



A Guide to Giving at The Country School

A Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade Coeducational Day School Located in Historic Easton, Maryland





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We know that parents choose The Country School because their dreams for their children include the best possible education as a stepping stone to a future of great promise. A partnership is created between parents and the school to maximize the potential of every child. Since this partnership is also financial, we offer this Guide to educate parents about charitable giving to the school.

Why does the school ask for charitable contributions in addition to tuition?

The cost of the education parents expect from an excellent independent school is not fully covered by tuition. At The Country School, tuition pays for approximately 75% of the budget. Our trustees remain committed to charging a moderate tuition and ours is indeed moderate relative to other independent schools in Maryland. As a result, the school must rely on annual contributions, endowment income, and proceeds from other fundraising activities to meet operating expenses.

Why doesn't the school charge enough tuition to cover operating expenses?

Though diverse in many important and wonderful respects, Country School parents all have in common the desire for their children to have a superior educational experience that nurtures their souls and

hearts as well as minds. If we increased tuition to cover the operating expenses, a number of these families, for financial reasons, would not be able to send their children. This loss could create a less well-rounded school experience and a drop in enrollment that could result in a cutback of programs or steep tuition increases.

What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is a fundraising activity common to independent schools. Tax-deductible charitable gifts to the Annual Fund significantly help to bridge the gap in the budget between expenses covered by tuition and the actual total cost of operating an independent school. Our Annual Fund drive invites contributions from all members of The Country School family: current and former parents, faculty, grandparents, trustees and alumni. Because the school invests in enhancements to its program every year while trying to maintain modest tuition increases, the Annual Fund makes up the difference by setting a slightly higher dollar goal each year. It is



also the goal of the Annual Fund for 100% of trustees, faculty, staff and parents to make a contribution.

What is a Capital Campaign?

Capital Campaigns are conducted periodically by independent schools to make significant improvements to the physical space of the school through construction or renovation. Capital Campaign goals may also include major equipment purchases and additions to the endowment. Gifts to Capital Campaigns are typically larger than those to the Annual Fund and pledged over a period of several years. The last capital campaign, completed in 2004, resulted in much needed new classrooms for grades 1-3, a state of the art computer lab, and renovated locker rooms. Other prior campaigns provided the new library, after-care, and administration wing in 1995, the art and music rooms in 1987 and the gym in 1979.

What is the Endowment Fund?

The Country School Endowment Fund is a vital component of the long-term financial health of the school and consists of assets that are prudently invested as directed by the Board of Trustees. Annual distributions from the fund provide an income stream for the operating budget and are another means for keeping tuition at a moderate level. The school has a brochure specific to the Endowment Fund that offers detailed information on opportunities to make a gift now or as a part of estate planning.

How does the Parents' Association contribute to the school?

The activities of the Parents' Association provide volunteer opportunities for parents to get to know each other and be more involved in the daily life of the school. It also raises funds for many of the extras that make the experience of each child so rich and varied. These extras include assemblies, the outdoor education program, band equipment, the Holiday Breakfast, the artist/poet in residence program, parent education speakers and much more. The annual Auction Dinner is the biggest fundraiser of the year and an opportunity for everyone to participate in some manner. Donations of in-kind items and services and purchases made at the Auction Dinner are counted as contributions only to the Parents' Association.

What does the school expect of parents financially?

In addition to making tuition payments on time, we hope that you will:

- Make giving to the Annual Fund a priority to the degree that you are financially able.
- Volunteer for or participate in the activities of the school.
- Support the periodic capital campaigns which improve our campus and increase the endowment.



The Country School Philosophy

The Country School is an independent, coeducational, K-8 school founded in 1934. It offers a challenging program in a nurturing environment with small classes, individual attention, and outstanding teachers as its hallmarks. A traditional, structured, responsive, and age-appropriate curriculum focuses on building basic skills and serves a range of student abilities within a family school context. The school strives to educate the whole child in an atmosphere that fosters high academic standards, instills a love of learning, and provides a solid foundation for future education. Enrichment in the arts, athletics, and co-curricular activities offers additional arenas for individual achievement and leadership. By emphasizing the importance of strong values and character, the faculty consistently reinforces responsible behavior, self-discipline, and positive attitudes. Working in concert, Country School teachers and parents help students develop confidence and competence and reach toward their highest potential.

Approved by the Board of Trustees
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