

**Family Partnership Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. ***What is the Foundation’s Family Partnership Program (FPP)?***

A. The FPP is the Hillsdale High School Foundation's annual fundraising campaign targeted to Hillsdale’s family community. Each dollar the Foundation raises through this campaign goes back to the school to support the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) model, advisories, technology, teacher professional development, After School Learning Center and PTSO and Booster Clubs.

Q. ***Why do parents/families need to donate to the FPP?***

A. California ranks 46th in the nation in per-pupil spending (Jan. 2015). This lack of funds impacts the success and learning opportunities for all our students. The funds allocated to Hillsdale by the San Mateo Union High District do not meet all the needs of the exemplary SLC program (with its lower class sizes and therefore higher staff resources) nor provide all the necessary elective courses for a comprehensive high school experience. Your donations to the FPP directly help to round out your student’s academic experience at Hillsdale High School each year.

Q. ***How does the Foundation decide how the funds are used?***

A. The school’s Site Council and Administration set the funding needs to maintain Hillsdale’s unique SLC model. Funds raised support the SLCs, its Advisory system, smaller class sizes, technology needs, the After School Learning Center, the School Safety Program and grants made directly to school departments, staff, classrooms and the Hillsdale booster clubs.

Q. ***How is a donation to the FPP different from a Booster Group membership donation?***

A. Funds raised through the FPP directly benefit the entire school − every student − and allow the Site Council and Administration leeway to channel support to areas of need to offset budget shortfalls or cuts which impact academics. Your Booster Group donations go toward support of students that elect to participate in a particular department or activity and supplements supplies, athletic equipment, instruments, art supplies, dance costumes, etc., along with some limited department-specific expenses, such as teacher wish list and the library.

Q. ***How much should I give?***

A. The Foundation recommends a tax deductible contribution of **$500 *per student*.** However, the Foundation wants all Hillsdale families to be a part of the Family Partnership Program, so ***any amount is welcomed and appreciated.***

Q. ***What are the ways I can donate?***

A. Donations are accepted via Credit or Debit card on the Foundation’s secure online site found at www.hillsdalehsfoundation.org (click the Donate button). OR you may fill out a Donation form (enclosed here). Return the form to the Foundation in the envelope provided. Remember, you may be able to double your donation through your ***company’s* matching gift program**. Please let us know who your employer is and we can inquire if they have a gift/matching grant program on your behalf. Monthly payments are also an option.

Q. ***Why can’t I make installment payments for my Booster donations?***

A. The Foundation has switched to a new, convenient online donation payment processing system that is both secure and private. As currently implemented, this new system does not allow payment plans for donations and/or ticket purchases that go directly to Booster groups (restricted funds). We are sorry for any inconvenience this will cause, but the new system guarantees that your private financial accounts are not shared with anyone associated with the school, or the Foundation, and are not kept on record.

We are happy to answer any and all your questions. Please go to [www.hillsdalehsfoundation.org](http://www.hillsdalefoundation.org) or contact the
Foundation’s Executive Director, Jennifer Russell, at execdirector@hillsdalehsfoundation.org.