



HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

The MISSION of the Hillsdale High School Foundation is to fund the shortfall between what the school district gives our school and what our students need to be successful in our Learning Communities model.

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Hear from the Faculty on Professional Development and Collaboration

Mike McCall

One of the things I value most as a teacher at Hillsdale is the time I am given to work closely with my colleagues in the math department to plan curriculum for our students that is challenging, accessible and engaging. Given how busy our teaching days are, the planning and release periods we have -- that the Foundation funds -- are essential. This year and next, that planning time is especially important to me and my colleagues in the math department, because we are in the midst of launching fantastic new textbooks for our students in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Launching any new textbook is an enormous undertaking, and I am so grateful that the Foundation is providing support for us in that effort.



Dave Emanuel

One Parent's Perspective

If you are from or have friends from Foster City, you know the story of a high school that never was. Despite years of residents lobbying for a high school simply never materialized. So, when our oldest daughter started 8th grade I did what many "no-local-high-school" families do: I researched like crazy the different high school options. What I discovered was what so many of you living in the Hillsdale neighborhood probably already knew; that although *Hillsdale has high academic rigor like its peer neighborhood schools, it is unique in the following ways:*

- In addition to great sports, dance, music and theater programs, Hillsdale is only one of a very small number of high schools utilizing the **Small Learning Communities (SLC's)** model in the nation.
- Hillsdale received grants from the **US Department of Education** to fund itself using the SLC model.
- The SLC model is one of **inclusion and personalization**, unique in that students and their families to feel connected to their school community through houses and advisories.
- **Stanford University's School of Education** has partnered with Hillsdale as a Professional Development School, assigning many of their **Teacher Education Program** candidates to be mentored by Hillsdale Teachers. We are inviting schools and districts from near and far (e.g., Sonoma, Albuquerque, Alexandria, Atlanta, Knoxville, Australia and Norway) to observe Hillsdale on its SLC Study Visits.
- In order to graduate, students must successfully defend, before a panel of teachers and community members, their **Senior Exit Portfolio**. Students become well versed in the Socratic method throughout their four years at Hillsdale and are able to defend their work.
- Hillsdale is partnering with the **California Performance Assessment Collaborative (CPAC)** to develop and share authentic, performance-based assessment models in California. Hillsdale's leadership in this area is working with the State Assembly on possible future testing models.
- Hillsdale is the only school on the Peninsula, public or private, offering the **SLC model, daily advisory and the senior defense.**

Summer collaboration time with colleagues has been a crucial part of our work at Hillsdale. Without this time, we wouldn't be able to design and refine all the complex interdisciplinary projects that are critical to engaging students. My team members and I in Cusco House find this time invaluable.

Pamela Seligman

The 12th grade Advisory team meets for at least one block period every week to plan our curriculum and talk about our shared kids. Despite it being a block period, our meeting time always feels inadequate. Fortunately, we had time together during last summer, generously paid for by the Foundation, to thoughtfully and collaboratively develop the fundamentals of our yearlong Advisory curriculum. That head start in June enables us to use our time during the school year to just fine-tune the planned curriculum and instead spend the rest of the collaborative period on necessary and time-sensitive "kid talk".

Jeff Gilbert

Our Small Learning Community model has been at the center of our [Partnership School](#) arrangement with the [Stanford Teacher Education Program \(STEP\)](#). Stanford sees our teachers and model as exemplary and recognizes Hillsdale as the ideal environment to prepare new teachers. The result is [5-8 Stanford Student Teachers each year placed at Hillsdale](#) and, therefore, a long list of potential hires when openings become available at Hillsdale. One student teacher told me this year that Hillsdale is viewed as the one school at which student teachers most want to be hired. At a time of acute teacher shortages on the Peninsula, this relationship is invaluable. In 2017-18, [we will have 17 core teachers who have graduated out of the STEP program](#).

Contributions to the Foundation allow Hillsdale to support an array of professional development opportunities over the summer that would be impossible without your generosity.

This past summer, content area teams met to design new curriculum and projects for all students. Our Special Education team met to familiarize themselves with a new program for Certification of Completion students. Advisory teams met to welcome in new staff members and prepare curriculum and activities. The majority of teacher teams took a day to meet in advance of the school year to pre-plan lesson units and projects. Teachers attended Google training and a week-long Advanced Placement conference. They convened to discuss the long-term design of Smaller Learning Communities while others met to revise and improve our senior defense and portfolio system. Even though school was out, there

My oldest daughter graduated in 2017. In addition to college ap year, she was feeling the pressure of preparing to defend her ex portfolio. I explained to her that for every student, every perso will come a time (or many) in life when he/she will need to defe work, or their perspective, or a decision. Whether someone is a an electrician, or a teacher or an entrepreneur, or a dancer or a being able to think critically and respond in a logical dialogue wi essential skill for pursuing a path of success. To gain such exp high school senior is not only invaluable, but also incredibly unio

And so too, is Hillsdale High School unique. Unique in its struct the willingness of the administration and teachers to not only th the box, but to step firmly out of the box and into the SLC mode confident that she left Hillsdale with the academic preparedness to be ready for the many challenges that lay ahead for her in co

I am thrilled that we sought and were granted a transfer to Hills one daughter graduated and two beginning sophomore year, we regretted our decision. And if anyone asks, we'll take tips from Socratic method to defend our decision and continue to support High School.

By Holly McKelvey
Parent and HHSF Board Member

Hillsdale High School Foundation Celebrates its 10th Anniversary raising funds for SLCs



This summer a dedicated group of current and former board me toasted 10 years of successfully raising funds for HHS.

In April of 2007, the Hillsdale High School Foundation was offici incorporated with the State of California. It took vision and incr effort from a small group of dedicated Hillsdale enthusiasts to m seemingly simple statement come true. Alumni, staff, administ parents worked to establish an association that would grow into successful organization that we recognize today. Milestones inc

was a lot happening at Hillsdale this summer. Please consider [donating to our Family Partnership Program](#) to fund the \$25,000 needed each year for professional development and collaboration amongst our teachers.

Hillsdale Receives Kent Award for Excellence and Innovation: for its Portfolio and Senior Mastery Defense

The J. Russell Kent Awards, sponsored by the San Mateo County School Boards Association, are designed to spotlight "Excellence and Innovation in Schools Across San Mateo County." The award program provides an opportunity for districts to share their unique and innovative programs with other educational groups and to learn about other countrywide efforts.

The San Mateo School Boards Association recognizes exemplary programs each year. Hillsdale's Portfolio and Senior Mastery Defense process were nominated and after a representative visited our school, Hillsdale was selected to receive the J.Russell Kent Award for 2017-18.

Hillsdale receives technology grant from Gilead Sciences

Thanks to an HHS parent who works at Gilead, we were able to secure a terrific technology grant for our new Science facilities. This \$24K grant allows us to provide additional support for our science offerings and free up other limited foundation funds to cover staffing costs for our SLC model. We greatly appreciate these kinds of efforts by our dedicated parents!

If you know how to apply for grants or corporate sponsorship at your company, [please let us know](#) so we can grow our corporate support. Any leads and introductions would be most welcome. We would be very happy to help complete any required paperwork to get such funding.

- 501(c)3 Status and launch of the Family Partnership Program in 2009.
- In 2008 former Hillsdale High School, college, and NFL coach, Dan Zugelder assisted us with the dedication of the recently refurbished gymnasium, the Zugelder Gymnasium, and the remodeled football stadium in memory of Paul Mazzoncini. Proceeds of these events went to fund the new stadium and other programs at Hillsdale High School.
- The Hillsdale High School Alumni Association, under the leadership of David Leydig and Todd Zucker, has also contributed nearly \$500,000 over the past ten years. Contributions include funding the After-School Study Program in honor of '62 alumnus Mike Abbott, scholarships memorializing past principals, Paul Armstrong, and the Keith Gordon Memorial Fund, in honor of Keith, a beloved industrial arts teacher and coach.
- Hillsdale Sustainability Board: in 2014, the Foundation became the primary organization for the PTSO and Booster Groups. The HSB brings these groups together to help unify and prioritize the funding needs at Hillsdale.
- Foundation Growth: Many have contributed to growing the foundation by working on our infrastructure (website and data base), fundraising for the Family Partnership Program, Graduation Seats, and Commemorative Brackets, Plaques, events (Freshman Coffees and A Knight Out), marketing, and outreach.

Over the decade, the Hillsdale High School Foundation has raised over \$2.2 million dollars. **As Principal Jeff Gilbert points out, "Quite a few SLCs would not exist without the Foundation's funding stream."**

With 10 years behind us, we are now looking forward to continuing the growth and success of Hillsdale High School. Jennifer Russell, our Executive Director since 2015, has re-established the annual fundraising event, "A KNIGHT OUT," with support from the Alumni and Booster groups. She is working to grow the corporate sponsorship program, secure corporate grants, and oversee the collaboration between the Foundation, PTSO and the boosters (Hillsdale Sustainability Board). She has also worked diligently to recruit talented individuals from our community and alumni community to serve on the Foundation Board.

Thank you and congratulations to all our donors on your efforts in helping to make *Big Things Happen in Small Learning Communities at Hillsdale*



Foundation Donors

Principal Jeff Gilbert receives a

Stanford Graduate School of Education 2017 Alumni Excellence in Education Award!

Stanford's Graduate School of Education (GSE) has awarded a 2017 Alumni Excellence in Education Award to Hillsdale High School Principal Jeff Gilbert for his uncommon leadership, commitment and innovation in the field of education. He is only one of four GSE graduates to receive this annual award. In a Stanford press release, Dean of GSE Daniel Schwartz shares "GSE alumni are transforming education in countless ways -- locally, nationally and internationally. We're proud to call these honorees our own and celebrate the far-reaching impact of their work" Principal Gilbert is being honored for building and sustaining Hillsdale High School's Small Learning Community (SLC) program. Under Principal Gilbert's leadership, Hillsdale has become a national model with its success redefining the comprehensive high school, enhancing teacher capacity and improving college-going rates. Congratulations Principal Gilbert and Hillsdale High!



THANK YOU Hillsdale High School families that have already completed the Family Partnership Program (FPP!) *Corporate matches are so welcome in.* Please check if your company offers this generous benefit.



Every Hillsdale house needs a strong foundation! For those who have not yet given, please help us raise the \$400,000 needed to fund critical needs which are **not** fully funded by the school district, including:

- Staffing and advisory for our successful, award winning Small Learning Community model
- Technology upgrades and additional computer carts
- Professional development to attract and retain top notch teachers (see article above)
- Grants to booster clubs (athletics, dance, drama and music), PTO and school clubs

To meet these needs we recommend a **\$500 contribution per family** but we encourage you to give at whatever level you are able. We cannot do this without you and we are stiving for full participation, so please support your child's education today.

Donations by October 31st will appear in upcoming Fall District Roll.

[To Donate Now, click here.](#)

Thank you.

Jennifer Russell
Executive Director
HHSF

Volunteers Needed for Mock Interviews

During 11th grade advisory, every student will write a professional resume and participate in a **30-minute mock interview**. This long-standing project is a great way to support students as they prepare for the world after high school. We need your help to make the experience authentic; specifically, we need people to conduct mock interviews on **November 15, 16, 17**.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0E4DABA723A6F49-junior1

We welcome all volunteers. Thanks for helping support another great Hillsdale experience.

Earn Money for HHS by eating pizza!

At **Round Table Pizza in Laurelwood Mall** if you mention Hillsdale HS on the phone or in person, 25% of that sale will go to HHS!



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Please visit our website at www.hillsdalehsfoundation.org

Hillsdale High School Foundation is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt entity which supports academic excellence, booster groups, and other activities at Hillsdale High School which make its learning environment unique.