



**FALL 2015**

# Signals

The Newsletter of the  
Signal Hill Education Foundation

## **Our Mission:**

To insure  
continuing financial  
support for the  
Signal Hill School  
to enhance the  
strength of the  
region by providing  
exceptional  
opportunities for  
intellectual  
discovery for all  
members of the  
Signal Hill  
Community

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## **SHEF Continues Support of Technology Plan**

By Garen Vartanian, SHEF Board Member

Signal Hill School Technology Director Katie Monroe has been moving forward with SHS's five-phase technology vision plan. This plan was shared with Signal Hill Education Foundation (SHEF) in February 2015 and SHEF has been steadfastly supportive since, serving as a key catalyst in the school's technological ascent.

"Through the SHEF Foundation's generous technology grants, SHS has been able to fulfill technology phase commitments that are aligned with our District Technology Vision," Monroe said. "This year, we were able to complete the Intermediate wing Chromebook cart phase of our Technology plan, which would allow third-fifth grade students access to 40 Chromebooks via two mobile carts. In addition, each classroom teacher will receive a new desktop computer, thus phasing out the dated desktops that were currently in place." Since being briefed on the technology vision, SHEF has donated \$24,000. SHEF made an initial grant for \$7,000 for the purchase of Chromebooks for various classrooms before later adding a \$1,000 grant it received from Cardinal Care. Then, at its August meeting, SHEF invested an additional \$16,000 that went toward new computers for teachers, two charging carts, and more Chromebooks. This was coined the "Grant Me Technology" grant.

Moreover, this grant helped conclude Phase IV of the Technology Plan currently in place and completed the acquisition of Chromebooks for grades third through eighth.

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THANK  
YOU

Thank you to all that supported Cocktails for A Cause—  
SHEF's annual fundraiser!

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The goal is to move SHS closer to a 1:1 implementation of technology resources. 1:1 refers to schools issuing each student an electronic device in order to access the Internet, digital course materials, etc.

“This effort takes much vision, planning and an ongoing financial commitment to supporting technology,” Monroe said. “Several phases have been put into effect to help steadily move in this direction. Without the continuous support of the SHEF Foundation, we would not have the actual devices in place for students and teachers to use.”

In addition, Monroe noted that with more devices in the students’ hands, the teachers are better able to pilot such programs as Google Classroom and Pearson SuccessNet that allow for what she described as a creative blending of technology and Common Core curriculum.

“Both teachers and students have positively embraced this new technology and are eager to learn more,” Monroe said.

Monroe naturally is excited about SHS’s technological future. She has seen marked progress and has a vision for more.

“My vision is to begin a pilot program using tablets in our younger grades and provide ongoing professional development to the teachers and students within this pilot program, to ensure that resources are used effectively and consistently,” she said.

For more on SHEF, please visit SHEF’s website, [shefinfo.org](http://shefinfo.org).



*Giving a **High Five** to the school means more than just a donation...it means our community supports the good work we do for the kids and families.*

### What a great way to help SHS for only \$5! And it's easy!

Any time you wish to do a shout-out or compliment anyone at SHS, simply go to the SHEF website, and click on “**High Five!**” For as little as \$5, you can be a positive supporter of our school community. Give the school a **High Five** by donating (one time, monthly or annually). This is an on-going fund raiser for anyone in the community who wishes to congratulate the efforts of SHS, celebrate a special occasion, or recognize a special teacher or student. **High Five** messages will be posted on the SHEF website as well as on display at SHS.

Some examples are as follows:

*“Bravo, teachers for making the first day of school so exciting for our students!”*

*“Way to go, girls’ softball team!”*

*“Congrats 4th graders! You’re the best!”*

High Five’s and Donations can also be made online at [SHEFINFO.ORG](http://SHEFINFO.ORG)