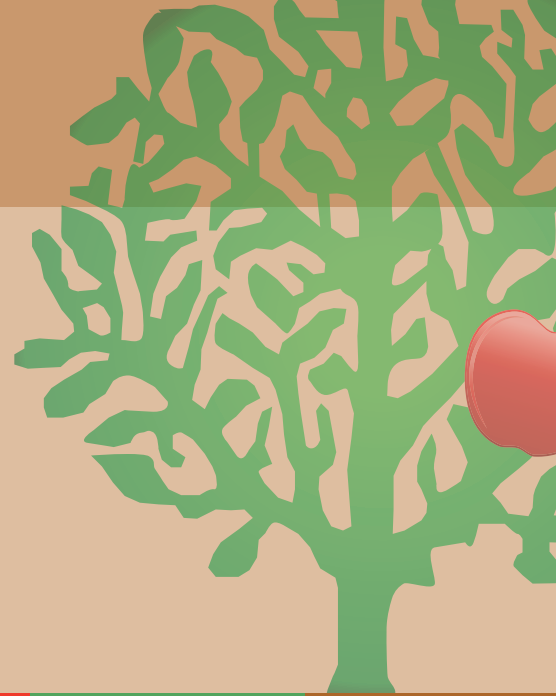




FUNDiNG THE FuTuRe



DENIM AND DINING RETURNS TO BENEFIT THE HOOVER CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The Hoover City Schools Foundation will hold their fifth annual Denim and Dining on April 3, 2020. For the first time, the event will be held at The Stardome Comedy Club, located at 1818 Data Drive in Hoover. “We are really excited about having Denim and Dining at this new venue because we will be able to accommodate more people than ever before,” said Shelley Shaw, interim executive director of the Foundation. “The event continues to grow each year and we are grateful for the support from the community for our efforts.”

The money that is raised helps to fund enhanced academics in all 17 Hoover schools and its more than 14,000 students. In 2019, the event netted more than \$50,000, greatly outperforming the previous three years in which it was held. In addition, Denim and Dining helps kick off the Commit to 36 campaign. The idea is to raise \$36 per student, or \$1 per week of school. That commitment could raise \$500,000, an amount that can make a real difference in grant money for the system’s teachers.

Ticket prices for this year’s event remain the same as last year, with a general admission early bird price of \$65 that will increase to \$75 per person. A limited number of VIP tickets are available



at \$125 each and include special reserved table seating in front of the stage, so take advantage of this offer early as they will sell out. Ticket prices include barbeque from Jim ‘n Nick’s, drinks, great entertainment and a silent auction.

For those companies interested in sponsoring the event, a \$500 sponsorship includes recognition in all event flyers and social media posts AND two VIP tickets. As for Scholars Circle, our on-going year-round sponsorship opportunity, these levels receive additional recognition throughout the year with their corporate logo on major print and social media posts, including this newsletter.

- **Bronze Level:** \$1,000 plus 2 VIP tickets to Denim and Dining
- **Silver Level:** \$2,500 plus 4 VIP tickets to Denim and Dining
- **Gold Level:** \$5,000 includes 8 VIP tickets to Denim and Dining
- **Platinum Level:** \$10,000 plus 10 VIP tickets and a reserved table at Denim and Dining

“All proceeds from the evening go to further the projects of the Foundation, including college and career readiness, teacher grants, professional development, STEM and SeedLAB,” Shaw said. “We have seen some real success stories come out of the classroom from the grant money we have awarded over the years.”

For more information or to buy tickets to Denim and Dining, please visit <https://bidpal.net/denim2020>.

EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A record number of grants totaling \$50,000 were given by the Hoover City Schools Foundation for the 2019-2020 school year, including \$25,000 that has been allocated to SeedLAB. The SeedLAB program pays for selected teachers to attend a two-day design-thinking workshop during the summer to brainstorm ways to tackle special projects. SeedLAB grant recipients get up to \$3,000 to develop and implement their ideas, plus money to cover substitutes for two days during the school year so the teams can spend dedicated time collaborating on their projects.

For 2020, the Foundation will be receiving \$40,000 from the city of Hoover in order to continue their initiatives, \$10,000 less than 2019. “That deficit means that we will have to work a little harder in the community to show how vital our programs are to our students,” said Steve McClinton, HCSF Board of Directors president. “Although we were disappointed to not receive the full amount, we are grateful to the city for recognizing the value of the Foundation.”

Each year the number of applications for grants far outweighs the number of grants available. “We wish we could grant every single one of our applicants the funds they need to work in the classroom,” said Shelley Shaw, interim executive director. “With the help of our corporate sponsors, the city, and individual donors, we are still able to increase the amount we grant each year. We are excited about what the 2020-2021 school year will bring for our classrooms with your help.”

HERE'S A LOOK AT THE PROJECTS THAT RECEIVED REGULAR GRANT MONEY THIS YEAR

Girls Engaged in Math & Science

Led by **Geri Evans at Bluff Park Elementary**, \$2,000 to expose girls to female role models in medicine, technology, engineering, aerospace and other subjects, and involved girls in science, technology, engineering and math activities.

Multi-Sensory Reading & Language

Led by **Miranda Riley at Bluff Park Elementary**, \$360 to buy a reading program that uses a multi-sensory approach to teach struggling readers.

Yes We Do, with Lego Robotics

Led by **Geri Evans at Bluff Park Elementary**, \$2,000 to help students develop problem-solving skills and use spatial reasoning, math reading and computer science skills while building and coding robots.

Coding with Microbits

Led by **Megham Denson at Brock's Gap Intermediate**, \$1,600 to teach coding through the Python computer language and solve real-world problems and gain experience with debugging and text-based programming.

Bringing Making and Creating to the Library

Led by **Renee Stewart at Brock's Gap Intermediate**, \$2,000 to create a Makerspace in the library where kids learn by creating things.

Robotics Engineering

Led by **Kristi Donald at Bumpus Middle School**, \$1,980 to use robots to help students with problem solving, critical thinking and collaboration.

Full STEAM Ahead

Led by **Carol Lollar at Bumpus Middle School**, \$2,000 for a weather balloon engineering project in which students build and monitor instruments and collect data each day.

Wisconsin Fast Plants - The Full Cycle

Led by **Austin Wilson at Bumpus Middle School**, \$2,000 to purchase materials to grow plants quickly so students can observe the life cycle of plants and cross-pollinate plants to see how genes are passed from one generation to the next.

Go Code Go

Led by **Krista Fehler at Deer Valley Elementary**, \$2,000 to purchase four robotics kits for K-2 students to learn and strengthen beginning coding and programming skills.



Let's Get Rolling with Coding

Led by **Anna Gray Koch at Deer Valley Elementary**, \$1,400 to buy robots so older students can help younger students learn coding and programming.

Anything You Can Do We Do Better!

Led by **Rudy Frey at Deer Valley Elementary**, \$1,400 to buy five Lego WeDo robotics kits older students can help introduce K-2 students to coding and robotics.

Let Your Code Sparkle

Led by **Jamie Nutter at Central Office**, \$2,000 to help students partner with the city of Hoover to program ornaments on the city's Christmas tree.



Putting the E in STEAM

Led by **Melissa Wilcox at Green Valley Elementary**, \$2,000 to purchase 12 problem-solving kits and expose students to more engineering opportunities.

Sensory Breaks

Led by **Lyndsey Baxley at Green Valley Elementary**, \$2,000 for materials to create an interactive sensory hallway so students can use sight, touch and sound to engage in complex, multistage tasks.

All A "Bot" It

Led by **Staley McIlwain at Green Valley Elementary**, \$2,000 to introduce students to coding with a robot that students can program with wooden blocks with barcodes.

Battle of the Books

Led by **Alisha Chiaramonte at Green Valley Elementary**, \$2,000 to buy diverse books to expose students to a variety of authors, characters, genres and topics as they play games, answering questions about the books.

Brain Buckets

Led by **Maria Beard at Greystone Elementary**, \$1,000 to purchase engaging math, reading, writing and problem-solving activities for students who finish assignments early.

Math Madness

Led by **Jill Foshee at Gwin Elementary**, \$750 to engage students in math games before school to build mastery of math facts and strategic and critical thinking.



STEAMing Through Robotics

at **Gwin Elementary**, \$2,000 to use robots, Lego sets and other tools to help solve real-world scenarios and demonstrate an understanding of engineering in a fun way.

STEAMing with Big Brother

Led by **Jasmine Fenderson at Gwin Elementary**, \$1,930 for a program where fifth graders use robots to mentor second graders in problem solving and critical thinking.

Close Reading with Microbits

Led by **Laura Cater at Gwin Elementary**, \$1,500 for a program using coding skills to teach students to think deeply about a text and strengthen reading comprehension.

BEE-Boting

Led by **Aja Ralph at Gwin Elementary**, \$1,340 for a program where students program robots to help learn about phonics and story sequencing.

STEM Skill for Science Data

Led by **Janet Ort at Hoover High**, \$2,000 to buy environmental sensors and components to build low-cost handheld sensors for a pilot study regarding particle pollution and specific pollutants.

Create with KIBO

Led by **Abra Wallis at Riverchase Elementary**, \$1,960 to buy a robot that lets early elementary students explore and apply programming skills.

Growing Through Sensory Exploration

Led by **Katie Thompson at Riverchase Elementary**, \$1,500 to expand the school garden to include a therapeutic area for sensory exploration.

Brainspring Phonics

Led by **Catherine Sanford at Rocky Ridge Elementary**, \$2,000 to purchase additional phonics materials and use multi-sensory techniques to improve reading skills.

Start Strong with Phonics

Led by **Erica Robinson at Rocky Ridge Elementary**, \$500 to buy phonemic awareness, phonics and word study games to practice foundational reading skills.

Physics of Hot Wheels

Led by **Jennifer Bradley at Spain Park High**, \$350 to purchase Hot Wheels tracks and accessories for labs and demonstrations of physics concepts, including speed, velocity, gravity, Newton's laws, displacement, energy and force.

Solder Me Awake

Led by **Scottie Wilson at Spain Park High**, \$1,075 for soldering materials so students can gain a better understanding of computer and electrical engineering, including DC circuits, printed circuit boards, electrical components and schematic drawings.

Sensing Our World

Led by **Scottie Wilson at Spain Park High**, \$955 for a project whereby students gain hands-on engineering and computer science experience, creating programs to take measurements and data, using sensors and signal conditioning.

Sensory Boards and More!

Led by **Ann Elizabeth McInvale at Trace Crossings Elementary**, \$1,200 to address behavior, occupational therapy and multi-sensory concerns that negatively affect students.



DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT DRAWS A CROWD

Friends of the Foundation held a Thank You Event at the Blackridge Subdivision Clubhouse in Hoover on Thursday, November 21, 2019, to show the Foundation's appreciation to our donors. Hosted by Jonathan Belcher, a Hoover alumni and president of Signature Homes, the event drew a full house. "It was a thrill to be a part of the appreciation night," Belcher said. "As a Hoover resident with children now in the school system myself, it is a privilege to be able to give back to the schools that set me on my career path."

Guests enjoyed wine, beer and light hors d'oeuvres from Tre Luna, one of the newest fine dining options in the city. "We wanted a way to thank those who are Friends of the Foundation for supporting us each and every day," said Steve McClinton, HCSF Board president. "We were blown away by everyone who turned out."

Guests heard remarks from HCS Superintendent Kathy Murphy and HCSF Board members were on hand to answer questions. The Foundation is appreciative for the support of the following initiatives: Commit to 36, Denim and Dining and a new fundraiser, Food for Thought, that allows restaurants to collaborate together in a day-long focus on the Foundation, in addition to donating a portion of sales back to HCSF.



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Paul Demarco	Takeria Stephens

Shelley Shaw
Interim Executive Director
shelley@shelleyslaw.com
205.492.6014

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

We are excited to announce our new volunteer group, Friends of the Foundation! These volunteers are community members who were selected as the inaugural group. Please be on the lookout for more opportunities to become a Friend of the Foundation and volunteer with us!

Leroy Banks	Anna Parker
Lucas Dorion	Bevin Tomlin
Chantal Hopkins	Jana Newton



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The Hoover City Schools Foundation is
a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

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