WHAT IS THE SCM FUND?

The SCM Fund is the name of our annual fund. Every year we ask our parents, board of directors, faculty/staff, grandparents, alumni, and alumni families for this essential support. Contributions to the SCM Fund are tax-deductible and allow St. Catherine’s Montessori to fully cover the basic operating expenses that are fundamental to providing the best faculty, curriculum, facilities, and environment for the academic, emotional, and spiritual needs of our students.

WHAT DOES THE SCM FUND SUPPORT?

Along with tuition, the SCM Fund is unrestricted revenue, which directly funds:

- Classroom materials
- Salaries and benefits for our guides and staff
- Professional development
- Campus utilities
- Maintenance

WHAT DOES ST. CATHERINE’S MONTESSORI EXPECT OF PARENTS?

The goal is to achieve 100% parent participation in the SCM Fund every year. The school depends on all parents to contribute to the SCM Fund to the extent that they are financially able. This commitment demonstrates to prospective foundation and corporate donors that those who directly benefit from the unique environment at St. Catherine's are committed to our school’s financial stability and success. For this same reason, the school also seeks 100% faculty/staff and 100% board participation in the SCM Fund.
WHY IS THE SCM FUND VITAL?

St. Catherine’s Montessori is an independent school that does not receive financial support from state or local agencies, a parish, or the Archdiocese. We depend on tuition fee payments and fundraising to fully cover basic operating expenses, and have been able to grow as an exceptional institution because of parent participation and a history of generous giving.

Tuition covers approximately 90% of the school’s operating expenses, and fundraising covers the rest. The SCM Fund is our largest source of unrestricted fundraising income – a key component to the school’s overall budgetary health – and each year the board of directors considers SCM Fund performance when setting tuition rates.

Maintaining affordable tuition for families who wish to send their children to St. Catherine’s is a fundamental principle in which our foundresses, Sr. Edna Ann and Sr. Shirley, firmly believed when they opened the school in 1966, and it is a value that holds true today. If we did not raise funds each year to support the school’s daily operations, the only other method to fully fund operating expenses would be to raise tuition. In order to preserve our diverse and inclusive community, we ask that all parents support the school with an annual, meaningful contribution to the SCM Fund.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE TO THE SCM FUND?

The SCM Fund goal for 2019-2020 is $175,000. We encourage you to give an amount that is meaningful for your family. The average SCM Fund gift is $750 and, on average, we receive family gifts ranging from $20 to $5,000. Every gift of every size is important and appreciated. Reaching 100% parent participation in the SCM Fund is as important as reaching our $175,000 goal.

WHEN SHOULD I GIVE TO THE SCM FUND?

The annual SCM Fund campaign begins in August once you receive your appeal letter and commitment card in the mail. We ask that all families make a gift or pledge before December 31, 2019 and keep in mind that pledge balances are to be paid in full by May 31, 2020.

HOW DO I GIVE TO THE SCM FUND?

St. Catherine’s accepts gifts via check, credit card, cash, and securities. Some families give through donor advised funds and family foundations.

Additionally, we encourage donors to use their employers’ matching gift programs to maximize philanthropic contributions to the school. These programs provide a great opportunity for donors to match, double, or even triple the amount of their contribution. Consult with your company’s human resources or charitable giving department to find out how to submit gifts made to St. Catherine’s for company matching.

Online gifts can be made at www.stcathmont.org/donate. Donors may make a one-time gift or set up an automatic recurring donation. Commitment cards and checks can be dropped off at the Front Desk or mailed to St. Catherine’s Montessori.

For more information about the SCM Fund and other fundraising at St. Catherine’s Montessori, contact advancement director Lyndsey Ray at lray@stcathmont.org or 713.665.2195.