



WELCOME!

Saratoga Education Foundation sends a warm welcome to all our families!

Though not the only reason, one of the reasons that you probably chose Saratoga was because of the excellent public school system – both Argonaut Elementary and Redwood Middle were named National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2018!¹ In addition to its excellent schools, Saratoga has been ranked as a “Best Place to Live²” and “Safest Place to Live³”.

In order to maintain our excellent schools, the Saratoga Education Foundation (SEF) helps the Saratoga Union School (SUSD) bridge the gap in funding so that SUSD can maintain the curriculum offered to students year after year. To do this, we need your help! SEF is a 100% volunteer run organization.

As such, your donations and volunteering play a very important role in our shared vision for our schools!

Please consider helping today to keep valuable subjects and programs such as art, music, PE, libraries, science and technology in the classrooms. These programs benefit each student in our district every day.

[DONATE NOW!](#)

¹ <https://www.saratogausd.org/cms/lib/CA01902749/Centricity/DoMain/4/2018%20Blue%20Ribbon%20Schools%20Announcement.pdf>

² <https://www.homesnacks.net/best-places-to-live-in-california-121976/>

³ <https://backgroundchecks.org/50-safest-cities-in-california-2016.html>

BRIDGING THE FUNDING GAP

California public school districts receive funding from a variety of local, state, and federal sources. Some of the funds are earmarked for specific groups of students, including students from low-income families, English language learners, and students with disabilities. The rest of the funds are for general purposes.⁴

The Saratoga Union School District (SUSD) is a Basic Aid district which means that it receives funds from local property taxes, along with State, Federal and other Local resources (e.g. parcel taxes)¹. That does not mean that SUSD receives funds from your property taxes. Your property taxes are paid to Santa Clara County and then the County disburses the funds.

SUSD must use the funds that it receives from the State of California to pay for, among other things, teacher salaries, building repairs, new equipment, equipment maintenance, etc. Further, the District must prioritize the funds it receives for certain programs. As a result of having limited funds, the District does not have sufficient funds to pay for all of the programs that it would otherwise like to provide.



In the past, the programs that SUSD was unable to fund included STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) and Physical Education. Historically, SEF has provided SUSD \$800,000 - \$1,200,000.00 in funds to bridge this gap. We can reach this goal with your help! We are requesting a donation of \$1,000.00 per child, however, any amount you provide is appreciated and tax deductible! Also, don't forget your corporate matching!

⁴ <https://www.saratogausd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=519>

OUR MISSION:

TO MAINTAIN EXCELLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Saratoga Education Foundation (SEF) was formed by a group of concerned parents over thirty years ago when state funding for education dropped significantly and was no longer adequate to provide and maintain the high-quality classes and programs that the community had come to expect.

Since its formation, SEF has continued to bridge the gap between public funds (funds received from the government, from property taxes, school bonds, etc.) and the funds needed to maintain the education level that, for many of us, is the reason we moved to Saratoga. Other top performing school districts in California also follow this model to achieve excellence in education.

The funds raised by SEF benefit all children in the Saratoga Union School District from TK – 8th grade at Argonaut Elementary, Foothill Elementary, Saratoga Elementary and Redwood Middle schools.



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We believe....in the power of the community. Together we can raise the bar for our children's education. You too can be an invaluable part of your child's future by donating or volunteering today. SEF is run exclusively by parent volunteers.

For more information visit our new website at <https://sef-ca.org/>

Corporate matching information available at <https://sef-ca.org/matching/>

SEF Volunteer Opportunities at <https://sef-ca.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

For detailed information on programs supported by SEF funds please visit www.saratogausd.org/sef

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All donations are tax deductible!

[DONATE NOW!](#)

