



PHILANTHROPY AT FRENCH INTERNATIONAL 2026-27

At French International School of Oregon, philanthropy is more than giving. It's a reflection of our shared commitment to excellence, global citizenship, and opportunity. As parents, your leadership and generosity help fuel the very experiences that make our school exceptional: small class sizes, outstanding educators, immersive programs, and a vibrant, inclusive community. When families give at a high level, they send a powerful message that this school, and the future it shapes for our children, is worth investing in.

THE ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund has changed. It is still your opportunity to directly and profoundly impact the daily experiences of students at French International now with enhanced clarity and transparency. The Annual Fund is supported by our annual fundraising events and direct donations, and addresses the school's greatest needs. It provides funding for teachers to bring speakers and performers on campus, up-to-date technology, professional development, field trips, and academic resources that elevate curriculum and the library media center. If there is an area that you would like to support specifically, for example, Financial Aid, you can designate your gift on our giving form. Tuition and fees do not cover the cost of educating our students, so like all independent schools, we cover a portion of the annual budget with tax-deductible contributions.

Why is participation in the Annual Fund significant?

High participation from parents donating to the Annual Fund is essential; it reflects the deep investment of our community in our school. Foundations and outside funders use annual fund participation as a benchmark when deciding whether to fund our school for special initiatives. We invite you to contribute to the Annual Fund and support our ongoing grant applications, maximizing our chances of success!

How should I support the Annual Fund, and when should I donate?

Get ready for Giving Tuesday (December 2) and FI's Annual Fund Week, December 1st - 5th, 2025. On Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity, many companies match gifts at the highest rate, making it a great day to give, doubling, or sometimes tripling your impact. In an effort to reduce asks and communications, we ask families to give to the Annual Fund in December during Annual Fund Week from December 1st - 5th.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

What events support the Annual Fund?

Proceeds from Fête du Vin, Grandparents and Special Friends Day, and the Annual Gala all support the Annual Fund.

Please note: While events like Fête and the Gala support the Annual Fund, purchases that include tangible benefits—such as event tickets, raffle entries, or auction items—do not count toward Annual Fund participation rates. Only direct, tax-deductible donations are included in participation metrics.

What is Fête du Vin?

Fête du Vin is one of our most beloved annual traditions. At the event, guests will enjoy unlimited tastings from our exceptional wine partners from all across the Willamette Valley. Enjoy an evening of discovering your new favorite wine with heavy hors d'oeuvres and incredible company! After the event, you may purchase wine from our wine partners, and 25% of sales benefit French International.

What is the Annual Gala?

The Annual Gala is our largest philanthropic event and takes place each spring at a unique off-campus location. The event is made up of three main components: silent auction, live auction, and special appeal. Proceeds from the Gala support the Annual Fund, and the Special Appeal is a unique area to support each year.

Gifts made to the Special Appeal are 100% tax-deductible, while purchases made during the Gala's silent and live auctions are tax-deductible to the extent that the gift exceeds the value of the item purchased. Raffle tickets are not tax-deductible.

1979 SOCIETY

What is the 1979 Society?

The 1979 Society honors the year that French International was founded. Donors who make a leadership gift to the school of \$1,979 or greater become members of the 1979 Society. Membership benefits include recognition in the Annual Report on Philanthropy and an invitation to an annual celebration honoring your leadership commitment to French International. Matching gifts are included in the 1979 Society qualification! Gifts are counted within the fiscal year (July 1–June 30).

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

What is the Capital Campaign?

Grow With Us: The Campaign for French International will fund the establishment of a permanent campus with state-of-the-art design.

Our plan centers around five goals:

- Design and build new Maternelle and Lower School spaces
- Establish a community campus with play at its center
- Deepen the educational capabilities of our campus
- Prepare for future enrollment growth
- Enhance safety, parking, and traffic flow

How will the Capital Campaign be funded?

Our campaign is set to raise over \$8,000,000 in community donations. Additional funding will be provided by a campus redevelopment fund and strategic borrowing.

Are families expected to give to the Capital Campaign and the Annual Fund?

All independent schools rely on support from parents and the broader community to maintain excellence in education, keep tuition affordable, provide financial aid, and support the operating budget and necessary campus growth. Our achievements as the French International community are a testament to the dedication of our past and current supporters. All families are encouraged to donate to the Annual Fund each year and to support periodic capital campaigns, which are crucial for our strategic growth and continued success.

QUESTIONS?

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