



## SSEF Programs 2017-2018

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**After-School All- Stars** – About 200 students participate in this comprehensive five day per week/ two hours per day after school program at Sandy Springs Charter Middle School incorporating academic remediation and enrichment. The program is implemented in collaboration with the Georgia State University Research Foundation and After-School All-Stars Atlanta. Transportation is provided by the school. 97% percent of the students in the program are economically disadvantaged and, thus, do not pay to attend the program. Students consistently show an increase in test scores and grades, a decrease in disciplinary infractions and an increase in attendance as a result of participation in this program. This year, over 200 students are enrolled in the program.

**After School at North Springs** - This high school program incorporates many of the same elements as its middle school counterpart. Operating three afternoons a week, this North Springs Charter High School program offers academic support for one hour followed by enrichment activities, field trips, exposure to college and vocational schools and career opportunities.

### MENTORING/ROLE MODELS

**Junior Achievement (JA)** – This program is delivered to students in the ninth and tenth grade at North Springs Charter High School in collaboration with JA and the Sandy Springs Perimeter Chamber of Commerce. Over 400 ninth graders students participate in the program which provides valuable financial literacy education. Over 400 tenth graders participate in the Career Success program. The program has a structured curriculum designed to educate students about basic economic and career success topics in a grade level appropriate manner.

**SAIL & CHOSEN** – For the SAIL program, about 30 Riverwood International Charter School seniors are identified by the counselors in February as being on target to graduate, but without post-secondary plans. Trained volunteers present options and assist students with post-secondary applications. SSEF provides funds for application fees as well as SAT/ACT fees for those students needing financial assistance. As part of the program, representatives from local post-secondary institutions visit the school. As a result of the program, 84% of the students were accepted to post-secondary institutions this year. A similar program, CHOSEN is also implemented at North Springs Charter High School. 87% of the 30 students who participated in this program were accepted to post-secondary institutions.

**Link with a Leader** – Our Link with a Leader Program is designed to challenge students to dream big and strive for excellence. Volunteers from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and other Latino professional organizations mentor students monthly during at Ridgeview Charter Middle School, Sandy Springs Charter Middle School and Riverwood International Charter School. Volunteers from 100 Black Men volunteer to conduct a similar program at North Springs Charter High School. The graduation coaches at all four schools pinpoint students who can benefit from identifying with a successful role model and who are at risk of not succeeding in school or of dropping out. The program reaches approximately 200 students each year. Evaluation results indicate a positive impact on empowerment and self-esteem for participating students.

**Business Bridge** – The Business Bridge program offers students the opportunity to experience a business environment while still in high school. SSEF works with the Sandy Springs Perimeter Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Committee to engage students in career focused opportunities. SSEF assists with internships, speakers, job shadowing and field trips to provide these opportunities. This program also brings in business professionals, such as Whole Foods, Microsoft and Women in Technology, to conduct special seminars. In partnership with the Technology Association of Georgia – Education Collaborative, the program coordinates an annual internship workshop with business professionals for high school students. These students are identified by the business department as students who would most benefit from the program and is designed to prepare them to submit effective applications and differentiate themselves competitively in an interview situation. All Business Bridge opportunities are intended to give students real-world experiences and prepare them for future careers.

## LITERACY

**Reading Buddies** – This program is conducted with the second graders at Ison Springs Elementary School and the fourth graders at Lake Forest Elementary School. In each school, teachers identify students in need of assistance with reading. Once per week volunteers read to a chosen student for 30 minutes during their lunch period. Orientation, support and training are provided for volunteers. Books suitable for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are purchased by SSEF and kept on a cart for SSEF volunteers to use with their students. The objective of the program is to foster positive feelings about reading, thereby improving motivation, self-confidence and reading skills, all centered on a meaningful relationship with a caring adult.

**Mini-Libraries** – This program reaches out to at-risk elementary school students by providing them with immediate, home-based access to high quality books that they can read and keep. Portable, free-standing, newspaper- type dispensaries are placed in strategic location sites at Lake Forest Elementary and Ison Springs Elementary schools. Volunteers collect donated books and fill the dispensaries with books that are nationally recognized as “approved reading” to ensure that only appropriate books are dispensed. Students are asked to take two books at a time to read at home and can either keep or return them to the bin. The program also includes an evening event with parents at both schools in which students are given books to take home with them. Last year, Mini Libraries gave out 14,000 books.

## STEAM INITIATIVES

**Showcase** - The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Showcase is presented each year to the 11 Sandy Springs public schools. The opening event takes place at North Springs Charter High School where over 1000 high school students view STEAM focused exhibits geared to the curriculum during the school day. In the evening, 500 community, business and civic leaders, as well as other Sandy Springs students, participate in the Showcase. For a second year in a row, SSEF has been awarded the Georgia STEM Award for Extracurricular Programs by the Technology Association of Georgia for this program. This year’s Event will be expanded to include the Arts, and therefore, be called a STEAM Event. Including the Showcase, the Out-Reach program and the Legacy Grants, SSEF’s STEAM initiative impacts over 2000 students.

**Out-Reach** - Although the Showcase concludes after one day, STEAM initiatives do not! The Out-Reach program promotes year-long field trips and programs in our middle and elementary schools to continue to expose our students to careers and opportunities in these critical fields.

**Legacy Grants** - From the funds raised from the STEAM Showcase sponsors, SSEF offers STEAM grant opportunities to all 11 Sandy Springs public schools for ongoing after school STEAM clubs, projects or programs. In addition to a critical evaluation aspect, all grantees are expected to present their projects at the following year’s STEAM Showcase.

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES

**Teacher Supply Closet** – In partnership with the Community Assistance Center (CAC), SSEF coordinates school supply drives in the community to stock the SSEF Teachers’ Closet. Supplies are stored at the CAC. The Sandy Springs public school teachers are able request supplies for their needy students through the SSEF website. This year, over 1900 students received needed school supplies through this program.

**Sandy Springs Reads** - Sandy Springs Reads is a “One Book, One Community” event that promotes literacy and builds a sense of community by engaging its citizens in discussions and activities around a common book. SSEF assists with the program and helps get the books out to our students.