



2018–2019 Community Fund

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Independent schools across the country rely on philanthropic support to fund everyday operations and long-term strategic initiatives. Instead of asking the SWS community to support bake sales, buy wrapping paper, or sell holiday wreaths, we have intentionally streamlined our development efforts, only asking parents to support the school twice each year: the fall Community Fund effort and the spring Inspire event.

What is the Community Fund?

The Community Fund is the school's most critical yearly fundraising effort. Because tuition does not cover the full cost of a Seattle Waldorf School education, we rely on community-wide support to balance the operating budget and provide our students with an extraordinary Waldorf Education. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 by November 30, 2018.

What will my gift support?

Community Fund gifts support the people and programs that make our school so special. Each year, the Community Fund covers approximately 9% of the cost of offering competitive faculty salaries. It also supports other critical aspects of our day-to-day operations, including

- Attracting and retaining the best teachers (competitive salaries, continued learning)
- Maintaining our three campuses (classrooms, playgrounds, gardens)
- Field trips, outdoor programs, and service learning projects (Potlatch, wilderness hiking)
- Curricular materials and technology (art supplies, laptops, microscopes)



How much should I give?

Though it is not required, we expect all SWS parents to support our community by contributing to the Community Fund. Gifts range in size from \$10 to more than \$10,000, with many parents stepping forward to give at the Leadership level of \$2,500 or more. However, we realize that the financial circumstances of families differ and we cannot expect everyone to give the same amount. We simply ask that parents make a gift that is meaningful to their family. No gift is too small and every gift counts.

When will I be asked to give?

The Community Fund effort begins in late September and ends in November. We always strive for 100% parent participation and typically receive more than 350 gifts from parents, grandparents, faculty/staff, alumni families, and friends. Last year, 100% of the faculty/staff and Board contributed.

What is the difference between a gift and a pledge?

A gift is a single payment made by either cash, check, or credit card. A pledge is much like an I.O.U.—it is a promise to make a gift at a later date or over time. When you make a pledge, we can count your gift toward our goal and you can make your payment later in the school year. All Community Fund pledge payments are due by June 1, 2019.



Can I make my gift with securities?

Yes. For some donors, it is advantageous to make a gift of appreciated securities. Generally, the fair market value of the gift is tax-deductible and capital gains taxes are avoided. Please contact the Advancement Office to arrange a securities transfer.

Do you accept corporate matching?

Yes! Corporate matching is a powerful way to double or even triple your contribution to the school. Please contact your employer's Human Resources office to facilitate a match. Seattle Waldorf School will acknowledge you in the Annual Report for the combined total of your personal contribution and matching gift.

Why is participation important?

High levels of participation demonstrate to school leaders and the greater community that SWS parents are willing to invest in the school's mission. It signals our community's confidence, so the school can reliably move forward with strategic plans. It also demonstrates to philanthropic foundations that the community is strong, united, and worthy of outside support.



Why not just raise tuition?

At SWS, we believe our community is richer if it is more diverse. We value our families from all economic backgrounds and strive to be accessible to the widest possible range of families. By setting tuition below the true cost of operating the school, we continue to attract the widest range of applicants. Additionally, though tuition is not tax-deductible, a contribution to the Community Fund may be tax-deductible.



What is Inspire?

Each spring, we invite our community to come together to celebrate our students and raise critical funds to support a specific need that will strengthen our program and enhance our children's learning experience. This festive evening features a paddle raise, dinner, and most important, the opportunity to socialize with friends, faculty, and staff. Widespread participation makes this special event a success. Save the date to join us on March 30!

Do my donations made at Inspire count toward the Community Fund?

No. Inspire and the Community Fund are separate fundraising initiatives, each with specific goals. Parents are asked to participate in both efforts to ensure the school can balance the annual operating budget and provide students with an extraordinary education each year.

What if I have more questions?

Please contact Natasha Kuhn, Annual Giving Coordinator, at nkuhn@seattlewaldorf.org or (206) 258-4015. She will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.



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