



Foundation Forum

August 2009

This is a monthly newsletter to keep you updated on projects and initiatives of the Pinellas Education Foundation. Please forward this to anyone you feel would be interested in learning more about the Pinellas Education Foundation.

Making Middle School Math Fun: Helios Education Foundation Funds Sunbay Digital Math Pilot Project in Pinellas County Schools

Pinellas Education Foundation was recently awarded a \$400,000 grant from the [Helios Education Foundation](#) in support of the Sunbay Digital Math Pilot Program. The one-year research project, led by [SRI International](#) in partnership with [USF St. Petersburg's](#) College of Education, will involve 15 seventh grade teachers in seven Pinellas County middle schools, who will implement a digital mathematics curriculum. Teachers, beginning this fall, will participate in intensive professional development, including workshops and monthly meetings focused on using technology-based curriculum to teach advanced math concepts. The pilot is based on a successful program conducted in Texas by SRI International. The project will set the direction of the future of middle school mathematics education for Pinellas County. The [Pinellas Education Foundation](#) will serve as the fiscal agent for funding of the project.



"This initiative will serve as a catalyst in redefining math education for our students," said Superintendent Julie Janssen. "We believe this exciting and interactive approach will better engage students and build their capacity to be effective problem solvers." The project will address the need for alignment and integration of curriculum materials, professional resources, and strategies that are known to work and will provide strategic recommendations for sustainable innovation in Pinellas County middle school mathematics education

The pilot project builds on SRI's decade of National Science Foundation-funded work developing curriculum that has been rigorously evaluated to show substantial gains in students' mathematics learning. Earlier SRI research has demonstrated success in educational programs that combine innovative mathematics curriculum with dynamic mathematics technology and teacher training. The first year of funding has been obtained and the project intends to seek additional support for future years. Click [here](#) to read the full press release from Pinellas County Schools, and recent article from the [St. Petersburg Times](#).

Decentralized Decision-Making Pilot Program Underway

The Pinellas Education Foundation is pleased to support Dr. Janssen's Decentralized Decision-Making Pilot Program, as part her comprehensive "Students First" initiative focused on increasing student achievement.

This fall, 18 principals will participate in the program, working closely with Rita Vasquez, Director of High School Education for the district, to create their own staffing models and make their own data-driven financial and operational decisions for their school. As part of the program, principals will receive specialized training from the district, and will be paired with business partners, who are volunteering their time to offer support and counsel to principals as they work to build a successful site based management entity. The first phase of the program is well underway, with an additional 23 schools ready to join the program later this year. If you are interested in volunteering to serve as a business partner, please contact the Pinellas Education Foundation at info@PinellasEducation.org. The Pinellas Education Foundation



Pinellas Education Foundation Receives Coveted Four Star Rating by Charity Navigator for Third Consecutive Year

The Pinellas Education Foundation recently received the coveted four star "exceptional" designation by Charity Navigator recognizing its sound fiscal management. Only 12% of charities rated by Charity Navigator have accomplished this feat. As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, the Pinellas Education Foundation is proud to be recognized by Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, for consistently executing its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforming other charities in America.



For more information, visit: <http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=10774>.



**PINELLAS
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

Changing Lives Through Learning

Join us for the 2009 Changing Lives Through Learning Luncheon

Please join us for an inspirational hour celebrating the accomplishments of the Pinellas Education Foundation and the students and educators we touch. This free one-hour luncheon is filled with moving testimonials from Pinellas County Schools' students, graduates and educators. This event is also a community fundraiser. If you are inspired to make a contribution, you will have an opportunity to do so at the end of the program. Most importantly, we want you to become more familiar with the Pinellas Education Foundation and our

life-changing initiatives.



This event takes place on Monday, October 12, 2009, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. at the Hilton Carillon in St. Petersburg. To RSVP, contact brownem@pinellaseducation.org or 727-588-4816 x. 2112.

Team Building at the Stavros Institute – Sign up Today

Building a team from the ground up isn't easy. That's why we have a program in place ready to help your team, refresh, refocus and reenergize. In six hours time, we can have your corporate team learning new communication skills, sharing creative ideas, and discovering they don't need a box to think outside – when you're relating to children, you're already there!

Our Enterprise Village and Finance Park teams are ready to challenge your team to a unique experience of teamwork, creativity, planning, leadership, trust and communication by working together on a variety of programs including hands-on business simulations and strategies.

If you enjoy working with students and can donate six hours of your time, we have an exciting opportunity for you. Volunteers are needed daily to work with students in Enterprise Village and Finance Park, both programs of the world-renowned Stavros Institute dedicated to educating students in the free enterprise system. We will provide your corporate volunteers with all the necessary training to have a fun and rewarding team building experience. There is no cost for this experience, and you'll learn a little something in the process. We guarantee it!

To have us help facilitate your next company retreat, please contact Marilyn Browne at 727-588-4816 ext 2115 for more information. We look forward to assisting you with this unique experience, which will have your colleagues talking about around the water cooler for years to come.



Every Dollar Adds Up – Saluting Pinellas County School Employees Participating In Payroll Deduction

Special thanks to the nearly 2,000 Pinellas County Schools employees who participated in the Unified Giving payroll deduction campaign, which raised a total of \$53,317 toward the programs of the Pinellas Education Foundation. Support from Pinellas County School employees is critical to the success of the Foundation. Thanks to your generous support, dozens of teachers received Teach for Excellence Grants and numerous students received Doorways Scholarships this year. Stay tuned for information soon about how you can get involved in this worthwhile program!



Volunteers Needed!

Enterprise Village teaches fifth-graders about the free enterprise system, what it takes to run a business and a community, how to write checks and make wise consumer choices. During their visit, students actually “work” a designated job, get “paid” for their work and on their breaks, become the consumers.

Finance Park teaches eighth-graders about personal finance. Each student receives a simulated life situation, which they use to determine their net monthly income, prepare a budget and make financial decisions that we all face every day. Students must pay all of their bills and balance their checkbooks by the end of the day.




If you would like more information on volunteering or if you are able to help advertise our volunteer need, please contact Karen Brighton at 727-588-3746 or e-mail brightonk@pcsb.org. Read more at www.stavrosinstitute.org.

Your Membership Can Make a Difference

By joining the Pinellas Education Foundation as a member, you enable the Foundation to provide enhanced educational opportunities for the students and educators in Pinellas County Schools, including teacher grants and student scholarships. You will be joining a powerful network of individuals and businesses committed to ensuring Pinellas County Schools offer a quality environment and resources students and teachers need to be successful. To ask about membership, contact Ginger Herring at 727-588-4816, ex. 2119.

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For questions, please contact Aubrey Pflughoeft
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Come See How the Pinellas Education Foundation Changes Lives

The Pinellas Education Foundation changes lives through learning by supporting the following programs:

- Enterprise Village & Finance Park promoting free enterprise and financial education for 5th and 8th graders
- Doorways scholarships & mentoring opportunities for financially deserving students
- Frances Stavros Career Education Fund opportunities & the Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy
- College-bound scholarships for graduating high school seniors
- Pinellas County Outstanding Educator of the Year honoring the profession of teaching
- Teacher classroom grants that inspire innovative projects
- Walker's Rising Stars competition featuring talented high school students in the Arts
- Seniors & Scholars breakfast series and events benefiting our 55+ population

We offer one-hour informational sessions to help educate members of the community about the Pinellas Education Foundation and how our programs impact the teachers and students in Pinellas County public schools. These one hour educational sessions include a tour of our world-renowned program Enterprise Village. Won't you join us?

For information on session dates and times, or to schedule a session, contact Marilyn Browne at 727-522-4816 ext. 2112 or brownem@pinellaseducation.org.

The Pinellas Education Foundation is a member of the [Consortium of Florida Education Foundations](#) and the [National School Foundation Association](#).

The Pinellas Education Foundation would like to acknowledge the donors listed below for their pledges and contributions during the month of July 2009. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Pinellas Education Foundation, [please click here](#).

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Pinellas Education Foundation

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