



EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

A Guide to

Giving and Getting Involved

at Bishop Noland
Episcopal Day
School



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BISHOP NOLAND
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Our School

Since 1953 Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School has been providing academic excellence to a diverse student body in a Christian environment. Our reputation in the community is well known for producing creative, highly successful graduates who become leaders in their own fields. You can feel confident that your child will receive an education and experience that will develop your whole child: spiritually as well as academically.

Our nurturing and passionate teachers provide academic rigor, creative curriculum, and innovative differentiation in a safe, loving environment. Beyond the classroom EDS offers many co-curricular activities such as musical theater, award-winning math teams, state-of-the-art technology, organized sports, environmental projects and much more. These opportunities allow our students to find and develop new passions. Each day we develop and, more importantly, encourage skills such as teamwork, creativity, ethics, resilience, curiosity, and time management.

Most of all, EDS is a family environment bursting with support for each student to discover their own talents.



The Gift of Time and Talent

It's hard to imagine a more powerful team than school and parents working together for the good of their children. That's why serving as a parent volunteer with the EDS Parent Guild is so vital to enriching your child's education at Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School.

Volunteering can be so beneficial to you as a parent. It allows you to meet other parents who can give you deeper insights into the lives of your children and their classmates. (How much time do other kids spend on their homework? What projects and events are coming up that you haven't heard of? And when your child says, "Everybody else is doing it" – are they really?) Meeting fellow parents may also enhance your professional connections and personal friendships. Volunteering also lets you really get to know your child's school: who the staff and volunteer leaders are, why the school does what it does, and how the mission is carried out.

EDS Parent Guild is where the fun begins. Our parent guild coordinates all volunteer opportunities and hosts events to create fellowship among students, families, and the community. The participation and success of the various fundraisers and projects are due to the tremendous effort, time, and commitment of our EDS families. This is the difference we make as a strong Parent Guild at EDS. The Parent Guild organization is governed by the EDS Parent Guild Steering Committee which is staffed with EDS parents that represent each division and grade. The steering committee is responsible for coordinating all Parent Guild fundraisers, managing a budget and overseeing volunteers. The steering committee works closely with the school liaison and the Head of School to ensure all their efforts support the school's mission. Every parent is a member of the EDS

Parent Guild. Annual dues are automatically paid through each child's registration fees. The proceeds from dues and fundraisers allow the Parent Guild to support the school financially through annual gifts that are decided by school administration and parent guild.

The EDS Parent Guild is designed to help you be the best parent and volunteer. Here's some advice to make the most of volunteering for our school.

- **Start by volunteering for an existing task.** Don't leap in with your own project until you've found out what the school says it needs. True, you know your own child. But the school knows its own culture. Ideally, the school will make your proper role clear, including helping you distinguish between your positions as a parent and as a volunteer. Especially in the classroom, remember that you're there for the entire group, not just your child.
- **Avoid parent cliques.** Even if you arrive at school already involved in a particular social circle, don't limit yourself. Experiment with opportunities that put you in touch with a wide range of parents. In addition to broadening your experience, this will make you a role model for your kids.
- **Shape your volunteering to fit your ability to pitch in.** Obviously, volunteering is difficult for two-career families with no time to contribute during the day. In this case, let the school know you're interested in activities that take place outside of business hours or can be done from home. Seek out a short-term project, such as hosting a dinner for the auction.
- **Volunteer your expertise.** Many schools appreciate help from parents experienced with legal matters, real estate, or insurance. This

kind of volunteering may be especially suitable for working parents.

- **Consider the many ways to help with fund-raising.** This may be as simple as pitching in on the yearly auction. Some parents even enjoy asking for money on behalf of a cause to which they feel committed. (Yes, really.)
- **Realize that as your children grow and change, so will your relationship to their school.** Through about fifth grade, it's a feather in a young student's cap to have parents around school to help in the classroom, chaperone field trips, and make scenery for the school play. But this delight may change to dread by seventh grade. Sometimes older kids no longer want to be seen with Mom and Dad, and the teachers no longer need help in the classroom. Take this opportunity to make the shift into school-wide activities, such as parent association meetings, the auction, or fund-raising.

Visit our website at www.episcopaldayschool.org and click on Support and then Parent Guild, to see all the exciting things they are doing and sign-up to volunteer using the link on the page. So don't miss this opportunity to volunteer for a great cause and meet new friends!

Welcome to Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School and the EDS Parent Guild. We are so excited to have you be a part of our family.

If you have any questions please contact Laurie Ardoin, Director of Development at lardoin@episcopaldayschool.org or 337-433-5246.



The Gifts that Keep on Giving

Frequently Unasked Questions

Q. Let's go right to the bottom line. My family is already paying tuition, and plenty of it. What does my child get when we donate money as well?

A. The bottom line is this: Your gift supports the people and programs that make Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School so special. This means talented teachers and academic resources that many public schools simply can't afford. Up-to-date technology and accommodations for different learning styles are part of our program. Exceptional offerings in everything from the arts to athletics are included. While your child is at EDS, all this translates into personal attention, increased intellectual stimulation, better discipline, and more rigor.

Gifts are necessary because tuition doesn't cover all the opportunities your student receives. That's why our school needs endowments, and yes, fund-raising. Inevitably, the special offerings that prepare students for the 21st century drive the budget up. So – just as universities and even public schools now do – we must ask parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends for financial support.

Q. Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School has beautiful grounds, lovely buildings, and many other pricey features. It sure doesn't look like it needs money. Why should I give?

A. It's easy to overestimate how affluent schools are. If they charge \$10,000 or more for tuition and enjoy attractive facilities, you may naturally assume that a school must be rich, the teachers must be well paid, and the financial needs are minimal. But for the vast majority of independent schools, tuition does not cover the full cost of educating a child. At most schools in urban settings, tuition pays only 80-90 percent of the costs. That's why administrators often say that every independent school student attends with tuition assistance.

Q. If independent schools were run in a more businesslike way, couldn't they charge the full cost and avoid having to ask for gifts?

A. A for-profit business, whose mission is to make money, differs from a nonprofit school, whose mission is to provide children with an excellent education. By nature, high-quality schools are labor-intensive and people-oriented; on average, salary and benefits make up about 80% of our school's budget. These schools cannot become more efficient by combining classrooms or reducing staff.

What it comes down to is this: The rising cost of faculty salaries and benefits drives the cost of independent school education. Your school needs to pay its faculty enough to enjoy middle-income lifestyles and support their families within a reasonable distance of the school. To offer competitive salaries and provide the programs you want your children to have, your school has to raise tuition and ask you for a gift.

Q. How does financial aid fit into the fundraising picture?

A. Your gifts help Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School offer tuition assistance that supports a diverse student body. True, many schools do not fund financial aid budgets through their giving program. Instead, they usually allocate a set percentage of the expected tuition revenue. Our school allocates 10% of the operating budget to tuition assistance. But without donations sufficient to meet operating costs, more tuition dollars would have to go to operations – leaving fewer dollars for tuition assistance. Your gifts make EDS affordable to a wider range of students, bringing your child the many benefits of social and economic diversity.

Q. Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School just announced a capital campaign. Why should I give for new buildings and programs the school won't offer until after my child graduates?

A. Our school is over 70 years old, and it is because of the generosity of parents of previous generations that we have the resources your child enjoys today. As the saying goes, all children are warmed by the fires built by others.

Correspondingly, it's up to you as a parent of today to help make sure that the school is there for children 10, 20, and 30 years from now. It's a pay-it-forward situation – you're paying dues to the future.

But there is also more self-serving motivation. Your generous investments in the enhancements of tomorrow will build EDS's long-term reputation, which will always benefit your child as an adult. It is our goal to have an EDS education on their transcript that will speak volumes.

Q. Are there more reasons to give?

A. Of course! Many of our families take pride in the recognition that comes with appearing on the list of the school's supporters, whether that be in the Auction program as a Banner Donor, or as a lead donor for the capital campaign. Others enjoy being involved in fund-raising activities because it lets them make social contacts, such as serving on our Parent Guild or Board of Trustees. And finally, unlike tuition payments, gifts to EDS are tax deductible.

Q. How much of a difference can MY gift make, really?

A. EDS has fewer supporters than a university or large charity does. While we pride ourselves on being a smaller school that means the number who will give is small. However, the need is large, and every gift counts more. This reasoning leads many families to make Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School their philanthropic priority. They know their gifts are an investment that truly pays off.



The Gift of Knowledge

Annual Giving – EDS Family of Annual Funds

Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School's giving program provides direct funding for educational initiatives that tuition alone does not cover. The Family of Annual Funds includes The Eagle Fund and the Auction. These gifts have an immediate and direct benefit to each student and faculty member, as well as to the quality and scope of school programming.

The Eagle Fund

The Eagle Fund strengthens and sustains the extraordinary opportunities of an EDS education. The Eagle Fund provides direct funding for educational initiatives that tuition funds alone do not cover. It provides an immediate and direct benefit to each student and faculty member as well as the quality and scope of our school's programming, educational initiatives, student enrichment programs, professional development opportunities and much more.

The Annual Auction

The Auction, usually held annually in October, is a dinner with silent and live auctions planned by an Auction Committee consisting of parent volunteers. Our Auction is the largest social event of the year and becoming involved is a great way to meet other parents and make a valuable contribution to Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School. The auction is supported by our parents, parishioners, grandparents, and the entire community. The school relies on contributions from the Auction to provide critical support to the operating budget by offsetting expenses not covered by tuition.

BECOME A BANNER DONOR BY PARTICIPATING IN BOTH GIVING OPPORTUNITIES: EAGLE FUND AND AUCTION

Matching Gifts

What they are: As an employee benefit, hundreds of companies worldwide – from Boeing to ExxonMobil to Microsoft – match their staffs' philanthropic contributions. Matching gifts allow you to double or even triple your gift to a school. Visit this site to see if your company matches gifts, www.doublethedonation.com

How they work: After confirming that your employer is indeed a matching gift corporation, get a matching gift form (usually from the human resources department), fill it out, and send it to the school with your gift. The school's development office then submits the form to the company's matching gift department, which sends the money directly to the school. (Also ask if your employer will match volunteer hours with a donation to your school, as some corporations do.)

Giving Circles

Violet Hardtner Howell Society:	\$25,000
St. Francis' Circle:	\$10,000
Bishop Noland's Circle:	\$5,000-\$9,999
Crandall's Circle:	\$2,500-\$4,999
Maroon and Gray Circle:	\$1,000-\$2,499
Eagles Circle:	\$500-\$999
Patrons Circle:	\$250-\$499
Friends Circle:	up to \$249

Participation

What it is: The percentage of parents who give a gift of any size to a school. All schools aim for 100% participation in the annual fund.



Why it's so important: High participation is a huge vote of confidence, an important sign that virtually all parents invest in their children's welfare and support the school's mission. This percentage can also have an impact on gifts from outside sources; most foundations consider parent participation rates before donating funds to a school.

Gifts in Kind

What are they: Donations of needed goods and services rather than money.

What they could be: Vehicles, computers, musical instruments, carpentry, printing services, etc.

Caveat: Both schools and donors must approach gifts in kind with care. Schools must avoid accepting items that they can't make good use of or that would cost too much to maintain or store (such as a boat). And because of the complicated rules and regulations about valuation and tax credits, you must be sure to consult a tax expert and the EDS Advancement Office to ensure your gift adheres to the school's Gift Acceptance Policy.

Restricted and Unrestricted Gifts

What they are: Restricted gifts can be spent only for a specific purpose you choose, such as financial aid or a particular academic program. Unrestricted gifts can be spent for the school's greatest need. At some schools, donors may ask to designate their unrestricted gifts to certain broad areas of current-year operating support, such as faculty compensation.

How to think about restricted and unrestricted giving: "An unrestricted gift is the highest form of philanthropy. It helps the school most because it shows you buy into the mission and gives the school the freedom to place the money here, in the wisdom of the board, it will serve the best purpose. This is not to discourage you from giving where your passion lies. But think broadly." Tracy G. Savage, former assistant head of school for development and public relations at the National Cathedral School in Washington, DC.

Leadership Gifts

What they are: Large donations that set the pace for giving at an early stage of an annual fund or capital campaign - although they may arrive at any time during a fund-raising effort.

Why they matter: Leadership gifts get a campaign off to a strong start and set an example of generosity for the entire community. Schools know that only a few families have the capacity to make substantial contributions toward a goal; if you're among those few, you have a special opportunity to advance your school's mission to transform lives.

Capital Giving

What it is: Major gifts to meet building and endowment needs the school cannot pay for out of tuition funds. Capital giving occurs during a capital campaign. These special campaigns are held every 5-10 years, depending on the school's needs. These are exciting times when the school hopes to take a big leap forward in its strategic planning.

What it buys: Usually brick-and-mortar building projects – new facilities or major renovations. Our last capital campaign, Advancing the Vision, built our middle and high school (7th-12th grade) on our South Campus.

Why the school asks for an annual gift even while you're making a capital gift: For the same reason you have to pay your mortgage while you're putting an addition on your house. The school must continue to meet its operating costs even as it's making major acquisitions and improvements.

Endowment Giving

What it is: Major gifts to a fund that takes the pressure off the operating budget. Endowment principal remains intact as the school spends a percentage of the interest income. Established schools with strong alumni donor bases tend to have larger endowments than other schools, though we are working hard to increase ours.

Planned Gifts

What it is: A gift – often a bequest, trust, or gift of real or personal property – that helps both the donor and the school. The donor reduces taxes, increases income, or satisfies another personal financial need. The school receives a significant outright or deferred gift. These gifts are a creative and tax-wise way to meet both the school's needs and your own philanthropic goals.

The ideal planned gift donors: Those who believe in giving back for the benefit of future generations; those who want to link a family name with the school in perpetuity; would like to commit to a bigger gift by combining an outright donation with deferred support; or will be able to make a larger gift at death than during their lifetimes.

Caveat: Before naming a school in your will or considering another kind of planned gift, consult with an attorney or financial advisor to explore the type of planned gift that is best for you and your family.

Types of Planned Gifts:

- Bequest in your will
- Retirement Plan Assets
- Life Insurance Benefits
- Charitable Trust
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Memorial or Honorary Gift
- Direct Cash Gifts

Ways to Give

There are many ways to give to Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School. Visit our website at www.episcopaldayschool.org and click on the Support link to give online. Call or visit the school to pay via credit card. Checks are also accepted through mail or given in-person.

For further questions, contact Laurie Ardoin, Director of Development or Allison Schnake, Director of Advancement, at 337-433-5246.



so much **more** than a school



NORTH CAMPUS (PreK2 - 6th grade)
803 North Division Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601

SOUTH CAMPUS (7th-12th grade)
5665 North Gray Market Drive
Lake Charles, LA 70605

www.episcopaldayschool.org
337-433-5246

