



#BULLDOGSTRONG BIG GIVE

October 9, 2020

Dear STM Parents,

As you heard at Back to School Night last night, **our annual auction revenue is critical to the school's budget, bridging the gap between tuition and our true cost of education.** It's even more critical right now as costs are being driven up by the necessary technology and safety requirements to enable both at-home learning (now) and in-person learning (as soon as possible). This year, our fundraising goal is \$200,000, for an average need of \$900 per student.

Our goal is for STM to reach this year's fundraising requirement in the safest, most efficient way possible, while taking into consideration the health and social guideline challenges we may face this upcoming school year. Therefore, with the blessing of the administration, we have decided to forego our traditional annual auction evening. We plan to meet our fundraising goal through a combination of smaller events and a "write your best check" effort that we are calling the #BulldogStrong Big Give!

Events

We will be hosting our always-popular greenery sale, celebrating the new year with our always exciting annual raffle and introducing a few fun "pop-up" events. These are great ways to inspire community spirit and support. There will also be sponsorship opportunities available. Even without a traditional auction event, there are plenty of opportunities to get your business message in front of our community! Watch for more information on these special ways to support STM.

#BulldogStrong Big Give!

We are graciously asking all parents to make a donation to St. Thomas More Catholic School – please "write your best check" to make a big difference for the kids! We realize this will look different for each family. We understand that some families are facing significant financial distress during this time of uncertainty and won't be able to contribute as much as they would like to the effort. We hope that families who are willing and able to donate more than the average need per student to please consider doing so. Please note that this is in lieu of what many of us might spend over the course of the year on auction-related activities including buy-in parties, donation of items, babysitters for the evening, showcase donations, tickets and purchases at the event itself. If you typically spend more than \$900 annually per child, we wholeheartedly appreciate and encourage your consistency in giving. **All donations made to the #BulldogStrong Big Give are 100% tax-deductible.** (If you are curious about your auction expenses last year, just reach out to the auction office. Emily Shields will be happy to provide information to help you determine this year's budget.)

Make Your Donation

We are counting on 100% participation! You can make a one-time gift or pay a pledge in installments. We are ready to welcome payment now or later. There is flexibility so you can do what is best for your family. Please write your best check or make your pledge by Friday, October 30th. Remember, we need an average of \$900 per student to reach our goal!

- To make a one-time gift using your credit card, visit Faith Direct, STM's online giving partner: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/OR915/40338>
- To make a pledge with a monthly payment plan, visit: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/OR915>
- Mail or drop a check to St. Thomas More Catholic School. If you are going to develop a monthly payment plan that you will manage by check, please let Emily Shields know (auction_acct@stmpdx.org). She is handling auction accounting again this year.

Do you have have questions on how to make your donation on your terms? Contact Amy Dice, STM Development Director at amydice@stmpdx.org.

We encourage you to share the news of our fundraising effort with friends and families (grandparents love to support schools!). Use your corporate matching gift opportunities! All are welcome to help us meet our goal! We look forward to providing an update as we begin to receive payments and pledges. Watch for the donation thermometer to go up!

Thank you in advance for your dedication to St. Thomas More and the #BulldogStrong Big Give!

Gratefully yours,
The Fourth Grade Class
Mrs. Katy Smith, Principal
Rev. Martin King, Pastor