

LASF 101

- *Did you know that California ranks 46th on per student spending?*
- *Did you know that the Acalanes Union High School District and Lafayette School District are both coping with severe deficits?*
- *Did you know that LASF started 28 years ago in response to state funding cuts that endangered valued programs? Today, we face many of the same issues...*

LASF is YOUR education foundation, funding over \$1.1M of integral programs and services in your schools. Read LASF 101 to learn how LASF, in collaboration with the school districts and parents, is working to maintain excellence in Lafayette public schools.

The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation (LASF) is the education foundation of Lafayette. LASF collaborates with the Acalanes Union High School District and the Lafayette School District to provide direct funding of district programs and to deliver curriculum-based programs that enhance the breadth and scope of our schools while meeting the needs of our districts. A private, non-profit organization, LASF's mission is "To support and enrich the education of every child in the Lafayette public schools through a broad community-based effort."

- **Beneficiaries:** The 4,502 students of Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette and Springhill Elementary Schools; Stanley Middle School; and Acalanes High School.
- **Revenues:** Since our seed fund of \$6,000 in 1986, LASF revenues have increased to \$1.1M this year, 2008-09. Next year we are targeting \$1.5M.
- **Scope:** In 2008-09, LASF provided support in science, math, history, writing, foreign language, health, technology, art, music and drama.
- **Direct Funding:** As the school districts have struggled with state budget cuts, LASF has responded by providing substantially more direct funding, over \$800k in 2008-09.
- **Staffing:** LASF is a community volunteer organization run by over 100 parent volunteers, a small paid staff of 2.5 full-time employees, and 90 paid instructors.

2008–09 Income Sources

Parent Gifts 80%
Matching Gifts/ United Way 10%
Business and Community Gifts 4%
Other 6%

2008–09 Funding Areas

Performing Arts 27%
Science, Health & Math 26%
Visual Arts 15%
Social Studies & Humanities 16%
Technology 9%
Fundraising 7%

Increased Funding Scope

Initially rooted in the arts and sciences, our scope of funding encompasses a broad range of subjects supported by the school districts and parents alike. Through recent strategic planning efforts, *LASF has increased its scope further and created funding guidelines to ensure flexibility of funding choices while staying true to the foundation's mission.* To view the new LASF Funding Scope Guidelines, go to www.lasf.org/scope.pdf.

Our Focus on Enrichment

The LASF name is synonymous with enrichment. Our definition of enrichment is comprehensive; depending on the program or service, we may aim to increase the depth or breadth of subject matter or we may enhance learning effectiveness through hands-on activities or project-based work. LASF enrichment is delivered by passionate, expert instructors, many possessing advanced degrees and peer awards.

LASF Benefits: Elementary School

In our four elementary schools, LASF provides comprehensive classroom programs in science, art, music and social studies that enrich district curriculum. We also produce or support such ongoing events as art and science fairs and music festivals, and provide funding for district-run choral and instrumental music instruction and science labs.

LASF Benefits: Middle School

At Stanley Middle School, LASF delivers science, writing, social studies/art, foreign language and health education programs that supplement and enhance classroom curriculum. We also provide funding for district-run programs in choral and instrumental music instruction, art, drama and technology.

LASF Benefits: High School

At Acalanes High School, LASF funds and supports a wide range of academic disciplines and student services. Examples for this school year include Writing for Mastery, funding for key library research databases, ongoing support for the visual and performing arts, and classroom-integrated technology. With the Parents Club, we also respond to the Acalanes High School District's needs with a large financial contribution applied toward site support, including class-size reduction.

Technology and Other Behind-the-Scenes Support

In addition, LASF provides financial support for state of the art technology, supplies, teacher training and other behind-the-scenes activities. This support enhances teachers' ability to instruct effectively and students' ability to learn.