GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL

Equity Fund 2020-21

We are pleased to announce the launch of Georgetown Day School's Equity Fund for 2020-21, one of the new ways in which we will be ensuring that every student has full access to the breadth and opportunity that exist within the GDS program.

GDS's $7.4 million financial aid budget presently serves the mission-critical function of ensuring socioeconomic diversity in our community by providing direct tuition assistance for families for whom the full tuition amount is unattainable. In addition to tuition assistance, the financial aid budget also directly supplements the costs of educational evaluation and academic tutoring to support student success. In these ways, our existing financial aid program provides excellent access to the GDS program.

Within the GDS program, the Equity Fund will provide financial support for academic experiences and community-related activities that may incur additional cost for families so that students have equitable access to the full GDS experience, thus filling a critical gap in our existing financial aid program.

For the inaugural year of this initiative, we are piloting the Equity Fund at the High School, where we have identified the greatest number of programs requiring financial investment beyond tuition for families.

Within the High School program, we furthermore prioritized the areas for Equity Fund support to a few areas that (1) affect a significant number of students, and (2) create significant equity barriers for some students because of the financial costs associated. The priority programming areas for the Equity Fund in 2020-21 detailed in this document are:

Technology

College Counseling

Athletics

Technology

A device that meets adequate technological specifications is strongly recommended for all GDS students entering High School, particularly as we plan to start the year on our GDS Virtual Campus (i.e., distance learning). GDS has no formal requirements regarding computer hardware for students. We only require that your child's device have functioning wireless internet connectivity ("wifi", 802.11 standard), a full keyboard, and a battery with enough capacity to last for the majority of the school day. Students usually use Apple MacBook Air or MacBook Pro computers, Windows-based laptops from various manufacturers, and Chromebooks. Given the frequency of typing/writing work in the HS curriculum, we do not recommend tablets as a primary device unless they have a full keyboard accessory to accompany them.

GDS does not provide laptops to each High School student, but we are pleased to provide an option for families to purchase a device through the School. The newly-launched Equity Fund will supplement the cost for families who currently receive financial aid for tuition.

As part of a Tech Equity Access Program, we are offering High School students the following options:

- Bring your own device (that meets predetermined specifications).

- Purchase a new device through the School, with a financial aid percentage applied as necessary.

- Rent-to-own a new device, with the total cost (plus a nominal processing fee) divided into increments and paid over the length of the student's time in High School. The amount paid back to the school over time is based on the full cost of a laptop (plus processing fee).

For students opting to purchase a laptop through the school, the Equity Fund supplement will work as follows:

Item	Approximate cost (not including modifications)	Equity Fund Supplement
New laptop purchase	$1,200 (MacBook Air) $1,600 (MacBook Pro)	Based on GDS Financial Aid %: - **>90%:** Full cost of a new laptop is covered - **1-89%**: Equivalent percentage applied to total
New laptop rent-to-own	$1,200 + $150 processing/inventory costs	GDS Financial Aid % applied to

	(MacBook Air)	total cost over 4 years; payment increments due every August
	$1,600 + $150 processing/inventory costs (MacBook Pro)	

If you need to purchase a laptop for your GDS High School student, please complete the survey at [this link](#).

College Counseling

We aim to provide both transparency and financial support for the college process starting the summer before 11th Grade. We have adopted a tiered financial support model that provides the following supplements for students:

	FA Level	Cost per student	Equity Fund Supplement
Tier 1	90-100%	$1,000	- All application fees - Testing fees for ACT and/or SAT - CSS Profile fees - Fees for official test score submission - No fee for test prep programs with Applerouth or Capital Educators (in addition to the match they receive from these companies, we would cover additional costs)
Tier 2	80-89%	$800	- All application fees - Testing fees for ACT and/or SAT - CSS Profile fees - Fees for official test score submission
Tier 3	70-79%	$600	8 application fees
Tier 4	60-69%	$400	6 application fees
Tier 5	50-59%	$200	3 application fees

Athletics

We recognize that the most comprehensive approach to providing access to Athletics is to remove the equipment cost barrier for each program by building an in-house inventory supplemented by the Equity Fund over two years, and our Athletics Department is committed to doing that.

Shoes and Cleats

GDS has worked with our sports vendor BSN to provide a 20% discount on athletic shoes for all GDS student-athletes.

For students receiving more than 90% in financial aid, the cost of shoes and cleats will be covered by the Equity Fund; if your family falls into this category and needs to purchase shoes/cleats for your GDS student-athlete, please contact Barbara Eghan for details about placing an order through the BSN online store.

Team Gear

All team stores will offer the same base team gear items (*i.e.* track suits, warm-up pants, etc.) for athletes, fans, and alumni to order.

For students receiving more than 90% in financial aid, the cost of one coach-designated team gear item will be covered by the Equity Fund; if your family falls into this category and needs to purchase team gear for your GDS student-athlete, please contact Barbara Eghan for details about placing an order through the online store.