For Immediate Release

September 22, 2020

**Introducing the Hastings-on-Hudson Schools COVID-19 Response Fund**

**Hastings-on-Hudson, NY -** Amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Hastings-on-Hudson Education Foundation (HEF), Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) are taking timely and collaborative action to provide emergency funding to the district via a pandemic response fund to enhance efforts to reopen safely and effectively. This fund will be allocated to the strategic use of outdoor spaces to support physical distancing measures; to procure web-based resources that support student engagement, collaboration, and creativity; to augment current social-emotional learning curriculum and practices; and to provide access to on-going professional learning to strengthen remote instruction. Donations to the pandemic response fund will help support all of Hastings students and educators during this unprecedented time.

In response to an initial grant request from building leaders at all three schools in the district, these three organizations have made an aggregate contribution of $35,000. But this does not fully cover the cost of that grant, and we know that there will be additional resources needed to support the pressing needs of our school community. This fund will support our schools both during a crisis, with the goal of responding with urgency, and as we emerge from the crisis, looking toward longevity, adaptability, and reuse. We will: prioritize grants which provide support to as many students as possible; consider the most vulnerable populations in our school communities; and fund innovative and creative solutions that not only enhance learning tools and services but also further social and emotional wellbeing.

“It has truly been inspiring to come together with the other Hastings parent organizations, SEPTA and HEF, to work in unison in helping meet the needs of our community at this challenging time” said PTSA Co-Presidents Kerri Jew & Melissa Sbrega.
“We are very aware of how lucky we are to live in a community that is always so eager to support and enhance the learning experiences of our students, and at this challenging moment, the HOH Schools Covid 19 Response Fund is a unique opportunity to make a powerful difference for everyone” said HEF Co-Presidents Kim Meisner and Michelle Greenwald.

“We are thrilled to work alongside the PTSA and HEF on this initiative. It’s wonderful and incredibly exciting to see the school community come together to serve the needs of all learners in such a collaborative way!” said Barbara Rizzo, SEPTA President.

While each family in our district has unique needs and perspectives, we are all interconnected. If you’re able, please consider making a donation through mid October to the fund. If you have questions about the fund, please email: hoh_pandemic_relief_fund@ptsahastings.org. Thank you for considering how you can support our community during this critical moment.
Introducing the Hastings-on-Hudson Schools COVID-19 Response Fund

founded by the HOH PTSA, SEPTA and Hasting Education Foundation to support our schools during this crisis, and afterward

OUR GOALS:
longevity, adaptability, innovation, social and emotional wellbeing, and supporting as many students as possible

your tax deductible donation supports our community at this critical moment

visit https://hohschools-covid19-response-fund.cheddarup.com

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - FARRAGUT MIDDLE SCHOOL - HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL