



**Ready  
Set  
Excel**

MATH EQUITY FOR SUCCESS

# 2021

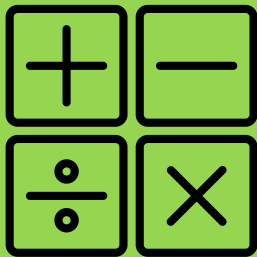
# Impact Report



# Ready.Set.Excel

## Our Programs and Impact

Ready.Set.Excel empowers students to succeed in math and science.



4,500+ math diagnostics administered identifying student math needs



96% improvement in student math confidence



16 schools and partner organizations served in the Bay Area



# To Our Community



Students who participate in RSE programs leave with improved math skills, but more importantly, increased math confidence.

Dear Friends,

Early last year, the pandemic forced an abrupt switch from in-person to distance instruction/learning for schools and after-school programs. Without the ability to gain in-person insights about their students, and with dramatically reduced instruction hours, educators were called upon to evaluate, engage and address student needs in an entirely new way. The most vulnerable students and their families dealt with increased stress, challenging situations and technology issues in adapting to the new learning mode. This only heightened the need to provide timely, engaging academic interventions that are effective remotely for students struggling in school.

Ready.Set.Excel (RSE) rose to the challenge. Mindful of reduced class time, we redesigned our online diagnostics to offer focused mini check-ins that took less than five minutes to complete during class time. These check-ins provided the teacher a real-time view on class readiness for a new unit and identified students needing intervention with minimal disruption. To support remediation, we designed customized, topic-focused resources that allowed the student to master the concepts at their own pace.

We are committed to helping all students in need. During the past year, we had to draw from our reserve funds to serve all our programs and ensure that the students received critical support. Now that they are back in school, many students have sizable learning needs, a result of the disruption of the past 18 months, that **must** be addressed. Without remediation, the impact will be long-reaching and severe.

With your ongoing support, we are able to continue this critical work. We are grateful that you are part of the students' journey towards future success.

With gratitude,

Maya Srinivasan  
Co-Founder  
Board Chair

Asavari Ukvide  
Co-Founder

# About Ready.Set.Excel

**Empowering students to succeed in math and science**

## Our Mission

Our mission is to empower every student to become confident and successful in math and science. We accomplish by:

- Providing diagnostic services to accurately identify gaps in a student's foundational math skills.
- Supporting educators with real-time data and resources to effectively address student needs and improve math confidence.

We envision a world where there is math equity in education: all students have the math skills and self-confidence needed to consider a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) career or to pursue any life path they may choose.

## Our Values

- We believe that math is an essential life skill.
- We believe that all students can learn math.
- We believe in a nonjudgmental and affirming approach to learning.
- We believe partnering with educators is essential to the success of our work.
- We believe in diversity in STEM classrooms and workplaces.





# Program Partner Spotlight

## SOPHIE'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM



As an Educational Access Initiative of Sacred Heart Schools, the Sophie's Scholars Program supports students from historically underrepresented communities with an average family income under \$70,000/yr. Beginning in 6th grade, students are provided the academic, social, and financial support preparing them for college and beyond.

In summer 2021, students returned to the classroom receiving in-person instruction. By focussing on the math topics that challenged 6th-8th graders the most, we saw dramatic changes in students' knowledge of ratios & proportions and simple equations. In only 20 hours of instruction math scores improved by as much as 35%!

**Ready.Set.Excel** has been working with and supporting Sophie's Scholars for four years. Using our proprietary math diagnostics we identify the specific math concepts where students would benefit from additional summer instruction, ensuring students enter the next grade with improved math skills.

Student math  
scores increased  
by as much as  
35%



Photo courtesy of Sophie's Scholars Program

Congratulations to the  
2021 Sophie's Scholars  
Program graduates.

# Program Partner Spotlight



Students join FCE as early as middle school and remain through their college graduation. FCE supports students of color, most of whom will be the first in their families to attend and graduate from a four-year college or university.

For the second year in a row, FCE reached out to **Ready.Set.Excel** to participate in their summer math accelerator program. Based on the success of the 2020 program for rising 7th graders, FCE asked for our help with their rising 8th graders as well. The goal of the program was to promote early reinforcement of foundational math skills, better preparing these students for success in high school science.

Working with their summer teacher, RSE provided pre- and post-program diagnostic assessments and individual student recommendations to help address student math needs. RSE's **Teacher Dashboard** provided topic-specific data allowing the teacher to respond in real time to her students' needs. Despite being online, students were able to show improvement in their math skills and are better prepared for the school year.

In the upcoming 2021/22 school year, RSE will increase its impact with FCE by working with their high school students in the College Bound program. Our goal is to help students solidify math foundations critical to college success.



Pre-pandemic photos courtesy of Foundation for a College Education

# Program Partner Spotlight



EPAA is a Title I dependent charter school and part of the Sequoia Union High School District. Over 94% of their students qualify for free or reduced lunch, 75% of whom are bilingual second language learners; 67% of students will be the first in their family to graduate from high school and as many as 50% of students qualify as homeless, without a fixed address.

The 2020/21 academic school year presented **Ready.Set.Excel** with the opportunity to help the freshman students at EPAA. Working closely with science teacher Derek Ang, RSE developed "mini check-ins" to pinpoint and address math skills where students would benefit from extra help. These are the skills that are critical for success in science and math.

*" We were able to offer targeted coaching and intervention based on RSE's diagnostic analysis to specific students on specific key math concepts and skills. Many students who demonstrated little to no understanding of a concept prior to coaching later scored a perfect score on RSE's post-assessment after the intervention cycle.*

*I am really excited, not only about the success we've observed in the students and with the pilot program, but about what we as a school can learn from this data to inform future schoolwide programs and structures in math, beyond our intervention work this past year."*

**Derek Ang**  
**Science Department Chair**



Photo courtesy of Derek Ang



# Math for Science

High school science classes require the application of middle school arithmetic and algebra concepts - for example, the ability to plot and interpret graph data, or to balance a chemical equation.

**RSE's Science Placement Assessments** for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics provide a view of students' math skills, helping administrators recommend the appropriate level science class (e.g. regular, honors, or AP) commensurate with students' mastery. When students are placed correctly at the beginning of the school year, they start out stronger, are able to have a more dynamic learning experience and have the opportunity to excel.

For over four years, we have successfully helped school administrators with appropriate science class placement at the start of the school year. This reduces class disruption and rebalancing by eliminating the need to move students to a different level class.

**Ready.Set.Excel**  
has provided over  
**1,360**  
science placement  
assessments

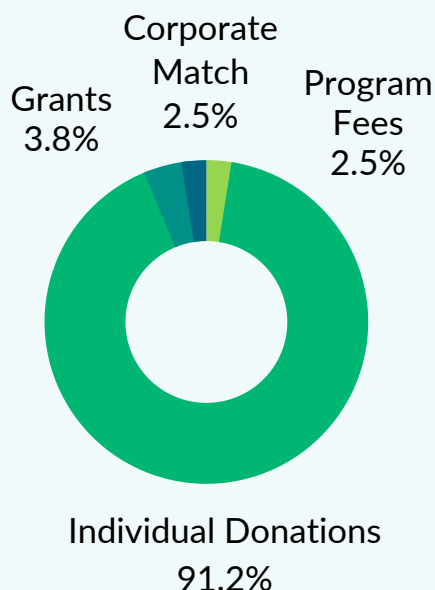
# Thank you to our generous supporters



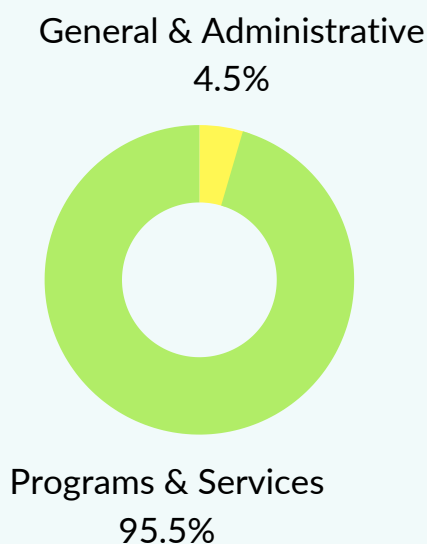
Jane & Bruce Gee  
Mindy & Jesse Rogers  
Mallika & Chandran Sankaran  
Virginia Van Wagner  
Renu & Scott Weiss  
Sheila & David Beuerlein  
Maya Srinivasan & Tim Misner  
Asavari Ukidve & Vishy Swaminathan

# Our Financials

FYE June 31, 2021



**OPERATING  
REVENUE\***  
\$130,951



**OPERATING  
EXPENSES\***  
\$156,667

\* RSE is committed to the students and community organizations we serve. The impact of COVID-19 has been devastating. Rather than see services cut or reduced to those most in need, the RSE board and management team made the decision to pull from reserves to ensure continued support.



# We thank you for your ongoing support of Ready.Set.Excel and our programs.

## **A special thank you to the following individuals and their organizations:**

Derek Ang, Science Department Chair, East Palo Alto Academy

James Everitt - Chief Officer, Mission, Strategy, & Culture at Sacred Heart Schools

Bruce Gee - Community Leader

Amika Guillaume, Principal, East Palo Alto Academy

Jane Kershner - Childcare Consultant and Community Volunteer

Mallika Sankaran - RSE Board Member and Advisor

Diane Sweeney - Science Head, Sacred Heart Preparatory

## **Our Team**

Maya Srinivasan - Co-Founder and President

Asavari Ukidve - Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer

Sheila Beuerlein - Business Development

Shweta Patel - Quality Assurance Engineer

Divya Shah - Web Developer

Kathleen Leo - Content Expert

Kristina Stefani - Content Expert

**Ready.Set.Excel**

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