

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **1. What is the MCA Annual Fund?**

The Annual Fund is our school's fall fundraising initiative. Because tuition alone does not cover the total cost of educating our students, the Annual Fund is critical to our academic programming, with a goal of providing approximately 10% of the school's annual operating budget from voluntary, charitable contributions. Funds will help bridge the gap in our operating budget and ensure a quality education for all students.

- **2. What does the bulk of Annual Fund giving go towards?**

The Annual Fund, like our operating budget, primarily supports our faculty and programs. Approximately 70% of our operating budget funds salaries and benefits which allow us to attract and retain a high-caliber faculty and staff. Additionally, Annual funding will support academic programming, tuition assistance, and other school operations. Roughly 25% of the student body receives tuition assistance.

- **3. Why do we need an Annual Fund giving program?**

Tuition does not cover the full cost of educating MCA students. The shortfall or gap is approximately \$1,100 per student will be covered in part by the Annual Fund.

- **4. Why don't we just raise tuition?**

Setting tuition below the full cost of education is consistent with our core values and keeps the school affordable for a wider range of families. Also, Annual Fund Giving allows current parents, along with other members of our community, to help make up the shortfall with a tax-deductible donation.

- **5. Our family cannot give at a high level, why should we participate?**

Because every gift matters and is greatly appreciated! The participation of everyone in our community is critical to the campaign, and the level of participation is a measure of the strength of our community. We rely on Annual Fund donations to achieve our fall fundraising goal and to keep tuition as low and affordable as possible. Every student benefits from Annual Fund donations.

- **6. How much should I give?**

We ask that you consider MCA among your top philanthropic priorities and give your very best offering. Gifts to our Annual Fund may range from \$25 - \$5,000. All gifts are important because they demonstrate your support for your child's school. The school can accept stocks, real estate, precious metals, and certain types of vehicles.

- **7. We are asked to give to many things at MCA. How do I prioritize?**

There are two primary fundraising efforts initiated by MCA going forward:

- 1) Annual Fund giving in the fall to support the operating budget each year
- 2) Our Live Auction Fundraiser in the spring supports tuition assistance and various *Fund-a-Need* initiatives

- a. **We ask that families make the Annual Fund their top priority** each year because it directly supports the operating budget.