

2020 Impact Report



Enriching Teaching • Inspiring Learning Innovating Classrooms

## **MISSION**

The WJCC Schools Foundation partners with the community to provide resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning and maximize innovative opportunities to help Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools meet their own goals of education excellence for all students.

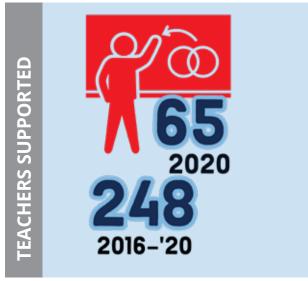
## **IMPACT**



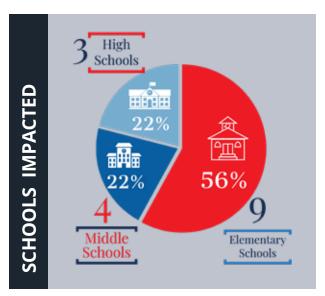
Total grant dollars awarded more than doubled over 2019.



38% more grants were awarded in 2020 than the prior year.



Teacher collaboration in grant applications has grown each year as they strive to expand the impact of their work.



All WJCC Schools and all grade levels have received grants for creative projects.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

As I end my first full year as Chair of the Schools Foundation, I am reflecting on all that has happened in this extraordinary year, and how our organization proved nimble and well poised to give quick aid to the schools when they were scrambling to find technology to support at-home learning, and I am confident that our role will become increasingly important in the coming year to help the schools to grow through this time of turmoil.

All of us have been impacted by the pandemic, but none more than schools. It was right after the Awards Day celebration on February 25, 2020 that the schools shut down. This is always our biggest day of the year. In 2020 we had increased the maximum amount of our Innovative Learning Grants from \$2,000 - \$4,000, and we awarded more grant funding to more teachers than ever before.

In order to keep educating after the schools shut down, teachers and students needed new technology. Only because of the generosity of our donors were we able to give the necessary tools to students so they could continue their education. I could not be more proud of our quick action to provide \$20,000 by April for student laptops and WiFi hotspots. And as the schools resume in-person learning, the laptops will continue to serve students in their studies. An innovative investment indeed!

The Schools Foundation will come out stronger on the other side of the pandemic, focused on enrichment and support for the schools' challenges ahead. There is no challenge we cannot face together. I am very grateful for each and every one of you because we share this belief: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." – Benjamin Franklin.

Sincerely,

Penny Pulley



## **OUR 2020 LEARNING GRANTS**

### "I Love Showing My Math Work" Said No Student Ever-Berkeley Middle School, Dr. Mary Glisan

Students are increasingly completing assessments online. In math, it's a challenge to get students to write out their work. The Boogie Board Blackboard Letter is a tablet that is an ideal replacement for antiquated whiteboards, markers and erasers.

#### Playaway Audiobooks-Berkeley Middle School, Jenny Farley

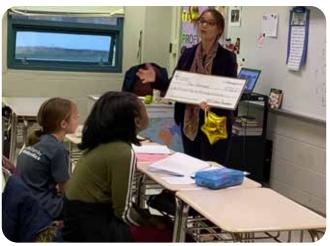
Reading can produce anxiety in struggling or reluctant readers and students with disabilities. Students with reading disabilities demonstrate a greater increase in reading fluency rates with audiobook assisted reading. Playaway audiobooks will boost reading fluency through increased motivation and more time spent in silent sustained reading.



### Padcaster Studio Kit-Berkeley Middle School, Paul Cosby

Green screens allow users to merge subjects on camera with different backgrounds to create video or still images. The possibilities with green screens are endless. Since implementing green screens around our school, students have utilized them in innovative ways across subject areas with storytelling, newscasting and movie making. The Padcaster is an all-in-one mobile production unit that will expand upon our existing green screen equipment to further enhance student learning.

## Global and Cultural Awareness in the Blended Classroom-Berkeley Middle School, Rhea Villanueva



Blended learning, with its mix of technology and traditional face-to-face instruction, combines classroom learning with on-line learning, in which students can, in part, control the time, pace, and place of their learning. Utilizing level appropriate books and noise canceling headphones, will provide an additional learning tool in the classroom that can be used, while one-on-one traditional instruction is also being used. This model of learning helps the students to be more fluent in a language and develops life skills which helps them to become global citizens.

### Creative Station Sewing-Berkeley Middle School, Tonia Eriksen

Following the donation of a sewing machine, students took an interest in learning and creating using the sewing machine. Students are interested in starting a sewing club! Students will use critical thinking skills, solve problems, work creatively, relieve stress, become resourceful, grow confidence, build patience and learn a lifelong skill.

## Expanding Expression-J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School, Katie Sachse, April Young

The Expanding Expression Tool is a multi-sensory strategy to expand oral and written language skills by providing visual and tactile information to improve language organization. The mnemonic device and colored symbol code offer a consistent structure to increase receptive and expressive language, including describing and defining words, understanding curriculum vocabulary, making associations, and comparing and contrasting vocabulary.



## Promoting 21st Century Skills through Physical-Digital Interactions-Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School, Alison Cobb



As a parent of two sons who attended WJCC Schools from kindergarten through grade 12, I am grateful for the wonderful teachers – at all levels – who inspired and encouraged them. As a board member for the Schools Foundation, I cherish the opportunity to fund the innovative learning projects conceived by our teachers so that the next generation of WJCC learners can achieve similar success.

Jill Trott, WJCC Schools Foundation Board As our world is constantly changing due to technology, it is important to prepare students for their future. Osmo makes hand-on learning games in which players use objects in the real world to interact with the digital world shown on their iPad. The games teach abstract concepts by connecting them to objects and actions in the physical world, promoting the 4 Cs: collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking.

# Web-Based Language Acquisition and Speech Development-Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School, Diane Howell

Gemiini is a research-based Discrete Video Modeling Program that breaks down language, reading, and social concepts into individual and understandable increments. Previously used in the classroom, it was a huge success, and two students started talking because of its use.

Set up for Success Building Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Using Text Sets-Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School, Stephanie Beck, Ellen Frackelton, Megen Logan, Marie Parks

Research has shown that a key factor of understanding complex text is the level of background

knowledge students have on a subject. It is vital that elementary classrooms address the importance of science and social studies knowledge and reading comprehension. This grant will create text-sets that build students' content knowledge based on the kindergarten science and social studies Standards of Learning by integrating the standards into language arts instruction.

## Utilizing Technology to Increase Learning Outcomes for Special Education Students-DJ Montague Elementary School, Abby Reynolds, Jillian Zingale

Seesaw is an app that allows students and teachers to create a digital portfolio, helping students to become more independent and take ownership of their learning. Students show growth in reading and math, enjoy recording independently and taking pictures of their work. The app facilitates communication between parents, teachers and students, allowing parents to see their student's progress in real-time.



## Girls Who Code-DJ Montague Elementary School, Kelly Henderson, Ann Vogt

Cultural norms and stereotypes can dampen girls' interest in the computer sciences. Providing students with the opportunity to design real world experiences in a unique and engaging way, while reinforcing and strengthening the learning of STEM and reading, will enhance leadership, collaboration and communication. Hosting this club during school will provide an opportunity to expose all students to coding, not just those who have the means to stay after school.

### Family Engagement using Digital Journal App-DJ Montague Elementary School, Kelly Ann Kelly

There is a direct correlation between student achievement and parent engagement. Using a digital learning journal such as Seesaw, can help parents be engaged with their student's learning while students are participating in real world learning experiences and developing 21st Century skills. Seesaw gives students choices, encourages reflection on learning and provides opportunities for creativity.

**Teaching Our Youth Skills (T.O.Y.S.) Program–James Blair Middle School, William Capers**Teaching Our Youth Skills (T.O.Y.S.) is a comprehensive mentoring program that provides purpose,

direction, and motivation to both young men and women. T.O.Y.S. focuses its efforts on self-development, self-discipline, confidence, academic improvement and inner-drive, all traits that students need to reach their full potential. The mission of T.O.Y.S. is to ensure that all young people learn the communication, decision making, and goal setting skills needed to be successful in life.



## Interactive Second Language Literacy Stations-James Blair Middle School, Ashley Miller

The focal point of this project is to create interactive second language stations within the English as a Second Language classroom. Literacy skills such as letter recognition, phonemic awareness, decoding, and vocabulary acquisition are areas of focus for the stations. Students will be able to work independently or with partners in a fun and engaging learning experience in the target language.

## Mike's Market-James River Elementary School, Ben Etheridge, Janet Evans, Rachel Lenahan

Mike's Market provides an educational farm stand at a school located in a food desert. The farm stand provides hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum enrichment for K-5 classes. The School Health Initiative Program (SHIP) provides curriculum enrichment.

#### Theatre - Second Stage-Jamestown High School, J. Harvey Stone

The "black box" style theatre will allow students to explore a more intimate theatre environment, as opposed to the typical main stage or competitive theatre. This intimate style theatre allows students to focus on the growth of character, building of technical skills, and enhanced opportunities for student leadership.

### Expanding Video Production-Lafayette High School, Monica Schauffler, Amy Wallisch

Today's students consume media in almost every aspect of their daily lives. In education, we strive to give students deeper learning experiences; engaging with the YouTube generation requires more than just a traditional toolbox of strategies. Once cost prohibitive, the tools for media creation are now affordable and accessible, allowing students to express themselves thoughtfully and creatively, and share with others. Limited only by imagination, digital storytelling provides a platform to elevate student learning.



# Read to Succeed: Reading Development for ESL Students-Lafayette High School, Jennifer Marzana, Dr. Tamara Priestley

With the increase in economically disadvantaged and ESL students, we are establishing a classroom library to meet their unique needs. This extensive and high quality classroom library will be used to support student achievement in reading and writing.

Strong Hands, Growing Minds -

## Kindergarten Fine Motor Stations-Laurel Lane Elementary School, Erin Elmore, Stephanie Kline

Fine motor skills are a prerequisite to many early elementary skills including writing, drawing, cutting, and manipulating materials for math activities. Due to the increase in technology usage and fewer opportunities for hands-on tasks with preschool aged children, more and more kindergartners are entering schools with little to no fine motor abilities. Providing opportunities for children to use the muscles in their fingers, hands and wrists will improve fine motor abilities.

## Break out of Boredom with Break Out Boxes-Matoaka Elementary School, Kelly Kuklis, Abigail Neeley

Break Out Boxes are fun, motivating, hands-on activities for students to jump head-first into project

based learning. These boxes allow students to work collaboratively with their peers to accomplish multiple tasks. Much like a portable escape room, students unlock clues by completing various curriculum related tasks.

## Aquaponic Connections–Matoaka Elementary School, Emma Zahren-Newman

There is a need for more hands-on and real-life experience in elementary science classrooms.

Aquaponics is the combination of hydroponics (growing plants without soil) and aquaculture (farming fish).

Building an aquaponic system and working with community volunteers, provides unique age-appropriate experiences for all students.

I have been able to witness first-hand the impact that the WJCC Schools Foundation has had on the teachers and students in all of the schools that the foundation serves. To see the creativity of the teachers that find innovative ways to use grant money, to see the pride on the students' faces when their teacher is awarded shows how connected they are with their teachers. WJCC teachers have gone beyond the expected to continue to provide creative learning for their students during this pandemic year. This increases the need for continued support of the Foundation.

Michelle Williams - Volunteer

## Let's Take a Trip to the Zoo!-Matoaka Elementary School, Erin Poulter

This grant provides hand-held, kid-friendly 3D pens for second graders to use as part of an animal research project. After researching and writing nonfiction reports, students will use 3Doodler Smart 3D pens to create three dimensional models



of their animals. Fellow second graders will be invited to tour and see the model animals.

## Supporting Literacy Learning with Audiobooks-Matoaka Elementary School, Maureen McFarland

Student use of audiobooks supports reluctant, struggling, emerging readers and ELL students. Audiobooks provide students with an educational alternative to "screen time." By offering Playaways, we provide students with significant literacy support and access to grade level literature. Students can listen to books that are above their reading level but at their comprehension level, allowing them to work with the same reading materials as their peers.

The WJCC Schools Foundation is serious about finding ways to make teacher innovation happen. They look for teachers who have inventive teaching goals or ideas, and provide the funding necessary to take those ideas from the planning phase to classroom implementation. Without the WJCC Schools Foundation, my plan for incorporating advanced STEM and coding with drones opportunities in my school would never have happened.

-Kris Van Deusen, Matthew Whaley Computer Resources Teacher

## Flying into the Future–Matthew Whaley Elementary School, Kris Van Deusen

Drones become more prevalent daily, and many jobs are associated with drone piloting and programming including mail, agriculture, reconnaissance, etc. Drone programming and piloting training will give students an authentic STEM learning experience in a skill predicted to be necessary for future careers.

## Breakout to Reading!-Norge Elementary School, Stacy L. Walker

Data shows that a high number of students are not testing on grade level in the areas of interpretation and

reflection, which are essential skills for inferencing and critical thinking. Breakout EDU teaches these skills in an engaging way, which is adaptable to any subject area. These kits use puzzles and clues to help the student ultimately unlock the box.

## Camp Sunshine is Open for Learning-Toano Middle School, Angie Chaffin, Kate Chall, Kay Dee Kline, Matt Peters, Terri Seward

The great outdoors is an untapped classroom environment full of sensory learning options for students. A mobile classroom for outdoor operation with wooden lap desks that span between the armrest of folding rugged camp chairs and portable solar power banks allows students to be guided by their teachers in the sunshine.



Quick Draw - The Fastest Designer in Town is a Middle Schooler!-Toano Middle School, Jo Ann Molnar, Terri Seward

Precision fabrication is no longer the exclusive domain of skilled engineers using million-dollar equipment. Students can sketch their idea and a laser cutter will bring it to life in a matter of minutes using a variety of low cost materials.

## AEP Maker Space-Warhill High School, Jason Betzner

The Academic Enrichment Period (AEP) at the high school is meant to provide time during the school day for students to complete homework and get extra help from their teachers. This grant will provide a maker space where students can learn coding and design projects with 3-D pens and Virtual Reality programs, truly providing academic enrichment to all students.

### Impact on the Environment-World Languages Videos-Warhill High School, Lisa Ingegneri

The ability to communicate in languages other than English is a 21st-century skill. World Language courses develop the communication skills students need based on national and state standards. Our students can only fully participate in our digital world in different languages if they can create audio and video recordings of an appropriate high quality, able to be shared and viewed across platforms.



Exceptionally Healthy: Including Healthy Ingredients in Cooking Labs for Students with Disablities-WJCC Schools, Elizabeth Callan | Berkeley Middle School, Christina Luntzer, Mary Pantelis | Lois S. Hornsby Middle School, Sarah Holland | Norge Elementary School, Madison Bourn | Toano Middle School, Kristen Boykin | Warhill High School, Joyce D'Arcy

Cooking is taught as a life skill for independence in WJCC Special Education (SPED) classrooms. Students with disabilities face much higher obesity rates. The School Health Initiative Program (SHIP) will provide coordination and expertise through this grant to allow the cooking life skills curriculum to

shift to focus on healthy recipes with whole ingredients, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

## Fine Motor Fundamentals for School Learning-WJCC Public Schools, Debbi Hoffman

The environment of today has greatly influenced the motor development in children. Participation at school requires students to have a solid foundation of body stability, strength, manipulation, ability to motor plan, and effective coordination of visual-motor information. When students are expected to perform classroom and school activities without these foundations in place, difficulties arise, resulting in frustration, feelings of failure and off-task behaviors. This project targets elementary students who need additional practice to develop their fine motor skills.

**Memorial Grant.** 



Garden Tower Grows Greens and Minds-WJCC Schools,
Elizabeth Callan | Jamestown High School, John Leone |
Lafayette High School, Hugh Beard, Ann Milligan,
Minoo Srivastava | Warhill High School, Christine Hutto
Vertical aeroponic garden towers growing salad greens
add enormous value to WJCC high schools. Not only do
biology students benefit from experiencing the hands-on
application of their class topics, but they learn to grow and
eat their own food and make a connection to agriculture
and nutrition. The entire school becomes a part of the
project when the garden towner is displayed and the
harvest is served in the school café salads. This grant
has been identified as the Dr. Kathleen Stiso Mullins

La Galeria: Exploring Hispanic Culture through Art– Jamestown High School, Elizabeth Bailey, Sonya Cater, Peter Pritchard, Alisa Smith | Matoaka Elementary School, Benjamin Cottingham, Andrea Freeland, Lynda Heath, Sally Henderson, Maureen McFarland

A multi-cultural Fine Arts program developed to connect 3rd and 4th graders with high school students to promote and explore Hispanic artists using world language, virtual reality and Fine Arts programs, and culminating in a visit to a community art gallery. The program provides elementary and high school students the opportunity to learn about Hispanic artists in an interactive and artistic manner and to create art.



One of my high school students was inspired to pursue a teaching degree based on their rewarding experience funded by a Foundation grant to work with elementary grade students that exposed them to Spanish language and culture.

Alisa Smith, Jamestown High School World Language Teacher

## **OUR 2020 FRIENDS**

#### **\$5,000 AND ABOVE**

Kermit Buntrock Ferguson Cares James Mullins Towne Bank

#### \$2,000 - \$4,999

William Brundage Colonial Capital Kiwanis Roy and Barbara Femenella Sandy and Rick Nahm Penny and Larry Pulley Steve and Nancy Vignolo

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#### \$500 - \$999

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As an active-duty military spouse, I know how vitally important it is to serve your community. I am proud to be able to support the WJCC Schools Foundation and volunteer to promote excellence in our schools in all areas: academics, arts and athletics. As an advocate for social justice, it has been a true pleasure working side by side for the past four years with others that seek to improve our schools and help our teachers and students through the grants and scholarships the foundation provides.

Mychael Willon - Volunteer

William and Glenda Turner Diane and Alfred Woods

#### \$250 - \$499

Mr. and Mrs. James and Kathleen Ahern Patty and Jon Andre Berry Engineering, Inc. Brian and Olwyn Blouet Susanne and Robert Calabro Heide and Paul Cieurzo Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Dugan Iane deSolms Elaine and Jim Golden Earl and Tatia Granger Carolyn and William Hoffman Kathy and Bruce Hornsby Sarah and Chips Houghland Mr. and Mrs. John Kane Denise Kellogg Rich and Lisa Laczynski Jeremy and Tia Martin Mr. Tommy Norment Sheila and Art Nigro Lisa and Matthew Ownby Eliza Parrish Chris and Nancy Perry Iris Porush John and Ginny Snead Ginny and Fred Van Wicklin Barbara Watson Marie and Iim White **Kurt Wiesemmes** Dr. Mychael Willon and LTC Michael Johnson

#### \$100 - \$249

Anonymous (3) Georgianna Avioli James and Madeline Burkhardt

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### **UP TO \$99**

Anonymous (3)
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Devon Day
Linda Ford
Valerie Glessner
Deanna Guiseppi
Ms. Felicia Highland
Scott Holland
Jane LaBue
Ms. Ruth Larson
Dr. John Marsh
Frank Sisto
Sunhai Sydow
Kathryn Tighe





## THE SOCIAL BUZZ







Thank you @wjccsf for our grant! We're using it to create text sets around our science and social studies standards to build background knowledge and vocabulary for our Kindergarteners!

Presented Online by Jamestown Theatre

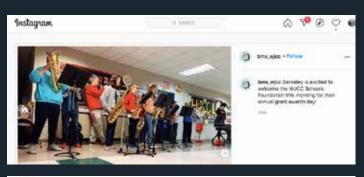
@CBBESWJCC

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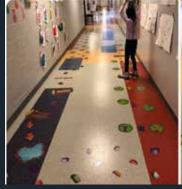
Three Cheers for @wjccsf for awarding more than \$71,000 in innovative learning grants to support amazing WJCC students and teachers! See more pics: bit.ly/2Pp1k06 #WeAreWJCC

#InnovativeLearningGrants #2020AwardsDay





We love our sensory pathway! Thank you @wjccsf! #ThankfulThursday





## OUR FRIENDS-CUMULATIVE GIVING SINCE 2015

#### **\$25,000 AND ABOVE**

Ferguson Cares

#### \$10,000 TO \$24,999

Kermit Buntrock
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Volunteering for the WJCC Schools Foundation has given me the opportunity to support educational innovation and thereby, greater opportunity for students, during a year defined by challenge. I am proud of the work they do and honored to play a small part.

Eliza Parrish - Volunteer

#### \$1,000 TO \$2,499

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"Awards Day" is one of my favorite days of the year and witnessing the teachers and their students find out that they have received a grant is truly special. The true magic of the moment is knowing that the teachers' creativity and passions are being supported and that so many students, including my three kids in the WJCC public school system, are benefitting from these innovative grants. This is a wonderful local program and seeing the amazing impact it continues to make on teachers and students year after year drives me to keep assisting the Foundation.

Larkin Anne Schmidt - Volunteer

## **OUR FRIENDS-CUMULATIVE GIVING (CONT'D.)**



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#### **UP TO \$249**

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## **OUR PARTNERS**

We are grateful to our partners, sponsors and all the community organizations who have supported our mission.









At TowneBank, our mission is serving others and enriching lives. We are grateful to join with the WJCC Schools Foundation to make a difference in our community.

Alexis N. Swann President TowneBank of the Virginia Peninsula/Williamsburg





Inspiring and nurturing a vibrant community.





## **OUR BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS**

Over 5,000 hours have been donated annually by board members and volunteers in support of the Foundation's mission.

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Steve Vignolo

Barbara Watson

Clarence Wilson

Alfred Woods

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Gail Cash

**Amy Dassler** 

Brenda Beebe Duncan

Tori Ford

Denise Kellogg

Debbie Muse

Eliza Parrish

Larkin Schmidt

Sherry Volk

Michelle Williams

Mychael Willon

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT** 

Maria Hernandez

My wife, Kathleen, who served as the Foundation's Board President, was fascinated and committed to its goals. She would come home from Board meetings or visits to schools, excited and passionate about the Foundation.

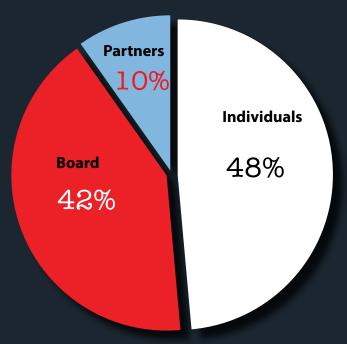
After Kathleen passed away
I became a member of the
Board, and know firsthand of its
commitment to enrich teaching
and inspire learning.

Jim Mullins WJCC Schools Foundation Board



## **FINANCIALS**

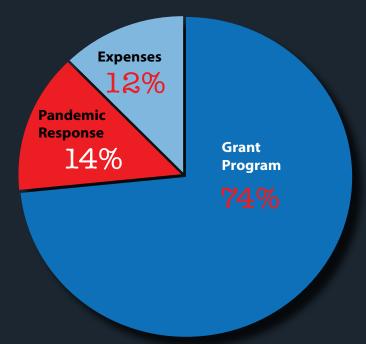
## **SOURCES OF FUNDS**



In 2020, we raised **\$71,465** from **116 donors** comprised of Individuals, Partners (businesses/foundations) and board members.

- 73% of donors gave the **previous** year
- 22% of donors are **new** this year

## **USES OF FUNDS**

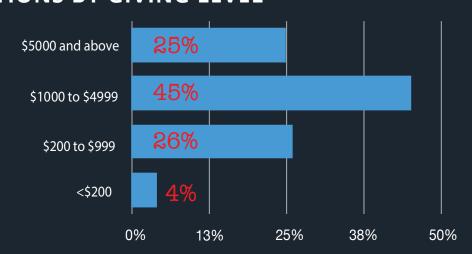


In 2020 Current Programs and Expenses totaled \$97,983

Board donations covered expenses enabling 100% of donations to directly support funding of programs.

\$26,520 from 2019 reserves were used to support the grant ceiling increase from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

## **DONATIONS BY GIVING LEVEL**



Please join us as we work to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and innovate classrooms for the benefit of all students in WJCC public schools.

Donations may made by check payable to:

WJCC Schools Foundation P.O. Box 6318 Williamsburg, VA 23188

Donations may also be made by visiting our website at:

www.wjccschoolsfoundation.org