

SONOMA CHARTER SCHOOL

ANNUAL & CLASS FUND CAMPAIGN 2022-23



**Nurturing curious, creative, competent, and
compassionate learners since 1993.**

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WELCOME TO THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Fellow Parents and Guardians,

October 2022

The 2022-23 school year has kicked off to a great start and it's hard to believe we are more than one month into the year already. We are proud of the opportunities we provide your child and know how important your child's education is to you, as it is to me and for my son Castiel, now in 1st Grade.

Less than 24 months ago SCS board members, administrators, teachers and parents set out to continue our school's legacy of innovation and excellence, setting our sights on cultivating a well-rounded and academically rigorous education for every student. Not long after, amidst a global pandemic, we rolled up our sleeves and set to work on executing that vision.

In late 2020, we rallied together to strengthen our school's commitment to the academic growth of our students as well as to their cognitive, social and emotional, physical, and mental development. This 'whole child' approach to education relies on broad and enriched learning experiences to help students become well-rounded individuals and reach their full potential.

Preparing students to face the opportunities and challenges of the future requires skills beyond the solid foundation in math, science, and reading that SCS already offers. *Creativity, Complex Problem-Solving, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Persuasive Communication, and Cultural Awareness...* these essential life skills are important tools our children need to thrive both in and out of school.

To achieve this, SCS families generously contributed to the Annual and Class Funds to expand the arts, sports, and experiential learning experiences for all students. These funds allowed the school to reintroduce Music, Performing Arts, Electives, Athletics, and Field Trips to its educational mix in the 2021/2022 school year – something that would not have been possible with state funding alone.

Contributions from just one-third of families – our "Whole Child Heroes" – covered 40% of last year's budget for arts education. 40%!!! **Now, imagine the possibilities if more parents joined the effort.** Not only could we expand these rich experiences, but also protect them against the common, cyclical reductions in state funding.

Investing in your child's education will allow SCS to continue providing higher levels of service than it could with the government-funded baseline alone. Together we can continue to build a safe, supportive and enriching environment where every student has the opportunity to discover their passions, develop their talents, explore their interests and reach their unique potential in elementary school, middle school, and beyond!

Thank you very much for your consideration and continued support.

Belli Skinner, Sonoma Charter School Governing Board President

THE ANNUAL FUND

The goal of the Annual Fund is to provide art programs to your child and protect those programs from the instability inherent in public funding.



How the Arts Develop the Young Brain – David A. Sousa

Neuroscience is revealing the impressive impact of arts instruction on students' cognitive, social, and emotional development. Certain brain areas respond only to music while others are devoted to initiating and coordinating movement from intense running to the delicate sway of the arms. Drama provokes specialized networks that focus on spoken language and stimulate emotions.

When budgets get tight, elementary art and music programs are among the first to be reduced or eliminated. Pressure from the No Child Left Behind Act (prompted) elementary schools to trade off instruction in the arts for more classroom preparation for the mandatory, high stakes reading and math tests. Ironically, this (happened) just when neuroscience is revealing the impressive impact that the arts have on the young brain's cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Community contributions to the Annual Fund are invested solely in expanding arts programs and includes funding for:

- Arts Director
- Professional instructors for music, performing arts, etc.
- Materials, supplies, equipment, and musical instruments

Last year, SCS invested \$85,000 in art programming. Family donations to the Annual Fund contributed significantly to these programs, covering close to half of the cost.

Building on the momentum of last year's success, we are increasing the frequency of music instruction, devoting an entire trimester to performing arts, and adding ceramic arts.



The door to creativity, also known as Miss Julie's art room



Ms. Keedy's 2nd grade class preparing for their play.

The total budget for 2022-23 is \$110,000. We aim to cover \$100,000 through donations to the Annual Fund. We can reach this goal if at least 80% of SCS families contribute \$50 per student per month.

Use the enclosed form to set up monthly contributions.

THE CLASS FUND

The Class Fund creates an engaging, exciting, and fun learning environment by providing students experiential learning opportunities.

Contributions to the Class Fund are used exclusively to provide students with experiential learning opportunities through day and overnight field trips, as well as paying for the Athletics Program.

Funds not used during the school year follow each class as students move up the grades and are eventually used to pay for the more expensive field trips in the upper grades, plus 8th Grade graduation costs.

Last year, total family contributions reached \$13,000 and were more than doubled thanks to generous donations from Peterson Mechanical and the CCC, our school's parent-teacher organization, raising a total of \$32,500.

These funds provided students with exciting learning adventures, including:

- An excursion to Connolly Ranch in Napa for Kindergarteners
- A Safari West adventure for 2nd and 3rd Graders
- A day of team building and challenge at our local ropes course for 5th Grade
- Exploration at the San Francisco Academy of Sciences for 6th graders



A monthly contribution of \$25 per student by at least 80% of families will allow this valuable program to continue and enhance the experiential learning experiences for all.



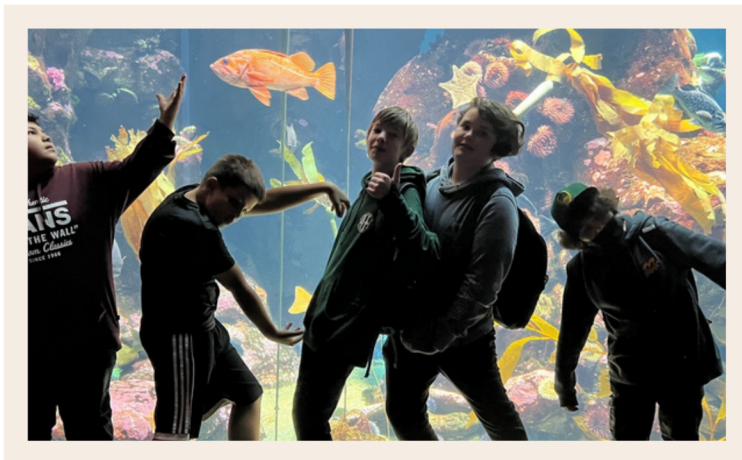
***Photos: Top Right,** 5th Graders on the Ropes Course "Giants Ladder"
Bottom Left: 2nd & 3rd Graders at Safari West **Bottom Right:** SCS girls' basketball team who finished 3rd in the MSSSL regular season reaching the semifinals of the MSSSL playoffs*

See the enclosed form to set up monthly contributions.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

On Tuesday I went to the Academy of Sciences with my son's 6th-grade class. On Friday I chaperoned my daughter's 5th-grade class at the Sonoma Adventure Ropes Course. Both field trips left me with so much gratitude for the Charter School, parent contributions, and our sponsors.

My kids are fortunate enough to have experienced San Francisco, science museums, and the exhilaration of conquering their fears in nature, but I realized that not all their classmates were so fortunate.



As we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge, one 11-year-old boy sitting in my backseat stared up through the sunroof at the towering arches and told his seatmate that he had never been into the city before. At the museum, my group of rowdy boys sat in rapt attention as the stars sped past them in the planetarium. Later they worked together to solve a puzzle on gravitational force.

I know that day was an experience that opened their minds, and one they would not have had without SCS.

Friday's ropes course was completely different and yet similar in my feelings of gratitude. There was one 10-year-old girl who struggled to climb to the top of the ladder at the beginning of the day because she was very afraid. This is a quiet girl who has always hidden under her hoodies to avoid being seen. That day, her classmates cheered her on and congratulated her at every step. She never did reach the top but on the car ride home, she was grinning and giggling with joy.

It was an amazing week for my kids and their classes. More than two years of the pandemic have forced them to miss so many of the field trips that have always been a part of SCS. Making these trips happen shows a level of commitment to the student's whole selves that makes me proud to be a parent of the Sonoma Charter School community and thankful that my husband and I found a way to contribute to our kid's classroom fund.

Libby White, Sonoma Charter School Governing Board Member



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

SCS is fortunate to have such an engaged and supportive community. We are especially grateful to our "Whole Child Heroes" who helped us bring back our arts and experiential education programming last year by contributing to the first Annual & Class Fund Campaign. We know that this is a significant financial decision and thank you for trusting us with your generous donations. We hope you will consider giving to these important initiatives again - or for the first time - this school year.

Sonoma Charter Whole Child Heroes

Paul & Mika Belcher
Dana Benton
Mike & Rebekah Brett
Katerina & George Capetanos
Ashley & Julien Cornil
Nancy & Cesor Cruz Boron
Ashley & Brian Cutright
Danielle & Salvador Davila
Veronica & Matthew Dingman
Gerald Farr
Maria & Rigoberto Garcia
Sheila & Sergio Gonzalez
Diego & Maria Gonzalez
Evan & Alexandria Haraszthy
Kyle & Vanessa Haraszthy
Sandra Hernandez
Isaac & Kathleen Herrera
Mark & Nicole Holley
Juan & Alejandra Jauregui
Kate & Thomas Jensen
Annie & Scott Johann
Jennifer Karns
Krissy & Nick Kyjovsky

Tonia & Scott Lach
Lorena Lopez
Heather & Jason McCabe
Heather & Daniel Miller
Cristin & Matt Monich
Rosaura Mosqueda
Ryan & Janet Petrak
Lisset Reyes
Matilde Reyes
Yolanda & Trino Rodriguez
Ali & Casey Tatarian
Chris & Kaitlyn Tinder
Sarah & Thomas Tracy
Ronaldyn Vergne
Carmen & Monte Wallace
Jana & Sam Wang
Robin & Natassja Ward
Jason & Libby White
Lisa Willit

10 Anonymous Donors
Peterson Mechanical Inc.
Charter Community Connection

If you have any additional questions or wish to discuss how you can support SCS, please do not hesitate to contact us at jerkelens@scs.k12.ca.us or call (707) 935-4232.

Para recibir una copia de esta información en español, póngase en contacto con jerkelens@scs.k12.ca.us o (707) 935-4232.

ABOUT US



Founded in 1993, Sonoma Charter School is a Sonoma Valley Unified School District tuition-free public elementary charter school educating 200 students, grades TK – 8.

Sonoma Charter is truly an extraordinary place of learning. We are a small, nurturing community of curious, compassionate and self-aware learners. Our talented staff provides each student with a well-rounded education with high academic standards.



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