

**What is the General Fund?**

The General Fund is the PTA's major annual campaign to raise the funds needed to support vital programming at our school. The funds NEST+m receives from the Department of Education do not come close to covering the cost of the education that your child receives here. Classroom books, library books, textbooks, photocopiers, computers, classroom projectors, the Lower School Math Curriculum and funding for faculty advising, tutoring, and coaching – these are just a few of the crucial services and programs that the PTA General Fund supports in the Lower, Middle and Upper schools of NEST+m.

**The PTA suggests contributing \$1,200 per student to the General Fund. I can't afford anything near that – why should I bother to give at all?**

Please, please believe us – above all, WE VALUE PARTICIPATION! Every contribution matters, whatever the size. Not only does everything add up, but when the PTA applies for grants, the first question is often, “Do you have the financial support of your community?” If we can show them that our participation rate is close to 100%, our application is taken very seriously. Every contribution matters tremendously, whether you can contribute \$5 or \$5,000.

**Book fairs, bake sales, magazine drives – I feel like I'm always being asked to give, give, give. Why does NEST+m have so many fundraisers?**

We do not expect parents to participate in every fundraiser, but we like to offer a variety of options for participating. Event-oriented fundraisers such as the Big Apple Circus, Fright Night, Ice Skating at Wollman Rink and Knicks game tickets are an important source of income. However, we ask that every family make contributing to the General Fund a priority, because not only is it the major source of funds for school enrichment, but participation rates are what matter when we apply for grants.

You can either **donate online at [www.nestmpta.org](http://www.nestmpta.org)** or you can send in a **check made out to “NEST+m PTA”** (with your child's name and class written on it) to the PTA office via backpack mail or US mail. If you donate online, you can either make a one-time donation or choose to donate on a monthly basis. Many families find it easier to automatically donate \$10, \$20, \$50, \$125 or more each month rather than write out a check for a lump sum.

**I want to help enrich my child's educational experience at NEST+m. How can I participate in the General Fund?**