

# A STRONG FOUNDATION REQUIRED FOR SUSTAINABLE, QUALITY EDUCATION



The Mountain Community and parents provide extraordinary support through fundraising, paying fees, and volunteering to build a strong foundation for the Signal Mountain schools.

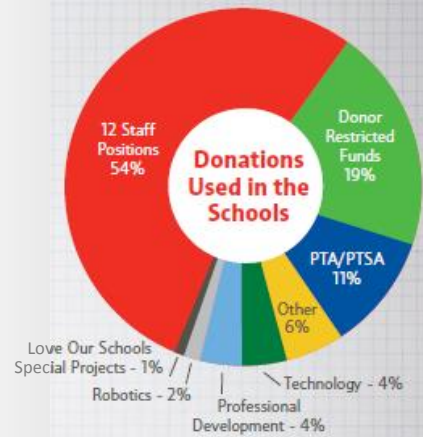
HCDE provides adequate funding for teachers covering the three R's (reading, writing, & arithmetic). But away from these, the funding drops off precipitously. As a result, the elementary schools in Hamilton County, including Thrasher and Nolan, have less of a need for additional funding since they focus more on the three R's and do well relative to the middle and high schools in the county.

Moving away from the three R's, the Mountain Community is required to provide roughly \$1 million each year to cover basic items such as computers and associated maintenance, arts programs, reading/math interventionists, college counselors, all funds for band and sports, toner cartridges, etc. They do this through MEF, student fees, and extracurricular fees and fundraising.

The Mountain Community in the past has even taken the unprecedented steps to provide \$10 million for the construction of the middle/high school and over \$1 million in startup funds. These were in addition to the property taxes the Mountain Community pays to Hamilton County to educate their children.

The strong foundation built by the Mountain Community is reliant on sustaining this extraordinary level of support to cover the most basic programs. How much should the Mountain Community continue to give to overcome continued underfunding of Signal Mountain schools by HCDE?

## Items Funded in 2016-17 by MEF



## MEF funded 12 staff positions:

**Melanie Lindgren**  
*Reading Intervention*

**Susan Skaggs**  
*Reading Intervention*

**Ricky McEvoy**  
*Technology*

**Sandy Mitchum**  
*College Access Advisor*

**Kathie Nolan**  
*Art*

**Nancy Stagmaier**  
*Art*

**Kellie Robison**  
*Computer Lab*

**Kathy Taylor**  
*Math Intervention*

**Leslie Wilson**  
*Learning Center*

**Vanessa Dexter**  
*Braindance*

**Bridgett Coloma**  
*Cafeteria Monitor*

**Jennifer Cisto**  
*STEM Lab*