

Mission Statement:

The Hudson City Schools Foundation, a fund of the Hudson Community Foundation, is a community-based organization established to enhance the education of our children in the public schools by providing funds *not available through public sources*. Our mission is to implement programs designed to promote an educational experience beyond what is available in the standard classroom environment. Our goal is to ensure a student's ability to compete successfully in today's challenging global marketplace.

Who we are:

The Hudson City Schools Foundation is a private organization separate from the public school system. It is comprised of a diverse group of community members who share a passion for the quality of education that our children receive. We are a group of volunteers with and without children attending public school: business professionals, retired workers, educators, artists, and community leaders who share the belief that the overall health of any region is contingent upon the quality of the education we are providing for our youth.

What we do:

The Hudson City Schools Foundation raises funds through events and contributions from the community. We collect, oversee and distribute these funds which are used to augment the learning environment in such categories of student development as arts, athletics and academics. We design, manage and fund programs that will stimulate creativity and innovation.

We contribute to the quality of life in Hudson by improving the public educational experience for our youth. Funds are positioned to directly benefit the students.

Why we do it:

Why would funding from a private foundation be necessary since our public schools are supported with tax dollars? State and federal funding for schools has reached a crisis stage during this economic downturn. Even before this, however, schools were running on slim budgets barely able to cover the costs of salaries, benefits, utilities, transportation, maintenance, etc. Even with the best of fiscal management, schools are left with very little for any "extras" such as innovative programs in technology, art or science, let alone basic upgrades to facilities.

Even though our school district enjoys a consistently high ranking on a state and national basis, now is not the time to become complacent. Our students deserve the very best advantage that we can give. Striving for greater excellence is integral to the American spirit. Providing an educational environment that spawns innovation and sparks inventiveness will produce dynamic graduates, capable of ensuring a prosperous future for themselves and their communities. Our youth will be facing a world of unprecedented challenges. It is our responsibility to prepare them for success. Our investment in their future will not only benefit our community, but also will have a positive impact on our region and beyond.

Our Goals:

⇒ *to create a world-class internationally competitive school system.*

This can be accomplished by shifting focus from a broad-based curriculum to a smaller, more personalized approach through the establishment of academies (small schools within the high school) where our students will gain transferrable skills applicable to real-world careers. Core academic subjects such as English, mathematics, social studies and science will be coupled with courses in technology & design, global cultural mores, business and social entrepreneurship, community service, etc. Project-based, hands-on learning experiences (capstones) will top off the overall structure.

Suggested Academies:

- International Baccalaureate
- International business and global opportunities
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Invention
- Engineering
- Medicine, Bioscience and Healthcare
- The Arts and their capacity to drive innovation
- Law
- Humanities: social studies, integrated language arts, journalism (21st century-style)
- Environmental sciences: alternative energy, green technology, earth stewardship
- Technology: bioinformatics, IT, software development, communications

⇒ *upgrade facilities*

- “green” efficiency, decrease in carbon footprint
- interior common space, i.e., cafeteria, auditorium
- meeting place for visiting educators, business professionals, speakers
- sporting fields, stadiums and equipment
- an archive for HCS history using technologically advanced methods

⇒ *professional development center*

- teacher and administrator cultural exchange program
- training workshops, seminars and lectures *on-site* eliminating the expense of staff having to travel to these events
- development materials and technology accessible for school personnel
- center will serve to help students see that learning is a life-long pursuit

↳ *student development center*

- a place for community presentations, demonstrations, workshops, etc.
- intergenerational exchange: storytelling, life skills, tools and trades
- volunteerism - a place where students can be instructed in projects such as:
 1. community event planning and support
 2. municipal government
 3. community gardens and ecological studies
 4. parks and campground maintenance
 5. senior citizen outreach

Volunteerism designed for young people can be an avenue for successful asset mapping and engagement. Students who participate in such projects can build a voice in the community as partners deserving of recognition.

↳ *arts development*

- artist-in-residence program: fine arts, crafts, performers, musicians, writers
- field trips: designed to expand awareness of the arts both obvious and obscure
- studio space: a place for students who desire to practice their craft
- professional performance series: theater, dance, music, & readings
- student performance series: garage bands, poetry slams, dance, voice, drama
- **The Oviatt Theatre at Hudson Middle School: "Theatre at the O"**
a project to renovate the front interior and restore the historic façade with the purpose of creating a summer youth theater. Unique architectural features of this historic 1928 building still exist under the 1970's style remodel. Beautifully arched ceilings and the original woodwork are still intact. The façade of the building facing Oviatt Street was once a grand entrance with an interior second story balcony and skylight.

The existing auditorium theater seats 600 and has up-to-date sound, lighting and dressing areas for professional quality staging. There is ample parking. The entrance and arcade gallery can be used for art installations, museum collections on loan and as a pre-performance reception hall. This project will not only serve to instruct and encourage our students in the performing arts, but will also allow the community to celebrate the heritage of the Hudson Public Schools.

↳ *Entrepreneurial Development (business and social)*

Business

- visits to start-ups, incubators (spawning a kitchen table idea)
- visits to venture capital firms to learn the criteria for start-up funding
- visits to investment banking firms to learn the process of taking a company public (how and why it winds up on the stock market, a.k.a., IPO)

- visits to the Cleveland Entrepreneur's Club monthly speaker series and the opportunity to meet successful local entrepreneurs
- visits with local organizations that cultivate youth entrepreneurship such as, the Entrepreneurial Learning Institute in Cleveland, a place where young people are encouraged to start their own small businesses

Social

- emerging career sector: public service organizations, a.k.a., citizen sector
- no longer defined in the negative as “non-profit” or “non-governmental”
- employment growth for this sector in the 1990's: 25% vs 4% overall
- an explosion of entrepreneurial opportunities fostering increased competition and collaboration, necessary skills for the 21st century
- on-line education in this field:
 1. Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, www.ashoka.org
 2. Tides Center, www.tidecenter.org
 3. Youth Venture, www.youthventure.org
 4. Duke University, www.fuqua.duke.edu
 5. Columbia Business School, www.riseproject.org
 6. Harvard Business School, www.hbs.edu/socialenterprise.org
 7. Stanford Business School, www.gsb.stanford.edu/csi
- visiting speaker series to include experts in the field such as: David Bornstein, author of, “How to Change the World, a cornerstone book on the advent of social entrepreneurialism; Bill Drayton, creator and CEO of Ashoka, a pioneering foundation that has funded and supported thousands of social entrepreneurs.
- field trips: Civic Innovation Lab & One Community (social enterprise organizations both located in Cleveland); Social Entrepreneurship at the Weatherhead School of Management and others

➤ *technology development*

- equipment upgrades to provide latest tools for optimum learning
- speaker series: Northeast Ohio has a good representation of biotech, alternative energy and green technology companies along with software developers and computer services that can provide an interesting array of lectures
- field trips to regional companies that exhibit innovative technology