



State budgets for public schools continue to shrink, leading to larger class sizes and limited class choices at all PPS schools. Fortunately, the West Sylvan community has the power to mitigate the impact of budget cuts through donations to West Sylvan Foundation. Thanks to West Sylvan Foundation, this year's students will benefit from:

- Preservation of all electives already offered in 2016-17.
- The addition of Speech & Debate and Journalism as elective courses (rather than extracurricular clubs).
- Expanded French and Spanish language offerings.
- Projected classroom-based\* class sizes of 30 students or less (*\*gym, band, and other activity-based classes are usually larger*).
- A strengthened parent and student community.

Ultimately, these advantages will help our middle-schoolers be better prepared (academically and emotionally) for the challenges of high school.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The start of the school year is the start of a new fundraising year, and naturally we hope to improve on last year's success. There are two ways to help:

- 1) **DONATE!!!** West Sylvan Foundation does NOT have a big auction party, meaning that nearly every dollar donated goes straight to the bottom line. No need to get dressed up, and no morning-after buyer's remorse! It also means that we rely on donors to be proactive by writing a check or hitting the Donate button!!! When should you donate?
  - **NOW** would be a good time. Include your donation with the check you write for registration; if using School Pay, you can donate to Foundation under the "non profit groups" tab.
  - **Donate-A-Thon:** In a few months, you'll be encouraged to participate in Donate-A-Thon, which is our unique fundraising campaign similar to a pledge drive. Stay tuned!
  - **Spring Party signups:** We plan to again offer fundraising parties ... a huge success last spring and a great way for parents and students to connect outside of school.
  - **Employer Matching:** Enough said.
  - **Sign up** for Fred Meyer Rewards, Amazon Smile, and escrip. Enrolling in these programs brings additional money to the Foundation with nothing extra out of your pocket.
  - **ALL YEAR** we'll send reminders to hit the Donate button in case you forgot!
- 2) **PARTICIPATE!!!** All parents are welcome to attend monthly Foundation meetings, usually held in the evening. Check the school calendar for the latest info. We're currently in need of a Secretary as well as a few new members-at-large. This is a great way to be in-the-know about what's going on at West Sylvan, meet other parents, and volunteer in a low-key way.

Questions? Contact Foundation President Darcy Henderson: [darcythestylist@gmail.com](mailto:darcythestylist@gmail.com)