

Google.org Awards \$100,000 to MVEF for Local Impact and Equitable Education

Google.org, Google's philanthropic arm, has awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Mountain View Education Foundation (MVEF) to support science enrichment programs for TK-8 students in the Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD). This generous grant will help MVEF continue delivering hands-on, experiential programs that enhance the district's inquiry-based science curriculum.

MVEF, the primary non-public funding source for MVWSD's eleven TK-8 schools, plays a crucial role in ensuring students receive high-quality educational experiences. Sraddha Shukla, Board Chair of MVEF, expressed gratitude on behalf of the organization, stating, *"We are grateful for this generous grant from Google.org, which will greatly enhance student learning in the Mountain View Whisman School District. With this grant, along with the ongoing support from our MVEF donors, we can ensure that every student in our diverse district has access to innovative educational programs."*

By supporting MVEF, Google.org is making a meaningful impact in one of the most socioeconomically diverse districts in Santa Clara County, where approximately 31% of the 4,575 K-8 students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

"We are thrilled to support the Mountain View Educational Foundation's work to provide critical resources and opportunities for our students and teachers in the Mountain View Whisman School District community," said Javier Gonzalez, Google's Head of Local Government Affairs and Public Policy for California. "At Google, we understand that thriving communities are built on a foundation of strong educational systems. We are committed to being good corporate neighbors and investing in programs that make a difference in the lives of our students, teachers, and the broader community."

The grant will continue funding two key environmental science programs: *Living Classroom* and *Environmental Volunteers*. Both align with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and give students the opportunity to learn through hands-on experiences in outdoor settings.

Living Classroom provides TK-6th graders with hands-on, garden-based science lessons that reinforce classroom learning in science, math, social studies, and nutrition. Students engage in activities like preparing soil, planting, and harvesting, bringing core concepts to life.

For 4th and 5th graders, *Environmental Volunteers* offers field trips and lessons on topics such as power generation, geology, and marine ecology, fostering understanding and responsibility for human impact on the environment through experiential education.

Opportunities to learn outdoors are key to inspiring students as environmental stewards while building their knowledge and skills.

Philanthropic support like this grant from Google.org allows MVEF to expand its educational programs and staff. As a community-funded school district, MVWSD relies on local contributions to maintain and grow its services. *“We are thankful for Google.org’s continued commitment to improving education in Mountain View,”* said MVWSD Interim Superintendent Dr. Kevin Skelly. *“MVEF’s partnership is vital in helping us meet our strategic goals and serve all students equitably.”*

MVEF works closely with MVWSD and seeks community input to provide additional funding for staff and programs that meet the district’s strategic goals.

About MVEF

Founded in 1984, MVEF is a nonprofit dedicated to bridging the gap between public funding and the cost of providing high-quality education in MVWSD. Its mission is to collaborate with the community to fund and nurture innovative and essential programs that foster a well-rounded education for all students in the district.

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, MVEF raised \$1.2 million. In addition to providing the experiential science programs described above, MVEF funds art and music instruction in TK-5; extracurricular clubs and athletics for grades 6-8; and reduces class sizes by funding additional middle school English teachers.