

UNDERWOOD GT MAGNET
FOUNDATION BOARD

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The mission of the Foundation is to maintain the excellence of our school program by supporting initiatives that:

Recruit and retain quality teachers

Bolster and make possible rich instructional programming

Sustain the educational environment

Dear Underwood Community,

I am writing to you today to ask for **your financial support of the Underwood Foundation**. The Foundation was formed to meet both current budget challenges as well as enhance future learning opportunities.

My child, Adrian, is in second grade and my daughter Audrey will be a kindergartener next year. Like you, there is no school I would rather have my children attend. My wife and I believe in the importance of **supporting public education as it fosters a broader understanding of the world and best prepares our children for the challenges ahead**.

As budget cuts and attacks on public schools increased we started to hear many of our friends and neighbors discuss options of private and charter schools. While these schools have a place in our society, for my wife and I, **public education means so much**.

My wife grew up in a single parent household and attended several public schools growing up. This education and the support of her working mother enabled her to go on and realize her aspiration of becoming a physician.

We want the same opportunity not just for our kids but all kids in the community and while we do not have the means to impact every school, together we can **actively ensure that Underwood remains the school we know and love**.

Why give? How much? These are personal decisions, but I will share my thoughts.

You give because public school matters.

You give because we want to retain the best teachers and offer the diversity of courses and opportunities for our children.

You give because you know the real amount of time and the passion our teachers put in each day.

You give because you realize the talented teachers we attract are due to the amazing Principal we have and the fantastic and supportive parents all of you are.

You give because you want to share equally with other families in support of the school.

You give because you can.

As for **how much**, that is up to your family. No gift is too small (or too large). **The bottom line is Underwood needs funds to continue to be the outstanding school it is**. The enclosed sheet discusses budget priorities, board members and giving amounts. You can also go to the Foundation website for more details.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any other board member you may know to discuss the Foundation in more detail. **Please also spread the word with your family, your friends, your neighbors, and/or companies you work with**. All of these can be sources of donations and support.

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This will be an on-going annual campaign and we have plans to engage alumni and other community supporters over the years as we grow an **Endowment for the long-term sustainability of the school.**

The board is actively planning a May 31st Kick-off celebration. Please consider attending. Tickets to the event are \$50 each and are included in donations of \$1,000 and above in addition to a special pre-party event. For those contributing \$2,500 and above there will be a unique fall wine tasting event in Downtown.

While the focus of the initial Foundation fundraising is to help with budget gaps for the coming 2014-2015 year, the Board's goal is to make the Foundation additive to the education environment.

To enhance the course offering at the school,

To send teachers to unique training opportunities that they can take back to the classroom and further engage your children,

To offer special after-school programs that continue the learning day, and much more.

Underwood is already considered one of the top schools in our state. Let's continue to work as a community to make it a leader for the nation to follow.

The story I want to see written is how a community came together in the face of reduced budgets and focused on building a public school that supported its teachers, attracted and retained the best teachers, and offered enhanced learning opportunities that helped all children succeed!

On behalf of the entire board and advisory board members, I want to thank you for joining us in this goal, for sending your child to Underwood, and for being the engaged parents that make this school a wonderful, safe and exciting place to develop the gifts and talents of our children.

Sincerely,



Stephen Mangano
President
Underwood GT Magnet Foundation Board
underwoodgtf@gmail.com