



# Staten Island Academy

## 2018-19 ACADEMY FUND

### WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

Staten Island Academy's mission is to prepare successful students who are ready to achieve their goals in school and in life. At Commencement, your child will be prepared for college, life, and global citizenship in the 21st century. In order to help our students as they learn to be "critical thinkers, ethical leaders and self-reliant problem solvers" - and keep Academy tuition levels lower than many other independent schools in New York City, we need your help.

Each tax-deductible dollar you give to the Academy Fund bridges the gap between tuition income and the true cost of educating each student. The Academy Fund supports outstanding teaching, programming, and facilities. Your gift is a direct investment in the education of your child.

The strongest independent schools in America derive their vitality from a strong culture of parent giving. Your participation encourages other parents to give. Your gift also demonstrates to the entire Staten Island Academy community and other potential funders that you believe in the school and have invested in its success.

Participate in the Academy Fund so that your child can benefit from being a member of an outstanding community of learning.

Each year trustees, faculty, parents, alumni, grandparents, and friends of the school are asked to make a financial investment in Staten Island Academy in two ways, first, by making a tax-deductible gift to the school through the Academy Fund, which benefits all of our students and supports critical programs. Second, parents are asked to participate in the annual fundraising event, often an auction, by donating auction items, buying and selling raffle tickets and tickets to the event, and bidding for items in the live and silent auction.

For parents who are unfamiliar with independent schools, this request for funds in addition to tuition may come as a surprise. Parents are often unaware that the full cost of educating an Academy student exceeds tuition. The Academy Fund provides the financial support that bridges that gap and provides the school with the resources to offer the enhanced program that Staten Island Academy's mission requires. Our current students benefit from the generosity of previous donors, and we ask our community to continue this tradition. It is important that all families give.

Contributions to the Academy Fund are unrestricted, giving the administration the ability to allocate financial resources where they are most needed. A donation to The Academy Fund is the single most important gift a family can make to the school each year. Your donation, when added to those of hundreds of other Staten Island Academy parents, trustees, faculty, alumni and friends, will have a major impact on the school. Your participation builds community by encouraging others to give, helps the school when it seeks outside funds from the larger community, and demonstrates that the Staten Island Academy community is committed to the school, its mission, and its students.

### LEADERSHIP GIVING LEVELS

*Head's Leadership Council (\$10,000 and above)*

*The Beacon Society (\$5,000 and above)*

*The 1884 Club (\$2,500 and above)*

*The Maroon and Gold Club (\$1,000 and above)*

*To make a donation, please contact Teresa Pelosi in the Development Office at (718)-303-7812 or visit the GIVING page online at [www.statenislandacademy.org](http://www.statenislandacademy.org)*

# FAQs

## How does the Academy Fund benefit my family now?

The success of the Academy Fund appeal has a direct impact on the quality of education we offer our students. Gifts to the Academy Fund help the school to maintain small class sizes, enhance innovative curriculum and programs, maintain the Academy's 12-acre campus and facilities, and enrich athletics, the arts and extracurricular programs. In addition, to attract and retain outstanding faculty, we must offer competitive faculty salaries and benefits.

All students benefit directly from funds raised. Singapore Math, Spanish, Mandarin and Latin courses have been added to the curriculum. A focus on coding, the creation of a "MakerSpace", enhancements to the Patrick Academic Resource Center (PARC) and our magnificent performing and fine arts program are initiatives that were all aided by contributions to the Academy Fund.

## Why should I donate to the Academy Fund? Isn't tuition enough?

Each year there is a gap of over \$1,500 per student between tuition and the actual cost of your child's education. Independent schools like Staten Island Academy depend on tax-deductible annual gifts from parents, alumni, trustees, faculty, and friends to help cover the gap between tuition dollars and the actual cost of educating each student. In addition, participation in the Academy Fund is a show of support.

When the Academy is under consideration for grants from large donors or foundations, the level of community participation in annual giving plays an important role. Your participation demonstrates your support and sends a clear message to other prospective donors that our parents and alumni care about the school and its students.

## Why not raise tuition to equal the cost of educating students?

If the Academy Fund did not exist, annual tuition increases would be staggering. It is not in the interest of the school to have ever-higher tuition excluding qualified students from the school and shrinking the enrollment in each classroom. It benefits all students to have qualified students from diverse economic backgrounds. In addition, since Academy Fund gifts are tax-deductible, parents may maximize their education dollars by writing off their donation.

## Are my gifts tax-deductible?

Yes. Staten Island Academy is a federally registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which means that gifts to the school are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. All donors get a formal acknowledgement of their gift to present to their tax professional.

## May I designate my gift to a specific area?

Yes. If you wish to underwrite a specific item for the school or have specific area of interest you would like to support, please contact [tpelosi@statenilandacademy.org](mailto:tpelosi@statenilandacademy.org).

## Will the Academy help me fill out matching gift forms?

The Academy's Development Office is happy to help with all forms and processing details. Please contact Teresa Pelosi at [tpelosi@statenilandacademy.org](mailto:tpelosi@statenilandacademy.org).

## May I make my gift in installments?

Yes. You may make a gift using quarterly or even monthly payment plans. Donors who prefer to automate the process may give the Development Office a credit card, set up a giving schedule, and have their pledge payments made automatically.

## May I make my gift anonymously?

Yes. You may choose to be completely anonymous or keep only the amount of your gift private and still be listed as participating in the Annual Report.

## How much should I give?

Only you can decide the amount that is appropriate for you. We ask that you participate to the fullest extent possible for you and your family. We request that parents make the Academy their highest philanthropic priority while their children are enrolled in the school and that our alumni recognize the importance of their education and experiences at the Academy and help us offer these benefits to the students who follow them. Gifts to the Academy Fund range from \$25.00 to more than \$25,000. Though leadership gifts can be transformative, every gift matters to us.

## How can I help the Academy Fund?

There are many ways you can make a difference. You can join the Academy Fund Committee to help spread the word about the importance of the Academy Fund and ask other members of the school community to participate in the Academy Fund Appeal. You may also participate as a volunteer for the Golf & Tennis Outing or the annual Auction held in the spring. SIA Alumni also have a role to play as volunteers.



**The  
ACADEMY  
FUND**  
**\$400,000.00**  
(Our Goal)

### **Development Team**

Albert. R. Cauz  
*Head of School*

Joseph Anthony Puma, MD  
*Chair, Development Committee*

Teresa Pelosi  
*Director of Development*

Laurie Turchiano  
*Manager of Communications  
and Special Events*

Michelle Savino  
*Development Associate*

Susan Fiorentino  
*Development Associate*