



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 fundraising efforts, only asking parents to support the school twice each year: the fall Community Fund campaign 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 this year is to raise \$260,000.

What will my gift support?

Community Fund gifts support the people and programs that make our school so special. Each year, the Community Fund funds critical aspects of our day-to-day operations, including:

- Supporting our inclusive financial aid program (over \$1.5 million distributed annually)
- Attracting and retaining the best teachers (competitive salaries, professional development)
- 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?

We ask 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. We realize that the financial circumstances of families differ, and we do not 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 campaign begins in late September. We always strive for 100% parent participation and typically receive more than 350 gifts from parents, grandparents, faculty/staff, alumni families, and friends. Each year, 100% of the Board contributes to the Community Fund and nearly all faculty and staff.



What is the difference between a gift and a pledge?

A gift is a single payment made by 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 30**.



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 Development 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. More than 16,000 employers match gifts made by employees. Please contact your employer's Human Resources office to facilitate a match. You can double or triple the impact of your gift!

Why is participation important?

High levels of participation demonstrate to school leaders and the greater community that SWS parents are deeply invested in the school's mission. It signals our community's confidence, so the school can reliably move forward with strategic plans. Broad participation 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 when 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 a diverse 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 importantly, 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 28!**

Do my donations 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 Bryan McGriff, Development Manager, at bmcgriff@seattlewaldorf.org or (206) 258-4015. He will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.



CHANGING
THE CONVERSATION ABOUT
EDUCATION