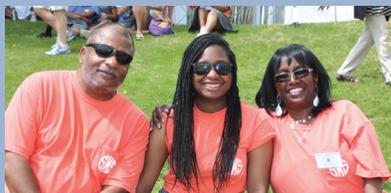


A SALUTE *to* OUR PARENTS



The strongest independent schools rely on charitable giving in order to thrive; others to survive. St. Margaret's refuses to be weak, and so do its parents. So often in the past, parents would consider the tuition and fees associated with St. Margaret's, and yet forget that in order for the School to excel, pioneer, and be a leader among girls' schools, these baseline expenses simply did not suffice. The reality in independent school life is that supporting the Annual Fund allows a school to enhance the educational experience students enjoy.

For this reason, St. Margaret's has placed a premium on rallying current parents around Annual Fund participation. Perhaps no group has a better pulse, understanding, and sense of how an institution is faring more than its parents. Similarly, no one is more invested than parents who are currently sending daughters to St. Margaret's—yet, it is incumbent upon the School to make sure parents are asked to make an additional commitment to St. Margaret's by supporting the Annual Fund.

At any independent school, the Annual Fund ask is part of the essential fabric of the institution. By making a gift to the Annual Fund, parents are saying, "We understand the challenges and costs associated with excelling as an institution, and we are committed to doing our small part in enhancing this educational experience for our children." In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, St. Margaret's parents made Annual Fund gifts ranging from \$50 to \$50,000. While the School was pleased with the heroics displayed by many parents, widespread participation in the Annual Fund will have to take place if St. Margaret's wants to move the needle.

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With the help and leadership of the 2015-2016 Parent Council, St. Margaret's is pleased to report that parent participation has more than doubled in the past year, increasing from 24% to over 70%. This renewed commitment and emphasis on annual giving by the Parent Council has dramatically helped reshape the culture around the parent giving program. Calls throughout the year by Parent Council representatives asking current parents for their support have revitalized the spirit of giving at St. Margaret's. This April, while on campus

for Spring Family Weekend, parents enthusiastically approached the Office of Development and administration, sharing that they wanted to do their part in support of St. Margaret's.

While the community is pleased with the progress made in both parent giving and participation, the Parent Council will remain committed to promoting annual giving. St. Margaret's will continue sharing the value and benefit of supporting the Annual Fund, placing even more of an emphasis on working and stewarding the international families of this community. Every school should strive to achieve 100% parent participation to the Annual Fund, and St. Margaret's is no exception.

Thank you to the parents of this community who understand the value of a St. Margaret's education, especially those who supported the 2015-2016 Annual Fund. Additionally, thank you to the Parent Council members who tirelessly made phone calls, sent e-mails, and had conversations with other parents highlighting the importance of this selfless act. This remarkable achievement could never have been reached without your help.