

November 5, 2022

Dear Neighbors,

Since its inception, Chatham Education Foundation has granted over \$1.6 million to teachers and administrators to enrich the learning experiences of ALL students enrolled in our district's six public schools. These curriculum-enhancing grants, in areas such as STEM, literacy, arts, and wellness, have placed Chatham on the leading edge of the classroom experience and could not have been funded by the school district's limited budget alone.

In addition to annual grant funding of \$100,000, CEF also established an endowment to provide a permanent source of funding for grants for generations of students and create a safety net to protect our school district from budget shocks and crises.

The need for grant funding through parent and community investment remains strong as the school budget has become further strained by increased healthcare insurance costs and inflation which exceed the 2% cap on property tax increases. The district also faces an urgent need to attract and retain teachers and paraprofessionals with competitive salaries amidst an overall growing nationwide teacher shortage. Therefore, the district will continue to rely on private funding through CEF to supplement its constrained budget and meet programming needs.

Why private funding?

- As one of the most efficient, high performing school districts, Chatham's low per pupil spend makes SDOC extremely vulnerable to structural budget increases such as increased health insurance costs and any future reductions in state aid.
- State law imposes a 2% limit on property tax increases unless the public votes to approve a higher increase.
- Chatham's per pupil spend was the lowest of peer schools when the law took effect in 2010 and remains among the lowest.
- The limited ability to increase tax funding has resulted in such a lean operating budget that desired staffing levels and programming requests cannot be met without private funding.

We remain dependent on the generosity of our wonderful donors and thank all of you for your contributions. CEF would be honored for you to renew or join our list of 2022-2023 Annual Fund of Supporters. Remember, a gift of any size is greatly appreciated and tax-deductible. To donate to the Annual Fund, mail the attached slip with a check made out to Chatham Education Foundation or visit us at [www.chathamedfoundation.org](http://www.chathamedfoundation.org).

On behalf of the Chatham Education Foundation Board of Trustees, thank you for your invaluable support and for ALL that you do to help students reach higher!

Gratefully,

Chatham Education Foundation Board of Trustees

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Chatham Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded to enhance public education through parent and community donations. All donations are tax deductible as permitted by the U. S. tax code. Tax ID # 22-3285022	

## Donations July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Thank you to all of Chatham Education Foundation supporters, whose generous contributions help ALL students enrolled in our district's six public schools

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