



## Year in Review – Calendar Year 2020

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Like most charitable organizations, Smyrna Education Foundation (SEF) began 2020 with a full slate of planned activities. Board and Advisory Council members spent the first two months **visiting schools** that received 2019 grants and hosted the **Annual Principals Reception** in early March. Before a plan to celebrate **SEF's 10<sup>th</sup> Year in Service** could be developed, we pivoted to identifying ways to support school leaders suddenly faced with an unprecedented shift to distance learning.

In a year that brought so many challenges, SEF also experienced unexpected support. **A new funding partner** helped offset decreased funding from other long-time supporters, which – combined with reserve funding – allowed for our grant program to continue uninterrupted.

Our current and past donors provided SEF with the opportunity to provide **an additional round of grants** to Smyrna schools that applied for funding. A total of \$9,000 was distributed in 2020. To date, since January 2011, SEF has awarded approximately \$85,000 to Smyrna schools and has helped schools secure more than \$55,000 in additional grants and supplies.

After working directly with leaders at each of the 12 SEF schools to **assess their needs in March**, SEF approved \$5,000 of funding in April for Principals to use to address student food or basic living needs that were created by the pandemic and related family hardships.

To make the **Fall School Grant program** as accessible as possible, SEF offered \$800 grants to each school, available on a rolling submission basis through March 31, 2021 and streamlined the submission process. To date, initiatives and items supported by the Fall 2020 grant period included:

- Outdoor classrooms
- Safety precaution supplies
- 2nd grade math manipulatives
- Learning commons upgrades
- School-wide math manipulatives

It should also be noted that **the City of Smyrna was a key educational partner in 2020**. At every turn, City leadership identified ways to support Smyrna students and the community at large and implemented programs that reached those most in need. The Smyrna Education Foundation Board and Advisory Council are honored to work with the City and appreciate such heartfelt support of our educational community.

While SEF Board members were not able to engage with schools or the wider community in the traditional ways in 2020, we continued to strengthen our organizational capacity and spread awareness of educational needs. We look forward to continuing our work throughout 2021, in whatever way is necessary.

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The Smyrna Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 2010. Our mission is to promote public elementary and secondary education in Smyrna, Georgia, for attainment of higher academic achievement and for improved perception of public education through advocacy, education, research, sponsorship, service, and support. Board members receive no compensation for their service and provide financial resources, volunteer time, and strategic advice to further the SEF mission.

*For additional information, please visit our website, [SmyrnaEducationFoundation.org](http://SmyrnaEducationFoundation.org)*