



SANTA BARBARA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Education Matters

SPRING 2023

GIVING BACK TO TEACHERS



Dos Pueblos High School students use a sound mixer purchased with a Teacher Grant.

TEACHER GRANTS
INSTRUMENT DRIVE
LOVE OF LITERACY

SBEF AWARDS \$100,000 TO SB UNIFIED TEACHERS

The Santa Barbara Education Foundation will award 71 grants to SB Unified teachers totaling \$100,000 to help meet the needs of their students.

Since 2018, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation has offered SB Unified teachers grants between \$250 to \$5,000 to promote innovative teaching and purchase classroom supplies.

With this grant cycle completed, SBEF has awarded over \$475,000 to teachers over the past five years.

This year's grants will help purchase a wide variety of items, including Spanish language books, field hockey equipment, printmaking supplies, a field trip to the La Purisima Mission, and a music recording studio.

For some teachers, it's an opportunity to bring tech into the classroom with subject-specific funding like the Gretler Foundation STEM Grant. This year the grant will fund an LED Light Project for 6th graders at Adams Elementary and robots for a coding project at McKinley Elementary School's STEAM lab.



Franklin Elementary School students perform Folklorico dance in costumes purchased with a Teacher Grant.

For Diana Hemsley, an art teacher at Goleta Valley Junior High School, the grant will fund a project to teach students that their ideas have a place on their campuses and community. ” This grant will provide the funding necessary to purchase the materials and supplies needed to complete a mural for the school. The mural will be designed, painted, and installed by students. This project was designed to involve all students in beautifying and creating pride and spirit in their school and contributing to their community.”

Although there is much to celebrate for the Santa Barbara Education Foundation with another round of funding completed, there are hopes to grow the program to address growing needs in local classrooms.

According to SBEF Programs Manager Katie Szopa, “This year, we saw an overwhelming amount of well-deserved grant applications totaling over \$330,000 in requests. With only \$100,000 to distribute this year, my hope is to fundraise significantly more next year to fund as many of these teacher grant requests as possible.”



Teachers receive recognition for Teacher Grants awarded for classroom materials and innovative teaching.

99.9 KTYD CONTINUES TO KEEP THE BEAT FOR STUDENTS

Last month, 99.9 KTYD teamed up with the Santa Barbara Education Foundation to promote music education in our schools with the Keep the Beat Instrument Drive.

The live on-air event, which appealed to the community for donations of used instruments and funds for Santa Barbara Unified music programs, yielded over 60 musical instruments and over \$10,000 in support.



Santa Barbara Junior High students warm up to play live in the 99.9 KTYD studios.

When asked about the number and quality of instruments donated, 99.9 KTYD Morning Mojo host Lin Aubuchon remarked, "Every day, we are astounded by the generosity of our community. Thank you, KTYD Tribe!"

The month-long radio event featured interviews and performances by current Santa Barbara Unified music students, teachers, and professional musicians who found their love of music in public school music programs. In interviews with local

professional musicians like Glen Phillips, Madalena Fossatti, and Bucket Baker, the message was clear that music education elevates student learning opportunities and outcomes.

"The instrument fund has put instruments in kids' hands and given them an infinite gift, a purpose, a superpower, a reason and excuse to show up to school, and life," according to Monroe Elementary School Music Teacher Liz Caruso. "Instruments provide support and gateways for students to find their voice and navigate their way throughout their formative school years. You never know how music and specifically interpreting the world through an instrument will impact a child's life."

And parents agree. Laila DiGuilio's daughter Lucca is a 6th grade Monroe Elementary School student who performed live at the 99.9 KTYD studios during the Instrument Drive. From DiGuilio's perspective, "Allowing our children the opportunity to explore instruments with their own hands, and to choose instruments they get to take home for practice, is a priceless gift. Bringing home an instrument inspires their creativity and confidence and expands their view of themselves and their world."

Special thanks to the Johnson Ohana Foundation, Pacific Premier Bank, Maho Prentice Attorneys at Law, David Edelman Consulting, The Anchor Rose, and Nick Rail Music for supporting the Keep the Beat Instrument Drive.



Monroe Elementary student Lucca DiGuilio sings and plays live on 99.9 KTYD.

SBEF RAISES OVER \$30,000 FOR STUDENT LITERACY

On Thursday, September 29, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation hosted the Love of Literacy Luncheon to highlight the need for support for students struggling with reading in the Santa Barbara Unified School District.



**Santa Barbara High School student
Eva Zackrison**

The outdoor lunch in Elings Park's Godric Grove raised over \$30,000 in funds to train Santa Barbara Unified teachers in methods to identify and more effectively teach students who are struggling with reading, emergent multilingual learners, and students with disabilities, including those displaying characteristics of dyslexia.

Santa Barbara Unified School Board member Wendy Sims-Moten served as the event's emcee, which featured speakers who highlighted literacy efforts in our local classrooms and shared their personal literacy journeys.

Santa Barbara County Supervisor Gregg Hart shared his perspective on the importance of literacy as a son of an elementary school teacher and a librarian. Acknowledging that not all students have the same opportunities, he emphasized, "We need to have a system that embraces everybody and their learning needs."

Superintendent Dr. Hilda Maldonado compared the District's approach to staff development in literacy to giving teachers options or road maps to help students reach the ultimate goal of meeting standards. "We want teachers that understand that they are all teachers of academic language and literacy and that they continue to affirm the unique gifts every student brings to school while building their capacity to become a more proficient reader," said Maldonado.

The program reached an emotional high point when Santa Barbara High School student Eva Zackrison shared her story of making gains in her reading skills under the challenging circumstances of remote learning and a post-covid return to the classroom. Zackrison proudly proclaimed, "I feel more comfortable and confident with my words per minute going up. I started 7th grade with 30 words per minute and ended 10th grade with 140 words. Thank you, Santa Barbara Unified School District, for making this possible!" Guests in attendance stood up and applauded Zackrison for the progress made due to her hard work and dedication.

To support literacy for all Santa Barbara Unified students, the Santa Barbara Education Foundation is committed to continuing to fundraise for this important professional development project. SBEF wishes to thank Love of Literacy Luncheon sponsors, including Pillar Sponsor: Montecito Bank & Trust; Ambassador Sponsors: Chevron, Jersey Mike's, McGillivray Construction, and Tisha Ford; Champion Sponsors: 19six Architects, Arroyo Seco Construction, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, Cottage Health, First 5 Santa Barbara County, KBZ Architects, Lazy Acres, Montecito Journal, Mosher Foundation, and Santa Barbara City College Foundation, with additional support provided by San Marcos High School Culinary Arts Program.

ON BOARD WITH SBEF

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



NINA DUNBAR

The Santa Barbara Education Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of Nina Dunbar to serve as Donor Advisement Officer.

Dunbar brings with her decades of experience in both the nonprofit sector and arts administration and advocacy.

She most recently served as Opera Santa Barbara's first Director of Development, where she successfully led the organization's philanthropic efforts through one of the most disruptive periods in the history of performing arts. She also served as Deputy Director of Development for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and was the Executive Director of The Arts Fund of Santa Barbara.

As a parent of two Santa Barbara Unified School District graduates, Dunbar believes in the power of quality public schools to transform the outcomes of children's lives. She shared, "As I look at the trajectory of my own children and their friends into the workforce, I continue to see the powerful influence of key teachers and programs on where they are today."



KAREN DUTTON

Santa Barbara Education Foundation recently elected Karen Dutton to its Board of Directors as Santa Barbara Unified School District teacher representative.

An alumnus of the University of California Los Angeles, Dutton earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, a Master's in Education, and a teaching credential in Music.

Dutton has taught music in the Santa Barbara Unified School District for 34 years. She was instrumental in developing the current K through 6th grade music program offered at all Santa Barbara Unified elementary schools and is co-founder of the District's BRAVO! program, which provides comprehensive instrumental music instruction after-school for students in grades 4th through 6th. She currently teaches music at Adams Elementary School, providing general and instrumental music instruction. She also serves as the Wind, Brass, and Percussion Coach for the Santa Barbara Youth Symphony's Camerata and Philharmonia groups and as the flute instructor for the Nick Rail Summer Band Camp. When she is not teaching, she plays with the Santa Barbara City College Flute Quartet.

As a product of public schools, Dutton believes in what it can do for students. "Public education ensures that every child has access to education, regardless of their economic or social background, and helps to create a more equitable and just society. By supporting public education, we are investing in the future of our communities and society."



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2023 HOPE AWARDS

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

5:30-8 P.M.

Santa Barbara Historical Museum

HONORING

Monique Limón & Abe Jahadmy

The event will highlight the impact of teachers in our community, with proceeds from the paddle raise supporting our popular Teacher Grants program.



Tickets and details available at
sbefoundation.org/hope-awards

SAVE THE DATE



State of Our Schools

with SB Unified Superintendent
Dr. Hilda Maldonado

Thursday, May 25, 2023
Carrillo Recreation Center

Santa Barbara Education Foundation will host a presentation by Superintendent Dr. Hilda Maldonado of the Santa Barbara Unified School District on today's local education issues. This event is a unique opportunity for community members and supporters to learn about the state of our public schools.



Event details available at
sbefoundation.org/state-of-our-schools-tickets



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FOR THE
HOPEAWARDS
ON MAY 4!**