Learning Shaped by Community

THE SIDWELL FRIENDS FUND 2026/27

Long after students leave Sidwell Friends, certain habits remain: the instinct to ask better questions, the patience to listen closely, the confidence to speak with conviction, and the willingness to engage thoughtfully with people and ideas different from their own.

Those qualities take shape over time in classrooms where discussions outlast the bell, through experiences that connect learning to the wider world, and alongside faculty who continue to bring fresh thinking and new perspectives into their teaching each year.

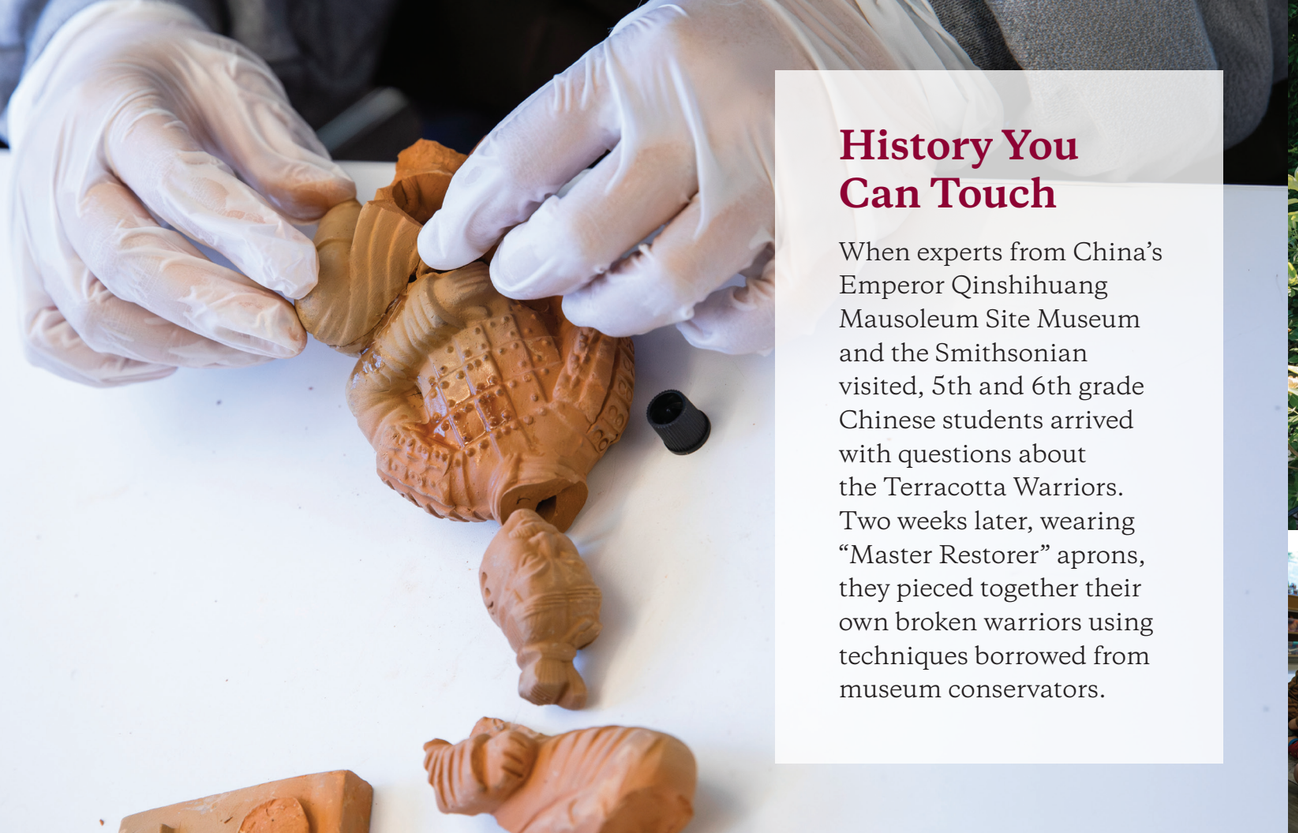
Through support for financial aid, faculty professional development, and student experiences, The Sidwell Friends Fund helps sustain the environment where those habits take root and grow.

The stories and highlights that follow show some of the ways gifts to the Fund helped strengthen teaching, learning, and student life in 2025/26.

Science With Mud on Its Boots

For nearly three decades, including this past year, 11th grade biology students have waded into a stream in Rock Creek Park, collecting data on ecosystem health that goes directly to government agencies. Not far away, student Weed Warriors pulled invasive species to restore the native habitat. The work is different. The instinct is the same: Sidwell Friends students do not simply study the environment. They take responsibility for it.





History You Can Touch

When experts from China's Emperor Qinshihuang Mausoleum Site Museum and the Smithsonian visited, 5th and 6th grade Chinese students arrived with questions about the Terracotta Warriors. Two weeks later, wearing "Master Restorer" aprons, they pieced together their own broken warriors using techniques borrowed from museum conservators.



23%
of families received financial aid

Access, Opportunity, and Belonging

Financial aid helped ensure that students from a wide range of backgrounds could participate fully in academic and student life. Support helped families access technology, classroom resources, and experiences in the arts, athletics, and co-curricular life, strengthening connection and belonging across the community.







A Faculty of Learners

Every faculty member participated in professional development, engaging in work that ranged from civil dialogue and executive functioning to environmental science, oral storytelling, restorative practices, and interdisciplinary curriculum design. More than 100 educators also attended conferences and workshops, bringing new research, fresh perspectives, and renewed curiosity into their classrooms.



Their Stories, Their Platforms

From the stage to the page, students had something to say and every platform to say it. The Black Student Union's *A Story of Resistance* traced movements of resistance across generations and continents. In the newly launched Performance Lab Showcase, Upper School students wrote and staged their own original works, while publications like *Horizon* and *The Fountain Pen* gave students space to shape conversations through writing, art, and journalism.





Watching, Wondering, Understanding

Once a month, a baby visited 2nd grade. Students gathered and observed, watching an infant grow more curious, expressive, and engaged with each visit. By spring, their questions had grown too: more thoughtful, more perceptive, and more attuned to the experiences of others. Baby Watch returned this year, giving students the rare opportunity to watch growth, relationships, and human development unfold in real time.

“Curiosity and the habit of asking questions help us to engage more deeply, help us find our voices, and allow us to explore interests that matter to our growth as individuals. These are essential qualities to leading an engaged life.”

ALLEN VANDEGRIFT
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

$10M financial aid awarded to current families

$39K average financial aid grant awarded

125+ student clubs & affinity groups

50+ students on the award-winning robotics team





425+ student athletes on **35** sports teams



100% of faculty participated in professional development

150+ students performed in theatrical productions

40+ students on the award-winning debate team

2026–2027

Sidwell Friends Fund Leadership Committee

CURRENT PARENTS

UPPER SCHOOL

Monique McCloud-Manley P '24, '28 | Clerk
Stacey Seldin P '28 | Clerk
Celia Sher P '29 | Vice Clerk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Yoshi Maisami P '33, '35 | Clerk
Max Minzner P '30, '33 | Clerk
Ying Zhu P '32 | Vice Clerk

LOWER SCHOOL

Meera Patel P '36 | Clerk
Sonia Talley P '37, '39 | Clerk
Mead Sissman P '39 | Vice Clerk

ALUMNI

Amanda Derryck Castel ‘91, P ‘21, ‘24 | Clerk
Ellen Cornelius Ericson ‘97, P ‘31, ‘34 | Clerk
Colin Harris ‘09 | Clerk
Anna Thompson Pearson ‘04, P ‘37, ‘40 | Clerk
Morgan McGill ‘89 | Vice Clerk
Philip Selden ‘98 | Vice Clerk

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY.

The SIDWELL FRIENDS Fund

Be the Light,
Brighten the Future.

3825 WISCONSIN AVE. NW | WASHINGTON, DC 20016
202-537-8100 | SIDWELL.EDU