



FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Grandparents and Community Members,

We want to thank each of you for the time, energy and kindness you pour into raising your family. Your grandchildren benefit from your love, wisdom, and perspective; and we have benefited from the same in our relationships with you. We are enormously grateful and honored to include you in our Aspen Academy Family.

The children were THRILLED to have their Grandparents and Grand-Friends join us in this year's Grand Day Virtual Event. In this unconventional time, pivoting to an online platform allowed us to keep in touch with the Grand People of our lives. In our town hall, I was proud to share about Aspen Academy and the successes we have had in this challenging school year. Your grandchildren are of the very few in America with the advantage of safely attending school on campus, with their teachers and friends, five days each week. We are certain Aspen Academy students will make the world a better place.

Since our inception in 2005, Grandparents have provided a pillar of support to Aspen Academy students, teachers and programs sharing their time, talent and resources. Through your donations to the newly established Grand Fund, we will continue mission-critical programs that are not covered by student tuition, impact the lives of young people, and edify and inspire students and educators to grow, learn, and lead.

The pandemic has had a unique impact on each family. There are some who have suffered health and financial challenges and others who have been fortunate and are successfully weathering the storm. Whatever your family's situation, we ask that you please consider making a meaningful contribution to the Aspen Academy Grand Fund. Your support reaches across the generations and supports Aspen Academy's growth as your grandchildren grow.

Love,

Kristina Scala
Founder & President of Aspen Academy



TESTIMONIALS

"Our decision [to donate to Aspen Academy] was based firstly by our support of our two grandchildren attending Aspen since 2014, which has provided them an extraordinary educational opportunity. Secondly, COVID has been difficult for all of us, but Aspen's response has been remarkable. The staff has gone to great lengths to ensure the best possible learning experience for all the children, both virtually and in-person. We appreciate the herculean efforts of the entire Aspen team. It was our way of saying, 'thank you and job well done above and beyond.'" - Debbie and David Younggren

"Thanks for the wonderful education and experience you are offering to our granddaughter. The students of Aspen Academy are very fortunate."
- Grandparent of 1st grade student

"I would just like to commend you on the great job you are doing during these difficult times....we LOVE Aspen Academy!" - Grandparent of 3rd, 1st and Pre-K students

"You all are doing such an amazing job, I cannot tell you how impressed I am with the culture, mission, and 'Make it happen' attitude of your school."
- Grandparent of 1st grade student

HOW TO GIVE >>

- Visit [aspenacademy.org/grandfund](https://www.aspenacademy.org/grandfund) to make a one-time or recurring monthly gift.
- Complete the enclosed form on the pre-addressed envelope and send it, with your check, to Aspen Academy.
- Give via Stock Transfer or Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. For more details, contact debbie.cordero@aspenacademy.org.

ASPEN ACADEMY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- When the state ordered schools to close their campuses last spring, Aspen Academy was ready and made the pivot to full-time, remote, live instruction within 12 hours. Our teachers knocked it out of the park and 94% of our students met or exceeded their grade level learning growth goals.
- We consulted and worked with infectious disease specialists, building health experts and county, state, and national health leaders to devise and execute a plan for an optimally healthy and safe campus. Aspen Academy has been an industry leader in safe and secure school development. Nearly every element of the school's operations had to change to accommodate COVID requirements.
- Aspen Academy has maintained one of the lowest tuition rates at 25-45% less than other independent schools in the Denver-Metro area. When most independent schools operate outside of their income, Aspen Academy has remained true to our commitment of operating on a balanced budget.
- Aspen Academy community came TOGETHER to raise over \$1.3M to cover the costs of implementing COVID mandates and regulations so our students could be on campus learning 5 days each week, putting them in the minority of American students. Our students have an advantage that will benefit them for many years to come; in their academic endeavors, their social/emotional health and in their future careers.

"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher."

- Japanese Proverb

THE GRAND FUND INVESTS IN THE FUTURE OF OUR STUDENTS

Today's learners face a rapidly changing future that demands far different skills and knowledge than we needed in the 20th century. As we continually invest to provide next generation education, we are committed to critical research, development and implementation in all academic domains and for all students. Generating and sustaining an environment in which relevant, cutting-edge learning that is preparing our students to have the real-life, skills and habits they need to succeed in their future is made possible by your generous investments.

FAQs

What does the Grand Fund Support?

We are committed to being at the forefront of education. The Grand Fund will be allocated to the highest and best use to benefit all students at Aspen Academy. The gifts and efforts of our GRAND community will assure the sustainability of Aspen Academy's programs that impact the world.

Why am I asked to support the Grand Fund if you are a tuition based school?

Tuition alone does not cover the full expense for a student to attend Aspen Academy. As an independent school and 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Aspen Academy relies on the generosity of our community to improve and fund these critical areas that cannot be covered by tuition and fees.

Why not raise tuition?

Aspen Academy maintains the lowest tuition of the state's Association of Colorado Independent Schools. At our tuition levels, the school is able to make an Aspen Academy education more affordable to more families. Tuition and fees don't fully cover the costs of these areas so we, like every independent school. Many families appreciate the opportunity to claim a federal tax deduction and in some cases, a state tax credit. Gifts to the school are tax deductible, but tuition is not.

How much should I give?

You are the only one who knows how much you are able to give, and we ask only that you give to the best of your ability. Gifts range from \$50-\$100,000. We encourage each family to make the school a philanthropic priority especially while your grandchildren are in attendance.

Why is participation important?

The school's financial strength is dependent upon the participation of all members of its constituency. Participation sends a strong message of support for the school and our students.

May I make a pledge in fulfillment of a Grand Fund Gift?

Yes. Gifts to the Grand Fund Campaign may be fulfilled by pledges and you may pay in installments through June 30, 2021.

Support Today @ ASPENACADEMY.ORG/GRANDFUND