

PROTECTING A THRIVING FUTURE

The SCDS Infinity Fund Endowment



“SCDS teachers have given our children an enduring and priceless gift—curiosity. We are indebted to those that built SCDS over 50 years and grateful for the opportunity to continue building on that incredible legacy.”

SCDS TRUSTEE

Seattle Country Day School: Investing in a Journey of Life-Long Learning

From humble beginnings in 1964 to nurturing over 350 students grades K-8 in recent years, we have remained committed to a singular equation for success:

Gifted students + Extraordinary teachers = Children who discover their full potential and leave prepared to make a positive impact

In an educational landscape defined by right and wrong answers, the SCDS experience stands out as a beacon for students whose ability, passion, and curiosity compel them to question and experiment. Through a nationally renowned inquiry-based curriculum, our committed and highly-skilled teachers provide the guidance and tools for students to individually and collectively navigate the world.

At the same time, our students live in a complex, connected, and rapidly changing world. To continue to advance our mission to the next level of gifted education, we need to make a lasting and meaningful investment.

The SCDS Infinity Fund Endowment

will provide a wellspring of resources to ensure that SCDS remains a thriving environment in which current and future generations of gifted children will develop and grow.

Focusing on the core priorities of our strategic plan, The Infinity Fund will establish dedicated financial resources for Program Advancement, Teacher Excellence, and Financial Aid.

- » **Program Advancement** will evolve and reaffirm our inquiry-based model across multiple disciplines, including core and foundational subjects, whole child development, and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).
- » **Teacher Excellence** will secure resources to enable recruiting and retaining the finest gifted educators possible. Teachers who bring their full passion and experience to school each day motivate students to do the same.
- » **Financial Aid** will ensure the continued availability of need-based awards so together we can serve as many mission-appropriate students as possible.

Imagine the impact of future generations on their high schools, colleges, and society when equipped with an inquiry-based education. The power of an SCDS education is invaluable.

What is an endowment?

Unlike annual giving and tuition revenue raised and spent each year, endowment principle is protected and invested. The interest provides a permanent, stable, and reliable revenue stream protecting the school's core mission in challenging times and allowing for long-range thinking and planning. The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) has set a "stability marker" of \$20,000 per student for a median endowment at comparable schools. An endowment of \$5,000,000 would generate approximately \$200,000 or more each year to be reinvested into our classrooms.



The most important thing SCDS gave me was a lifelong love of learning. SCDS had a more profound influence on my life than any other single experience, and I credit much of my professional success in adult life to the time I spent there.”

SCDS ALUMNUS

Cultivating the Whole Child—Program Advancement

For fifty years, we have cultivated the minds of SCDS problem-solvers. We’ve delivered in providing excellence in rigorous academics, preparing our students not only for the sciences and the arts, but for high school, college, and life beyond SCDS. In doing so, we are committed to:

- » The use of inquiry as a chief pedagogical approach to learning
- » Accentuating a positive attitude towards creative problem solving with our students
- » Experiences that nurture creative application of skills and knowledge in new and generative ways

A growing emphasis on whole child development permeates campus. Making and keeping friends, discovering who you are as well as who you are not, and learning to value difference as well as likeness is vital to student growth. Our students are masterful at problem identification, public speaking, and conflict resolution in addition to academic studies. SCDS integrates these skills both at the curricular and extra-curricular level, including:

» **Athletics:** Up to 85% of students grades K-8 participate in on- and off-campus athletics programs enabling them to make ties between the classroom and skills they learn on the courts, track, field, climbing wall, dojo, or in the gym.

» **Choir & Music:** Performance opportunities—whether on campus, at Seattle Center, or at local senior healthcare facilities—allow students to share a love of song and service with the community.

» **Debate & Rhetoric:** Middle School students compete in local and national tournaments to fine-tune their ability to present a case, engage in rhetoric, think critically, and build confidence.

» **Drama:** Theater enrichment inspires students in grades 2 through 8 to take center stage in performances such as “Mary Poppins,” “To Kill a Mockingbird,” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

» **Grade-level Trips:** Grade-level trips for students grades 4-8 provide unique opportunities to take learning outside the classroom, appreciate global points of view, deepen SEL ties, and strengthen the interdisciplinary learning experience.

» **Service Learning:** Be it care kits, park clean ups, soup kitchens, or food drives, students at SCDS receive value-based learning beginning in kindergarten and understand how they can positively and directly influence their community.

» **Social and Emotional Learning:** Since 2011, students in grades K-8 have received instruction in the classroom, Center, and Advisory on life skills, conflict resolution, and building and strengthening peer-to-peer relations. This learning infuses their home life and other relationships outside of the school house.

» **Winterim:** A tradition which dates back to SCDS’s earliest days, Winterim encourages students to get outside their comfort zone, push their physical and mental limits, and deepen a love for nature and the beauty the Pacific Northwest has to offer.





An SCDS endowment will ensure our school's long-term financial stability by enhancing financial aid, supporting our faculty, and providing program flexibility now and in the future.”

**HEAD OF SCHOOL,
MICHAEL G. MURPHY**

“We want to ensure that the life-impacting experience our family has had is maintained and is accessible to all for generations to come.”

SCDS PARENT

Extraordinary Resources for Extraordinary Educators—Teacher Excellence

Attracting, retaining, and developing an outstanding teaching staff is a fundamental pillar of Seattle Country Day School. Our faculty is uniquely prepared to guide each child's individual academic, social, and emotional journey. SCDS teachers embody the experience, creativity, and love of learning to

engage a wide variety of students and maintain a lasting impact.

Our commitment to investing in professional development guarantees that our teachers remain masterful in their craft and continue to expand their world views. Teacher-driven initiatives provide immediate return to our students. For example:

- » Faculty members' training in SEL translated into on-campus leadership and mentoring in all grades. National SEL experts have spent several days on campus, further ensuring that strategies are best suited to each level of child development.
- » Teachers attending the NAIS conferences took what they learned and shared it across grade levels. This has taken the form of math and language-based interdisciplinary activities integrating academic concepts from calculations to vignettes which cultivate the whole child.
- » Well-rounded teachers who make a difference in their world lead by example for our students. Our teachers have published numerous books—from *The Weaver's Scar: For our Rwanda* to *I Hate the Times Tables*. They participate in professional sports teams such as the Seattle Rainmakers. They hail from different backgrounds leading to a diverse environment for our children.

New ways of addressing inquiry-based learning and the needs of gifted children are being discovered each year. Allowing teachers to remain nimble and to evaluate and incorporate evolving pedagogies on an ongoing basis is a crucial investment for our community.

The Teacher Excellence Fund will expand the opportunities our faculty members have to build their base of knowledge about inquiry-based curriculum, network with peers in gifted education, and most importantly, bring cutting-edge thinking back to every aspect of our program, from math to music, field trips, and fine arts.

Investing in teacher excellence will have a ripple effect throughout the school, as peers share new learning with others and apply new skills and expertise in the classroom with the common goal of enhancing and evolving the curriculum.





I came to SCDS in 3rd grade and could tell from my visit day that those teachers understood me in a way that no others had. I knew right away this was the only place for me.”

SCDS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

“Seattle Country Day School was clearly the best fit for my daughter. Our family would not be able to offer this SCDS education without the substantial financial aid SCDS provides.”

SCDS PARENT

Expanding our Inclusive Learning Community—Financial Aid

Our unique mission and exceptional teachers draw parents from all over the region to a place where their children are deeply understood and find a sense of belonging. Long committed to children whose families cannot fully afford the cost of tuition, we have

dramatically increased the number of children receiving financial aid in the past decade, as well as the size of individual awards. Many more mission-appropriate children throughout our community would benefit from the specialized learning environment at SCDS, but lack access due to financial constraints.

The Financial Aid Fund will increase our capacity to admit mission-appropriate children regardless of their family’s financial circumstances. The fund will provide:

- » More need-based scholarships, including full-tuition awards
- » Support beyond tuition, including assistance for entrance testing, co-curricular activities and trips, and other expenses when necessary

Immediate and Long-Term Impact for the SCDS Community

Just imagine what an endowment initiative will make possible:

- » In the near term, a stream of funds that will fuel the SCDS experience and its trajectory
- » Resources to enhance the continued attraction, growth, and retention of truly inspiring teachers with the support to continue their growth and development, translating into a dynamic and robust educational experience for our children
- » SCDS as the school solution for generations of mission-appropriate children better prepared to be leaders and problem solvers in their chosen vocation and as members of a dynamic global community

Snapshot of Need-Based Financial Aid at Seattle Country Day School

\$675,000: Current Financial Aid Budget

\$4,000-\$24,000: Range of Financial Aid Grants

13%: Percentage of Students Receiving Need-Based Financial Aid

In the past 10 years, Financial Aid has increased 70%



For more information, contact Director of Advancement Andrea Sanders: 206-691-2621 or andreasanders@seattlecountryday.org

SCDS Mission: Inspiring gifted children to reach their potential through inquiry, curiosity, and wonder.

SCDS Vision: Cultivating the next generation of creative problem solvers for tomorrow’s complex problems.