

Buckley's Campaign for Leadership

“A Promise for Tomorrow”

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Goal of the Campaign: \$6 million

The school has many needs that have been identified through the collaborative efforts of our Board of Trustees and Headmaster. Our goal is to raise \$6 million.

2. Amount Raised to Date: \$3+ million

Through the generosity of the Board of Trustees and some past and present families we have been able to raise over \$3 million to date.

3. Projects:

Lower School Classrooms* - Grades 1, 2 and 3 will be enlarged, renovated and refurbished

Endowment - \$1 million will be allocated to the endowment fund

East Field Renovation - in process - includes new fully furnished baseball diamond

New Playground*

Additional Parking Facility* - additional 45 parking spaces

Upgrade Performing Arts Facility

Air Conditioning of the Auditorium and Dining Facilities - completed

Locker Rooms - completed

Early Childhood Gym - completed

*Permits have been submitted for village approval.

4. Timeframe:

As noted above, several of the projects have been completed already thanks to a few early pledges. The field renovation was completed this fall and will have a brand new baseball diamond by early next spring. We are waiting for permits for the playground, parking lot, and lower school classrooms. The permitting process is both time consuming and costly. We hope to be granted the permits by this spring. At that point, we will move forward with the renovation of the lower school classrooms.

5. Impact on the School:

We have designed the projects and time frame so that construction will have minimal impact on the children or the camp. A special committee comprised of faculty and administration will be in charge of the logistics. We have also hired a construction management firm that specializes in academic institutions to help us minimize the impact

of construction. The air conditioning project was completed with minimal disruption to the camp and the beginning of the regular school year.

6. Will the School Take on Debt?

A short term borrowing facility or debt obligation will be necessary to complete the projects as pledges can be paid over five year time period. The goal is to pay off the debt when the last pledge payments are due, therefore keeping the school debt free.

7. Why Doesn't Tuition Cover These Costs?

Buckley strives to keep tuition as low as possible so that the school is both affordable to a wide range of families and to be competitive with other independent schools in our area. In fact, when looking at the tuition costs of our neighboring independent schools, Buckley compares favorably. Tuition pays for the school's daily operational costs such as faculty salaries, student lunches, teaching materials, and maintenance. Tuition does not cover building additions or major improvements. These are typically funded by a capital campaign. Nor does tuition go toward increasing the school's endowment. This is also the job of a capital campaign.

8. Why is the Endowment Included?

Buckley's current endowment is \$2.5 million. The National Association of Independent Schools recommends \$20,000 per student in the endowment or approximately \$6 million for a school the size of Buckley. The income from an endowment at independent schools acts as a safety net in uncertain times and allows the schools to attract and retain the most qualified teachers available.

9. What About the Science Labs and Dining Room?

If we were able to raise more than our \$6 million goal, the next project would be to build two new science labs for our 1st through 6th grade students. The cost would be an additional \$2 million. Early on in the campaign, a new dining facility was identified as one of the needs of the school. It is still a need but lower in priority.

10. Why a Capital Campaign And an Annual Fund?

Proceeds from the Annual Fund go directly into that year's operating budget. The money is literally used to turn on the lights, enable teachers to attend continuing education seminars, and ongoing maintenance. Simply, the Annual Fund is part of the school's annual budget.

Capital Campaigns in independent schools typically occur every five to seven years. The money is used for projects above and beyond the normal course of the school's business. Campaigns build new classrooms, libraries (Buckley's Hagedorn Library Learning Center) and fund endowments.

11. How Do I Commit to be Part of the Capital Campaign?

Pledges can be paid in a single payment or over 5 years. All we ask is that you indicate on the pledge form that we send to you how you think your payments will come in. This is only to help facilitate our cash management. As an example - If someone is pledging

\$25,000, they could make payments over 5 years of \$5,000 each, payments over 2 years of \$12,500 or any variation between 1 and 5 years.

However, we ask that you put Buckley at the top of your giving for the next few years so we can enhance our infrastructure to support the school's commitment to excellence in education.

12. When Do I Start Making Payments?

We have started several projects in the campaign so ideally we ask that families start making pledge payments as soon as they are able. However, we understand that this may be delayed, given the state of the financial markets.

13. Gift Matching

Many corporations will match a part or all of the annual payment that you make on your pledge. We ask that you check with your HR department to see if your company matches. Tiffany Jordan in the Development Office can help you with any forms.

14. Can I Pay in Stock?

Yes, Buckley is equipped to receive stock payments. Once we receive a stock payment, we instruct our broker to sell the stock at the current market price.

15. Is My Pledge Tax Deductible?

Pledges to the capital campaign, like those to the annual fund, are considered to be tax deductible contributions whereas tuition payments are not. You should check with your tax accountant for confirmation within your own financial tax accounting.

16. Are There Naming Opportunities?

Yes, there are ways that you can make a pledge to a certain part of the campaign and have your family name attached. Our Development Office can provide you with a Naming Chart.

17. Why Should I Pledge If My Children Will Graduate in the Next Few Years?

We hope that many families will benefit immediately from the Campaign's projects. Some of these will take several years, however. Past capital campaigns have resulted in the Hagedorn Library Learning Center and Cronin Gym that have benefited our students long after the dollars were pledged. Future students will benefit from your generosity well after your children's graduation. That is our "Promise For Tomorrow," and the result of our current leadership that will show our children how much we value their education....and Buckley.