



2018-19 PTSA Fundraising FAQs

What is the Annual PTSA Fundraising Drive?

This is Big Picture's main PTSA fundraiser for the year. Instead of asking parents and students to buy or sell cookie dough, wrapping paper, or raffle tickets, we ask you to donate directly to the PTSA. Your donation helps to fund all of the various programs that the PTSA sponsors throughout the year. Your donations to the PTSA are crucial to the academic enrichment of our student population

How is money raised for the PTSA?

The PTSA is 100% funded by parents' donations and matching corporate donations.

What is the PTSA fundraising goal this year?

Our projected amount of expenses budgeted for the 2018-2019 school year is \$41,000. We hope to raise \$35,000 during the September Annual Fundraising Drive. We then expect at least \$6k in corporate matches to pay for the rest of the budget. Please help support our students by donating to our fundraiser and also please check to see if your company has a matching program. (See FAQ below about company matching programs.)

What is the suggested donation amount for the 2018-19 school year?

The suggested donation is \$150 per student attending Big Picture. Please contribute what you can and if you are able to donate a higher amount to offset those families who financially can't, this helps us all out! And if your company offers a matching program, please submit a match request to your employer. (See FAQ question below about company matching programs)

What does my donation pay for?

The PTSA funds a wide variety of enrichment programs for Big Picture including grants for teachers which cover various items such as field trips, scholastic magazines, the Spring Play, Math and Science programs such as American Math Competition and Destination Imagination and many more! Donations also fund T-Shirts for all incoming students, Community Engagement events such as Principal Coffees, Parent Socials to help build our school community, Staff Appreciation events, Student Education Programs and Support such as the Panther Pride Breakfasts, Support for 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremonies and High School Graduation funds... and much more! For a complete PTSA budget report, please contact the Treasurer, or attend one of the General Membership PTSA meetings that take place throughout the school year.

Is my donation tax deductible?

Yes! Bellevue Big Picture School is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, so your donations are tax-deductible.

How do I donate to the Annual Fundraising Drive?

Our fundraiser takes place all September, and there are several ways to donate:

- 1) You can donate anytime through the PTSA Website (BellevueBPSPTSA.org). Go to the homepage and on the left side is a link for "Fundraising". Click on that and then click on "Make a Donation".
- 2) You can also bring a check to the Main Office anytime and leave it with the Registrar, Rebecca Thornton. Please make checks payable to "Bellevue Big Picture PTSA" and mark in the memo line

that it is a “donation”.

3) We will also be taking donations directly at Curriculum Night. The Middle School Curriculum Night is on September 20th and the High School Curriculum Night is on September 25th. PTSA members will be passing around envelopes to collect donations. We will accept cash, checks and we will also have school laptops set up so that parents can log on to the PTSA website to donate online with credit.

What is the preferred way to pay for donations?

Cash or checks are best since the PTSA will then receive the full amount. When donations go through the online site, we have to pay a transaction fee to PayPal and we lose 2.7% of each transaction. However, we appreciate all donations! But if you have a choice, please bring your checkbook to Curriculum Night. Thank you!

Will I get a receipt from the PTSA for my donation?

Yes, letters will be sent out after the fundraiser to all persons who donated \$20 or more.

Do you take Employer Matching donations?

Absolutely! We rely on getting as many matched donations as possible. It makes a huge difference to our budget! If your company offers a charitable matching program, please submit the request at your place of employment so that we can receive the match.

If you aren't sure if your company has a matching program, ask your human resource department, or you can also check at <https://www.matchinggifts.com/unh/>. This handy website has an extensive database of local companies.

Here are just a few of the local companies that have charitable matching programs:

Alaska Airlines	Home Depot	Safeco
Boeing	Microsoft	Starbucks
Costco	Nintendo	Symetra Financial
Expedia	Nordstrom	Tableau Software
FedEx	REI	Wells Fargo

My employer doesn't offer a matching program. Can you connect me with another parent that does work for a company that matches so that we can combine our donation and funnel it through their matching company program for maximum benefit?

Unfortunately no, we cannot facilitate matching up parents so that they can combine their donations. Most companies state that gifts must be personal contributions from individual employees.

Can I just pay you directly through PayPal and set it up as a friend-to-friend payment to avoid having the PTSA pay the 2.7% transaction fee?

Unfortunately, no to this question as well. We appreciate that parents want to maximize their donation to the school. However, we need to follow all of the rules and guidelines of our PTSA's PayPal Business account. If you want to avoid the 2.7% transaction fee, the best way to do this is to turn in your donation with cash or a check.

I wasn't able to make a donation in September during the Annual Fundraising Drive. Can I still make a donation later in the school year?

Yes! We just try to get the majority of donations in September for planning purposes. We have the budget for the year completed, so we want to make sure we have enough money to fund all of the programs. But we can accept donations any time during the school year. You can drop a check off to the Main Office made payable to “Bellevue Big Picture PTSA” and label it “donation” in the memo field. Or, you can also donate any time on the PTSA Website: BellevueBPSPTSA.org.

Can I donate time to the PTSA too?

Absolutely! We can always use extra help for small or large projects. Just contact us or come to a meeting and we can help you find a great way to help out the PTSA that matches your interests and time. Many companies also donate money to the school for each hour that an employee volunteers to the school. To find out if your company participates in this plan, see:

<https://www.matchinggifts.com/unh/>

For example, Microsoft employees can earn the school a match of \$25 for each hour they volunteer.

What is the Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF)? Is that the same as the PTSA? And if not, why should I give to BSF if I've already given to the PTSA and vice versa?

Bellevue Schools Foundation is a wonderful nonprofit organization that benefits the entire Bellevue School District. Per the BSF website (bellevueschoolsfoundation.org):

PTSAs are the experts in individual school needs. Bellevue Schools Foundation funds district-wide initiatives such as VIBES volunteers and curriculum development; initiatives that benefit every student, in every classroom, every day. It takes your participation to make this happen.

Bellevue Schools Foundation funds great programs at your school to help students become successful in school and life. Without your support, many of these programs wouldn't exist. Giving to PTSA and your school is important—but it takes both to ensure our students get the best public education possible!

Bellevue passed 3 new levies back in February, 2018. Why do we still need to donate to the PTSA?

The levies that passed in 2018 replaced current levies and benefit all students in the Bellevue School District. The levies fund 7th period classes for middle and high school students, laptops for every student, after school tutorial sessions, and much more. However, the levies support district wide projects and don't cover the school specific enrichment programs that the Big Picture PTSA funds.

Can I donate to Bellevue Big Picture PTSA through Amazon Smile?

Yes you can. However, we encourage families to donate instead to Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF) through Amazon Smile. Why? Because Amazon Smile will donate up to 0.8% of eligible purchases to BSF whereas Big Picture only gets up to 0.5%. So in order to maximize donations through Amazon Smile, we feel that BSF is a better choice because of their higher return rate.

What is eScrip? Can I donate to Bellevue Big Picture PTSA through this program?

Yes! eScrip is a free program where you link your store cards and credit/debit cards to a school or nonprofit organization. You just register your cards and then you automatically earn up to 0.4% for your school when you shop with merchants that give back. For more information, see their website:

<http://www.escrip.com/>