



SVEF Welcomes **You** Back!

As we begin the 2020-2021 school year, the Saddleback Valley Educational Foundation (SVEF) would like to welcome our students, teachers and families back to the opening of our 1st ever virtual school year.

Some of you might be asking, “**What is the SVEF**”? We are a non-profit organization, originally established 37 years ago to provide support for educational excellence in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD). Over the years the SVEF has supported music, art, science and technology.

For several years, the SVEF researched a **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program called Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Our middle school teachers were already pursuing **STEM** instruction, so PLTW was a great fit and was integrated into the middle schools. **STEM** is an excellent introduction for students at all levels to learn about technology and engineering in a hands-on virtual environment. This approach helps to reinforce science and mathematics while engaging students in a fun and unthreatening manner. The School District has further extended their support to integrate the PLTW program into our Elementary and High Schools. **STEM** is a comprehensive, resource-demanding program, requiring teacher training, licenses, computers, software, robotic kits, 3D printers and an assortment of other equipment and tools. Although the District receives grant funding from the state, a shortage still exists in their efforts to provide STEM in our schools. Consequently the SVEF has also stepped up again to help raise funds in support of **STEM**!

The SVEF so far has provided almost **\$43,000** in funding and is looking to commit further funds this year towards the SVUSD **STEM** endeavor. We will also continue to reach out to major corporations and local businesses, via grants and campaign letters, in order to help raise funds in support for our efforts. If you or someone you know works for an organization that could partner with the SVEF, please let us know. Now more than ever, investing in our children’s education is a vital tangible step in helping shape the future of our community and our society.

The SVEF wishes you a great & safe school year, as we look forward to serving you.

We invite you to visit our web site and see how **YOU** can get involved!

www.sveffoundation.org

