

MAJOR GIFTS AND ENDOWMENT NEWSLETTER

A Community Report of the San Ramon Valley

Education Foundation Endowment

FALL 2024

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A message from our President

On behalf of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation Board of Directors, Staff, and the Major Gifts and Endowment Fund Committee, we are thrilled to share updates on the impactful work we are doing together.

We deeply appreciate your generous contributions to the Major Gifts and Endowment Fund and SRVEF. These donations are vital to sustaining the excellence of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, consistently ranked among the top-performing districts in California.

Our Endowment Committee works closely with San Ramon Valley Unified School District staff to identify and address areas in need of additional funding. By awarding grants that align with our vision, we aim to establish a stable, local funding source that supports long-term and innovative educational programs to enrich the curriculum.

Thank you for your continued partnership and generosity. Together, we are making a lasting difference for our students and schools.

Gary Alpert, President San Ramon Valley Education Foundation

A message from our SRVUSD Superintendent

As we inch closer to the halfway point of my first year as SRVUSD Superintendent, it seems a fitting time to take stock of the vision for this district, the challenges we have and will face in the future, and the successes we've achieved together.

When I stepped into this role on July 1st, I felt enormous gratitude for the opportunity to lead this district that I care so deeply about. Our staff and students are second to none, and our community is as supportive and generous as it gets. It is only with the support of people like you - the people who make up the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation's Major Gifts and Endowment Fund - that we can achieve the academic excellence we are known to provide for our students.

I had the good fortune to meet many of you at the Gratitude Reception in September. You may have heard me say that when I need a mental boost and a reminder of why our work matters - I visit classrooms. I have just completed some additional school visits and have now made a visit to each and every one of our SRVUSD schools. Feeling the energy of the students and seeing the great work of our staff fuels my commitment to serve. In Kenya, the Maasai Warriors – some of the fiercest and most intelligent fighters in history – greet each other not by saying, "How are you?" but instead they ask, "How are the children?" The proper answer is "All the children are well." As I reflect on my role as Superintendent, this exchange summarizes my hope and goal for SRVUSD. If, at the end of the day, we can say "All the children are well", we will have done our job. I will continue my leadership with a dedication and focus to ensure all of our children are well.

On behalf of the entire district, I want to express our gratitude for your partnership. We have budget challenges ahead, but I know that as long as our work is driven by clear goals and priorities, with your help we can accomplish much to ensure continued success. I hope to see all of you at the Major Gifts and Endowment Fund's Celebrate Innovation in Education luncheon in February.

In closing, as we head into the holiday season I wish you and your loved ones joy, peace, and time to connect with one another. Thank you for all you do to support our students, staff, and community.

CJ Cammack SRVUSD Superintendent

2024-2025 PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE ENDOWMENT



Freshman Interdisciplinary Cohort



"An interdisciplinary approach to education fosters innovation and creativity by blending ideas and methodologies from diverse fields, equipping students to address the multifaceted challenges of the modern world."

- Jacqueline McGlade, "The Future We Want: Education for Sustainable Development." UNESCO

Dougherty Valley High School is transforming education through an innovative interdisciplinary teaching model that connects academic learning to pressing global challenges. This pilot program fosters essential skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, leadership, and critical thinking by integrating subjects into cohesive, real-world projects. Students engage in meaningful learning experiences that emphasize the connections between disciplines and prepare them for future success in college, careers, and beyond.

Central to the program is its use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for learning. In the fall semester, students focus on UN SDG #3: Good Health and Well-Being, exploring ways to improve health outcomes and address inequities in public health. In the spring semester, the program shifts to UN SDG #13: Climate Action. These themes provide students with a relevant, purposeful context for their studies while encouraging them to think critically about local, national, and global issues.

This program is supported by ongoing professional development for participating educators, which focuses on team building, individual growth, and enhancing teaching practices. Teachers also receive guidance in designing interdisciplinary projects that challenge students to think critically and creatively, mirroring the complexities of the world they will enter after high school.

This pilot program serves as a foundation for future growth, with plans to expand its reach to more schools and students. Early results show promise, with students expressing a stronger sense of engagement and purpose in their studies and teachers embracing innovative practices that deepen learning across content areas.

Dougherty Valley High School's program exemplifies how education can be reimagined and prepare students to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the world. With the support of the SRVEF Major Cifts and Endowment Fund, this initiative is poised to make a lasting impact, inspiring a new generation of thoughtful and informed scholars and leaders.

Visual and Performing Arts

Funding for the Arts in California public education remains a persistent challenge. SRVEF and the Endowment Fund are proud to once again provide funding to supplement State funding for TK-12 Arts Education in SRVUSD. This initiative provides funding for professional development opportunities for SRVUSD educators, specifically in the areas of culturally relevant and responsive music instruction. Specifically, it funds opportunities for staff collaboration and professional development that prioritize inclusive teaching practices, ensuring that arts education reflects and celebrates the diversity of our students and community.

Esports

After a successful launch last year, Esports will continue in 2024-2025. This program goes beyond gaming, offering students organized, competitive environments while creating an opportunity where students can enhance their problem solving and team building skills. Esports is a highly competitive structured program, regulated by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), attracting a diverse group of students.

Generation Citizen

Generation Citizen provides high school and middle school educators with curriculum, training, and support for teaching real-world civics. Students select and work on real issues, gaining valuable experiences in what it takes to effect change. This program, brought to SRVUSD by the Endowment Committee, is now in its 5th year and is now at two high schools and two middle schools. Last year, students proudly showcased their impactful projects during the Generation Citizen Civics Day. Witnessing their passion, creativity, and commitment to solving real-world problems was both inspiring and a testament to the potential of our future leaders.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2023-2024 DONORS TO THE MAJOR GIFTS AND ENDOWMENT FUND



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Annual Celebrate Innovation in Education Thank You to our 2024 Sponsors



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Run for Education

Registration is open for the 42nd Run for Education on Sunday, October 12, 2025. Walk, run, roll, or stroll at your own pace while having fun together as a community in support of our schools: srvef.org/the-run.



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2024 Celebrate Innovation in Education

The San Ramon Valley Education Foundation Major Gifts and Endowment Fund held its Celebrate Innovation in Education lunch on February 7, 2024 at Bay Club Crow Canyon. Attendees were treated to a performance by the San Ramon Valley High School Jazz Ensemble, an inspiring State of the District talk, and updates on initiatives funded by the Endowment Fund - including Generation Citizen, Culturally Relevant Music and Instruction, Esports, and Professional Learning. We are thankful for all of you who joined us and for your financial support of the Endowment Fund.

We would like you to save the date to join us at our **2025 Celebrate Innovation in Education lunch on February 12, 2025,** from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Diablo Country Club.
Thank you for being so supportive of our mission!







