

## **EXPLORER FUND Q & A**

### **What is the Explorer Fund?**

The Explorer Fund supports the faculty, staff and classroom programs that make Explorer a unique school. Your donation is an investment in your child's education, an endorsement of Explorer's mission and philosophy, and a gift that benefits the entire Explorer community.

Your gift to the Explorer Fund goes directly to funding this year's operating budget and is spent on your child's academic and social emotional education this year.

Did you know:

- State funding does not cover the full cost of educating each child. The Explorer Fund helps make up the difference.
- With annual state budget cuts, Explorer needs to raise \$1,100 per student to maintain our current programs and small class size.
- The Explorer Fund is essential because it helps pay for the everyday necessities that allow Explorer to operate and thrive unlike any other school.
- Gifts to the Explorer Fund are 100% tax deductible.

### **How is the Explorer Fund different from the Parent Council fundraisers?**

Explorer hopes to raise a total of \$250,000 this school year – half from Explorer Fund donations and half from Parent Council contributions to the school.

The Parent Council holds several fundraisers each year including Art From The Heart, Book Fair, Jog-A-Thon, Explorer Wear and Square One Art. The Parent Council also organizes special drives such as escrip, boxtops, gift cards, among others. The Parent Council donates \$100,000 each year to Explorer's operating budget and raises additional funds for classroom materials, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Outside The Lens Photography Program and Teacher Appreciation Week.

The Explorer Fund fills the gap in the operating budget for the school because public funding does not cover all the expenses necessary to run Explorer on a daily basis. The operating budget covers expenses to run the science, art, library, PE, music, garden, and

other programs that make Explorer's curriculum unique. However, there is an \$1,100 gap per student in what public funding provides and what it costs to run Explorer. The goal of the Explorer Fund is to fill that gap.

Your contribution is important in both areas – the Explorer Fund and Parent Council fundraisers. Both go directly to support student learning and teachers at Explorer.

### **Do I have to contribute to attend an Explorer Fund Parent Social?**

Grade level parties are community-building activities for parents, and you are under no obligation to give to the Explorer Fund, as Explorer Elementary Charter School is a public school.

### **What are directed donations?**

New this year, you can direct your donation to a specific program that your family chooses to support. You can direct your donation to one of the following Explorer programs:

- Science
- Art
- Library
- P.E. and Playground
- Technology
- Faculty support and development
- Wherever it is needed most

### **What happens if donations cover the cost of a particular program? Does the extra money go to improve the program?**

All directed donations are only used for the indicated programs. However, in the event that one of the programs operating expenses is fully covered by the directed donations, all funds donated over that amount may be used to cover expenses for other programs.

### **How can I become involved in the Explorer Fund?**

Contact anyone on the development committee -- we welcome new ideas! The more the merrier!

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Melissa Ratcliff at [Melissa@ratcliffhome.com](mailto:Melissa@ratcliffhome.com).