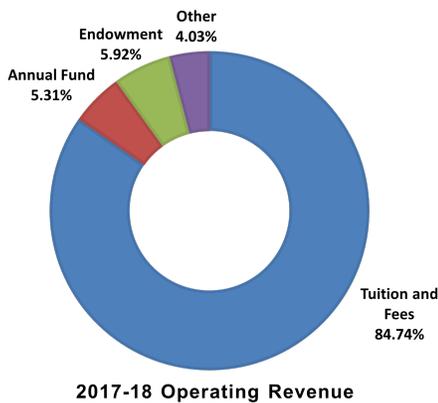


# The Annual Fund: Parents' Frequently Asked Questions



## Why is the Annual Fund important?

Columbus Academy does not have the benefit of income through taxes like public schools. Independent schools like Columbus Academy are 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations; we operate through income from tuition and **tax-deductible** donations from members of our Academy community.

Annual Fund donations add approximately \$1.7 million to the school's annual operating budget to help **sustain the school's excellent teachers and student programs**, making it the school's top fundraising priority each year. A healthy, growing Annual Fund also gives the school the flexibility to take advantage of new opportunities to **enrich students' Academy experience**.

## Who gives to the Annual Fund?

Every member of the Academy community is asked to participate each year: parents, alumni, grandparents, and even faculty/staff. Including philanthropic gifts as a piece of the school's budget ensures that the responsibility of the full cost of an Academy education does not fall solely on current families. Without the school's generous donors, tuition would be approximately \$3,395 more per student this year!

## How much should I give?

There is no gift minimum to participate, but there are some aspirational [giving levels](#) that we ask families to consider to help reach the school's budgeted Annual Fund goal.

## Why is parent participation important?

Parent participation in the Annual Fund is an important indicator of the health of the school. High parent participation is viewed as a sign of parent pride and confidence in the school. It is a metric that is reported annually to the National Association of Independent Schools, and Academy's parent participation (71%) is ranked slightly above average. We are committed to striving for increased participation every year.

## If my family receives financial aid and I donate to the Annual Fund, will it affect the amount of my future aid?

There is no correlation between financial aid awards and donations to the Annual Fund. Gifts of all sizes are important, and one hundred percent family participation is our goal each year.

## When should I give?

The Annual Fund fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Early gifts and pledges at the beginning of the school year are especially appreciated, as they help the school plan for the remainder of the academic year. Knowing your plans also helps the parent volunteers and staff who are diligently following up throughout the year asking for your support.

## How do I make a gift or pledge?

- ✘ Mail a check to the school address, payable to *Columbus Academy* and with "Annual Fund" in the memo line.
- ✘ Donate online at [giving.columbusacademy.org](http://giving.columbusacademy.org). You can even make a pledge and break it up into monthly installments.
- ✘ Enroll in monthly donations to continue your support year after year with no end date. By selecting this option, your family could choose a manageable monthly donation that will make a significant annual impact. This option can be set up via credit card [online](#) or via automatic bill pay through your bank.
- ✘ Gifts of appreciated stock are easy to transfer to Columbus Academy. You will receive a tax deduction for the full market value with no capital gains tax. Contact the Development Office at 614-509-2256 for assistance.
- ✘ Can you match your gift? Check with your employer and your donation could go even further.

## More Questions?

Email [developmentoffice@columbusacademy.org](mailto:developmentoffice@columbusacademy.org) or call 614-509-2256.



**Annual Fund**

Enriching the **Academy experience**.