

Agassiz Elementary School

Strategic Plan for Fundraising

Agassiz Elementary School is an engaging and involved community that offers academically rigorous education with a focus on fine and performing arts. Agassiz prides itself in cultivating inquisitive, academic, and strong character traits in its 516 Prek-8th grade students. Nineteen percent of Agassiz's student population has special needs and receives special education services. It is Agassiz's mission to provide a warm and enriching environment that meets every student at his or her own level.

Agassiz Elementary School's fundraising goals are all directed towards supporting the school's mission, as set forth above. Given the uncertainties facing CPS, and the economic climate in our state as well as the country overall, Agassiz must brace itself to face the potential challenges lying ahead and to put ourselves in a position that ensures we have the resources necessary to fulfill our promise to our students.

History

Over the last five years the Agassiz community, through Friends of Agassiz, has raised 350 thousand dollars. Friends of Agassiz is an independent, non-profit organization that is dedicated to raising money for Agassiz's long and short term financial goals as directed by the school improvement plan. It has an independent board of directors and works to fundraise through social events, walk-a-thon's, and other volunteer-based opportunities.

Over the past four years this money has been used to cover staff positions, purchase smart boards for grades K through eight, iPads and laptops, chromebooks, literacy and math adaptive learning technology software for classrooms, and ongoing teacher professional development in alignment with CIWP.

Overall Fundraising Goals

Our goal is to raise one hundred thousand dollars each year for the next two years. Funds raised will go towards securing academic, art and athletic materials and equipment; an auditorium renovation; funding and maintaining a fine arts teacher; acquiring and maintaining technology; funding teaching positions; ongoing teacher professional development; and improving school facilities and student-focused services. The funding will be allocated between three priority groups: immediate goals, mid-term goals, and long-term goals.

- **Immediate Goals:** Our immediate fundraising goals are focused on having reserve funds available for necessary projects as they arise. Examples include emergency facility repairs, immediate technology repair/replacement needs and other day-to-day expenses that are not covered by the CPS budget. Fifteen percent of fundraising dollars will be allocated to these projects.

- **Short to Mid-Term Goals:** Our current short to mid-term goals fall into four categories: facilities and grounds upkeep, staffing positions, technology and enhancing our fine and performing arts programs. It is our goal to earmark seventy percent of our yearly fundraising dollars to these goals.
 - *Playground Maintenance and Renovation:* Our playgrounds get a lot of wear tear and their upkeep and maintenance is integral to the safety of our community. Repairs, upgrades and maintenance are frequently cut from CPS budgets so in order insure the safety of all of our kids we would like to allocate \$7,000 to upgrade the current equipment. This past year, our engineer took care of any major playground repairs in coordination with CPS Facilities Management.
 - *Staffing Positions:* Our fundraising dollars have allowed Agassiz to staff teachers that were not fully covered by the budget Agassiz received from CPS. CPS's class size analyses and staffing budgets do not necessarily reflect those of our administration and school community. To ensure ideal class sizes, enrichment teachers and auxiliary staff, we must continue to fund these positions on our own. It is important to remember that the loss of a teacher does not impact just one classroom or one grade. The reality is that even ***one*** less teacher in the building results in ***all*** teachers being spread thinner as they plug gaps in school wide schedules and absorb more communal responsibilities. This is a varying expenditure each year.
- *Arts Programs:* Agassiz is a fine and performing arts magnet cluster school. As funding across the city and state is cut, arts funding is often one of the first things to go. Agassiz is committed to supporting our arts program through funding supplies and resources. Additionally, staff and parent volunteers are committed to writing grants and pursuing arts partnerships that increase our students' exposure to and development in the arts. Ultimately, we would like to increase our overall goal to fund a fine arts teacher every year. This would be an additional \$85,000 each year.
- *Field Trip Fund*
Continue to support student council in raising funds for families who would not otherwise be able to send their child on field trips, including 7th and 8th grade 2018 class trips to Washington D.C.
- *Technology and science supplies:* Technology is an ongoing need, as we constantly need to update technology to stay current and to provide students and teachers with access to current innovations. Our current technology funding needs include:
 - *Maintenance and Renovation Plan (based on Fall 2016 inventory)*
SMART Boards

IPads

Chromebooks

Laptops

- *New Acquisitions*
 - Laptops for teachers
 - Chromebooks
- **Long-Term Goals:** Our long-term fundraising goals are focused on significant facilities improvement projects. It is our goal to set aside at least fifteen percent of total fundraising dollars in each of the next three years to help fund these projects.
 - Auditorium Renovation: The auditorium/gymnasium need to be renovated to include a sound system gymnasium that works with auditorium seating as well. Draft plan will be provided with estimates for funding. Contractor finalizing draft plans for review.

These goals will be reviewed bi-annually by the LSC and will require a two-thirds majority, to reallocate monies committed to long-term goals. The long term reserves and mid-term reserve funds will be held in appropriate investment accounts and managed by Friends of Agassiz. Friends of Agassiz leadership will provide quarterly reports about the growth of the funds in the investment accounts.

Our fundraising goals are significant but we are confident that with your help, we will continue to succeed. Agassiz has thrived as a supportive, engaging, and academically rigorous environment that meets every student at his or her level by working together as a community. It is the strength of this team of teachers, staff, parents, students, and community that will work together to raise the funds necessary to keep Agassiz successful, competitive, and propel it to a new level of excellence.