



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

WINTER 2020

HELPING STUDENTS SOAR!



STUDENT ONLINE & ACADEMIC RESOURCES
MEET SUPERINTENDENT MALDONADO
TEACHER GRANTS

WHAT DO STUDENTS NEED TO SOAR THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

Distance learning has exposed the prominent role that our public schools play in our community. Families depend on schools to care for their children during the day, provide healthy meals, and even provide mental health services. The role of public schools is especially important to our community's most vulnerable families.



Simple items like noise-reducing headphones help students who live in noisy environments to concentrate.

To help support students during this uncertain time, SB Unified and SBEF have joined efforts to create the Student Online & Academic Resource (SOAR) campaign to enlist the community's help to address these critical needs. So what do our students need to succeed during this most unusual school year?

DIGITAL ACCESS

Having access to the internet is a critical tool for student learning. And this is especially true when students rely on a consistent internet connection to access their classes and materials. In a survey last spring, there were an estimated

1,000 student households without internet access. So how does the District address the lack of student access to tech? Low cost wireless hotspots and tech support keeps students connected to their teachers and classmates.

ESSENTIAL LEARNING TOOLS

For students who live in crowded and noisy environments, simple items like noise-reducing headphones help them concentrate. Additionally, students need supplies to supplement lessons with hands-on activities at home in subjects like art, music, and physical education.



These music kits will allow McKinley Elementary School students to continue their musical education with hands-on activities.

FOOD ACCESS

With 47% of SB Unified students receiving free or reduced lunch, we know that many families are susceptible to food insecurity in the best of times. Last school year after schools shifted to distance learning in March, SB Unified served almost 500,000 meals to students in need. Many students need continued support to ensure that they have food security so they can continue to focus on learning rather than the source of their next meal.

For more information on how you can help students this school year, visit sbfoundation.org/student-online-and-academic-resources.

SBEF GIVES \$24,000 TO SB UNIFIED MUSIC TEACHERS

The Santa Barbara Education Foundation awarded SB Unified music teachers with \$24,000 to purchase necessary instruments and materials for the this school year.



Washington Elementary Music Teacher Cynthia Vong accepts a check on behalf of Santa Barbara Unified School District music teachers.

This year, SB Unified music teachers are adapting more than just their lesson plans to teach students music from home. According to McKinley Elementary Music Teacher, Karen Dutton, "These funds will enable me to purchase items to make each McKinley Bear a Take Home Music Kit." Each kit will contain simple instruments that students will be able to use to create notes and beat patterns. Older students will also receive instruments like a recorder or drumsticks to learn rhythm through bucket drumming. These instruments will allow students to take a break from the ever-present digital learning space and continue their musical education with hands-on activities.

ON BOARD WITH SBEF

Get to know the newest members of SBEF's Board of Directors.



Isis Castañeda

A graduate of Santa Barbara High School, Castañeda earned a B.A. from Antioch University and is certified in Emotional Intelligence, Restorative Justice, Team Building Experiential Education, and an Instructor for Youth Mental Health First Aid. In 2018, she started Creating Connections to facilitate teen and parent groups, community outreach, public speaking, and organizing events. Castañeda is currently the staff advisor for the Santa Barbara Youth Council and the project coordinator for the Isla Vista Coalition for Healthy Communities.



Eder Gaona-Macedo

Born in Guerrero, Mexico, Gaona-Macedo migrated to the United States at the age of four and settled in Santa Barbara. He went on to study at UCLA where he earned a degree in Political Science and Chicano/a Studies. He continued his studies at Columbia University, graduating with a Masters of Public Administration. In 2014, Gaona-Macedo stepped into the role of Executive Director of Future Leaders of America. He is also the co-founder of the 805UndocuFund, a project aimed at providing financial support to undocumented families due to natural disasters and pandemics.

MEET SB UNIFIED SUPERINTENDENT HILDA MALDONADO

Starting a new position as superintendent is a difficult task, even for a seasoned educator. And it's especially challenging when also faced with an unprecedented school year that began with distance learning and the looming question of when and how to reopen schools. But SB Unified's new superintendent, Hilda Maldonado has taken off running since day one.



SB Unified Superintendent
Hilda Maldonado

Maldonado started her career in education 32 years ago in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) as a bilingual teacher and rose to the role of Associate Superintendent. Maldonado came to the U.S. from Mexico as an 11-year-old and credits her positive experience as an English learner as her motivation to become a bilingual teacher.

Maldonado's leadership career in LAUSD included a wide variety of roles including Senior Executive Director of Diversity, Learning, and Instruction, Executive Director of



Superintendent Maldonado and Dos Pueblos High School Principal Bill Woodard discuss the re-opening of the campus up to small cohorts of students.

the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, and Director of Schools. She has also worked as a bilingual coordinator, an assistant principal and a principal at two schools – both of which experienced growth in academics, safety and school culture under her leadership. During her tenure, LAUSD expanded dual-language programs, increased Seal of Biliteracy student awards, and improved results for English Learners.

Maldonado earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's Degree from California State University Los Angeles. A lifelong learner, Maldonado was awarded the Stanton Fellowship Award by the Durfee Foundation. She is currently completing her doctorate at Loyola Marymount University in Social Justice Leadership.

We look forward to working with Superintendent Maldonado in the coming years!

TEACHER GRANTS RISES TO MEET NEW NEEDS

Despite school closures, our teachers have risen above and beyond our expectations to adapt to a world that is quickly changing. They have creatively shifted how they teach to continue supporting our students and community in a time of uncertainty.



Grant recipients from San Marcos High School at last year's Teach Grants Awards Ceremony.

Every year, SBEF offers grants to SB Unified teachers for everything from basic classroom supplies and books to high tech gear to introduce new and innovative curriculum to continue inspiring the next generation of Santa Barbarans.

Last year, SBEF funded grant projects ranged from classroom essentials like books and flexible seating to more out-of-the box projects like solar car kits and a printing press. In total, SBEF awarded \$84,982 in funds to 56 SB Unified teachers.

Since we have introduced Teacher Grants, we receive about twice as many requests as available funding each year.

And now, the needs of our teachers will be much greater with the radical transformation of our schools. Even when students return to the classroom, teachers will be unable to rely on a classroom set of supplies for students to share. Students will need their own set of materials to use for activities in the classroom.

This summer, SBEF launched a Teacher Grants fundraising campaign to help accommodate the increased needs of SB Unified teachers for this school year. With generous donations from many individuals in our community, SBEF has over \$125,000 available for this year's round of Teacher Grants.



La Colina Junior High teacher Tracy Womack with an Airblock drone she uses to teach coding that was purchased through a Teacher Grant.

TEACHER GRANTS AT A GLANCE:

- Each year, SBEF receives twice as many grant requests as there is funding.
- Over the last two years SBEF has awarded \$165,000 in grants to SB Unified teachers.
- Grants awarded from the last round of funding impacted 12,485 students during the 2019-20 school year.
- This year, SBEF is planning to award \$125,000 in Teacher Grants.

SBEF'S IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

OUR STUDENTS

A SNAPSHOT OF SB UNIFIED STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



1 OUT OF 2

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER

SB Unified students is an English language learner.



2 OUT OF 3

SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

Includes students from households that are low income, neither parent has a high school diploma, foster youth, or are considered homeless.



1 OUT OF 7

HOMELESS

SB Unified students is homeless or living in a distressed housing situation. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

FUNDRAISING



\$1,837,082

FUNDS RAISED DURING THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR.



\$211,881

FUNDS RAISED THIS SCHOOL YEAR FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC & ONLINE RESOURCES.

TEACHER GRANTS



\$165,000

TOTAL AWARDED TO SB UNIFIED TEACHERS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

MUSIC



60+

INSTRUMENTS PLACED IN THE HANDS OF SB UNIFIED STUDENTS.

WHERE DO THE FUNDS GO?



9%
Music & Arts



4%
Early Childhood
Education



12.5%
Mental Health



16.9%
Literacy



57.6%
Academic Support

LITERACY

Santa Barbara Unified School District has identified literacy as one of its top three priorities. Each year students enter Santa Barbara classrooms who are dyslexic or have extremely low reading proficiency. We are committed to helping SBUSD expand this critical intervention to serve more struggling readers in our local elementary schools.



1 IN 5

ONE IN FIVE ARE AFFECTED BY DYSLEXIA.

90%
REMEDATION

According to the California Department of Education, 90% of cases of students displaying characteristics of dyslexia can be remediated with early intervention.

25%
COST OF INTERVENTION

It costs four times as much to deliver interventions to remediate after the third grade.



12,485

STUDENTS IMPACTED BY GRANTS DURING THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR.



\$125,000

FUNDING TO BE GIVEN TO SB UNIFIED TEACHERS DURING THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR.



\$24,000

AMOUNT GIVEN TO SB UNIFIED MUSIC TEACHERS FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR.



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