



Dear Morningside Parents and Donors,

Thank you! Due to our donors' generosity, the Morningside Elementary Foundation had an exceptional year of fundraising and investment in our school. Your contributions have directly benefited our teachers and students, and we are grateful for your support.

In Fall 2022, more than 200 families donated to our annual appeal and donations have continued at a slower pace throughout this school year. With administration's guidance, we deployed the funds in a variety of high impact ways:

First, we continued reoccurring purchases of online curricula, such as iXL and other cross-grade math, reading, and science materials. The foundation's spending on these curricula helps teachers teach in standardized and efficient ways, while freeing up school budget funds for personnel investments.

Second, we overhauled the audio/video equipment in the auditorium. Sorely outdated and broken, the sound system, lighting, technical interfaces, screens, and other components of staging were fully modernized and then shown off during our talent shows and spring concerts. This technology will stay at the "Inman" property, and the new Virginia Highland Elementary School can enjoy them for years to come.

As further support for the new elementary school, MESF committed seed money to the VHE PTO for several nascent curricula purchases. We are pleased to contribute to a firm foundation for this new neighborhood school in recognition of our many families and donors who will be staying at the property.

Finally, we invested in building enhancements at East Rock Springs, to make this campus feel like home! In addition to the outstanding outdoor amphitheater, we collaborated with the PTA on last year, the highlight of MESF's recent investments in East Rock Springs is the 40 linear feet of climbing wall in the gym, which we are sure all the students will enjoy.

Spending was rounded out with investments in 1) teacher training, which is back in force after pandemic limitations; 2) materials to keep our STEAM labs up and running; and 3) smaller technology purchases to update or replace necessary equipment that APS cannot fund.

After years of uncertainty borne from remote learning and school changes, the 22-23 school year is ending with feelings of greater normalcy and a return to familiar traditions and routines. We thank you for your continued support of the Foundation as we navigated uncertainty; your financial investments helped our school survive and thrive during these strange times. MESF looks forward to all we can accomplish going forward!

Please reach out to a current foundation board member if you have questions or if the work of the Foundation interests you. On behalf of the entire MES Foundation Board of Trustees, we thank you for your generous donations to the MES Foundation and your commitment to our school. Happy summer!

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristen D. Holtz".

Kristen D. Holtz, PhD

MESF outgoing president