



Board of Education
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**Summit
Public
Schools**

Nathan N. Parker, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

November 25, 2014

Dear Parents, Staff and Community,

One of the strengths of the Summit Public Schools is the strong support we receive from parents, staff and the community. We are lucky to have engaged parents, active PTO/PTA groups and the fundraising power of the Summit Educational Foundation (SEF).

Earlier this month, the SEF sponsored Partners' Night, where over 160 people attended. At the event, SEF President, Ms. Julie Kimmel, reported that the Foundation has funded over \$540,000 in grants during the 2013-2014 school year. In December, the SEF will announce the Fall 2014 grants.

During Partners' Night, I highlighted some key initiatives, which I am proud to have been part of during my nearly seven years as Superintendent of Schools. One in particular was the creation and promotion of the SEF endowment during my first year as Superintendent. The endowment is now over \$4 million and supports some of the higher priced initiatives within our schools.

At our elementary schools, nothing has been more impactful than the SEF's support of the Teachers' College Reading and Writing Project, now implemented at all the schools. In addition, the SEF has supported the Literacy Coach and Instructional Facilitator positions at the elementary level.

At LCJSMS, both the sixth grade iPad initiative and the innovative desks and classroom furniture have changed the way students collaborate, learn and process information.

At Summit High School, the creation of the TV studio and support for the media program have helped our students become creators of visual media. The SEF's support of forensics offered students the opportunity to publicly express themselves with poise and confidence. The funding of the College Specialist position helped to redefine the college counseling process and has enhanced successful college acceptances.

Lastly, I'd like to mention the SEF's continuous support for science research, one of my favorite initiatives. From offering Science Research during zero period to the new Science Liaison position, the SEF has always supported our students' future in science and for that, I am very grateful.

Should you wish to make a contribution to the SEF, please visit the SEF website at sefnj.org or contact Ms. Julie Kimmel at juliekimmel@aol.com.

I wish each of you the best as you gather with friends and family on Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Nathan Parker

Dr. Nathan N. Parker, Superintendent of Schools