribution. Microphone sound quality is critical to the effectiveness of these talks. This grant funds eight new body microphones, in both light and dark colors to match skin tones of different students. These microphones attach around the head, creating stability to enhance overall sound quality and also eliminating the need to tape mics up students' backs. These mics will also be used by the Performing Arts Department for performances. Christina Reed said, "Thank you so very much for sponsoring and supporting TEDxYouth@Chatham in all of the ways that you do. The mics were fantastic not only do they sound really clear, but they made the speakers feel more comfortable and confident." "The new body microphone I used the night of my Ted Talk was a significant improvement over the older ones we were practicing with. It means a lot to me to know the CEF continues to support our learning and development. Thank you!" Skate Lapus, CHS Class of 2023

This grant was funded in part by the Rooney Family Endowment Fund.



District-wide Choral Festival partly funded by endowment donors.

This grant was funded in part by the Karpowic Family Endowment Fund.



The Thinking Classroom.





Farm to School.

TEDxYouth@Chatham.

Musical Exploration of Fauré's Requiem (CHS) \$3,150

Ken Bryson and Liam Keller

This grant allows an all-encompassing study of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem in d minor, Opus 48. The Chatham High School Chamber Choir, Chatham Voices, and Chamber Orchestra will come together in study, rehearsal, and performance of the Requiem, one of Fauré's most iconic pieces. Not currently in the public domain, Mr. Bryson found an arranger and music engraver to create a version for the students. In addition, the students will benefit from a music workshop about the requiem hosted by Jose Luis Dominguez, assistant conductor of the New Jersey Symphony. "By exposing our students to such historical pieces of musical literature we are able to significantly enrich their learning and give them a better understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the music and how it influenced the music they are performing and listening to today", wrote Mr. Bryson in his grant application.

Art Show (District) \$10,600

Lauren Spooner

Acquire additional permanent and sustainable portable display pieces to supplement those purchased in 2017 for the annual K-12 district art show. Director of Arts and Languages Lauren Spooner said "We will expand our collection of permanent display panels to improve the annual district art show and eliminate the need for temporary and less durable displays." Display pieces will be allocated to each school to be used by teachers for other eventsroom should be one that is conducive to the type of learning that will take place.

Coding with Marty: Interdisciplinary Robotics Initiative (LAF) \$14,000

Jennifer Cifrodella, Kyle Kermick

Purchase a set of "Marty" robots, which were previously piloted at LAF. The robots would be used during the Hour of Code and in the Design & Technology Humanoid Robots & amp; Coding Unit. Teachers will connect CMS and CHS robotics students and club members with younger students and will work with K-3 schools to have Design & amp; Technology teachers use Marty.

Fundations Geodes Readable Books (MAS, SBS, WAS) \$12,000

Heather Rocco and Lisa Kressler.

Research has shown that students learn more efficiently when they are using targeted practice, specifically reading texts that match what they have learned during word study lessons. When students have access to decodable books, they are more likely to try "tapping" out words using the letter sounds they have learned. Decodable words refer to words that contain phonetic elements and high frequency words that have been taught in the standard Fundations word study block.

The Geodes library will enable the district's kindergarten students to practice what they are learning during word study and allow them the fluency and comprehension skills necessary to become strong readers.

Ms. Rocco believes that this investment in innovative color and grayscale book investment "will greatly increase students' reading achievement" at the primary grade levels.

Creating Collaborative & Engaging World Language Classrooms (CMS) \$14,000

Danielle Dagounis, Renée Marshall, Julie Friedman, and Jessica Weston

The ideal world language learning environment should be designed to immerse students in the target language and cultures, along with providing authentic, real-world experiences for the 21st century learner.

The purpose of this grant is to establish collaborative and engaging learning world language spaces for Chatham Middle School students, by transforming traditional classroom set ups into collaborative spaces with dry erase surfaces and comfortable reading environments. This will allow students to completely immerse themselves in the target language as they explore various authentic resources. Ms. Dagounis explains in the application, "Benefits of dry / erase surfaces in a world language classroom include encouraging peer collaboration in the target language in producing culture lists, completing complex grammar exercises, and brainstorming ideas during reading comprehension tasks. Additionally, interactive surfaces allow for every student to share their voice with their peers and the teacher by writing responses to pulls, think-pair-share activities, etc."

2023 District Choral Festival (CHS, CMS, LAF) \$3,000

Amber Griffin

After its highly successful premiere last year, the CEF is proud to again underwrite this districtwide festival fostering a community of choral excellence, the creation and continuation of the relationships within and between t he choral departments at each school, and the opportunity to work with renowned guest choral clinicians to help students learn music through a diverse lens.

This year Ms. Moira Smiley, a renowned choral composer and clinician, will work with the students on some of her own musical compositions. Students will work on text expression, musical history, and vocal technique, both as individual schools and as a whole unit. In addition to working together musically, the festival will incorporate social-emotional learning through various musical and non-musical team building activities that will strengthen the choral community between the three schools. This year the festival will end with a pyramid concert that will showcase each school and end with a performance of a piece by all participating students.

Ms. Griffin writes, "Last year, our first Choral Festival exhibited first-hand how this event improved student communication, collaboration, and musicianship. CHS students paved the way for CMS students who then became role models for Lafayette students."

Building Fact Fluency (WAS) \$603

Nancy Volker

This pilot program is designed to help teachers assist their elementary students in building their math fact fluency. This toolkit includes professional development for teachers and resources for small group instruction as well as whole group instruction through math talks, games and problem solving.



Fauré Requiem Concert



Geodes Readable Books





PO Box 81 Chatham, NJ 07928

endowment@chathamedfoundation.org

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