



As the largest middle school in Portland, PPS benefits from a slightly larger share of the pie than peer schools, which is why our students enjoy a greater range of electives than other middle schools. However, state budgets for public schools continue to shrink, leading to limited staffing support for all PPS schools.

Fortunately, the West Sylvan community has the power to fill in the gaps created by budget cuts. Our goal is to further enrich the academic and extra curricular offerings at West Sylvan. Thanks to your donations to the Foundation, West Sylvan students benefit in a variety of ways including:

- Resources to support the integration of an International Baccalaureate program
- Preservation of the band program
- The continuation of Speech & Debate and Journalism as elective courses (rather than extracurricular clubs)
- Continued support of an expanded World Language program
- A strengthened parent and student community through Foundation-sponsored events and activities

And the list continues to grow. 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. Naturally, we hope to improve on past efforts and to provide even more support to the school. There are many 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?
 - **When? 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 on the left side of the home page.
 - **Donate-A-Thon:** In a few months, you'll receive information about participating in Donate-A-Thon, which is our unique fundraising campaign, similar to a pledge drive. Stay tuned!
 - **Party signups:** The fundraising parties have been a huge success and a lot of fun. They are a great way for parents and students to connect outside of school. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4da5a829a31-west1> and contact Chelsea Heiser if you want to host or organize a party.
 - **Employer Matching:** Enough said.
 - **Buy Gifts Cards & Sign up** for Fred Meyer Rewards, Amazon Smile, and escrip and designate WS Foundation as your community beneficiary, to bring additional money to the Foundation with nothing extra coming out of your pocket. See attached sheet for more info or email Andrea Nitta at acnitta@gmail.com for details.
 - **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. This is a great way to be in-the-know about what's going on at West Sylvan, meet other parents, volunteer in a low-key-way, and have a say.

Questions? Contact Foundation President Chelsea Heiser: chelsearhesier@gmail.com