Support McDonald International School!

501C3 Employer Identification Number: 27-2995791

As a Dual Language Immersion and International School, McDonald offers students a unique opportunity to learn new languages, connect with peers and staff from diverse cultural backgrounds, and develop into thoughtful, engaged global citizens. To continue providing this enriching educational experience, we rely on donations from our community to fund IA's/direct staffing support, community events and grants to support our classrooms.

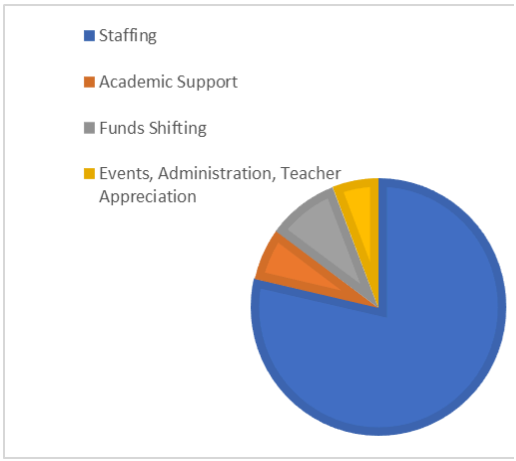
This is why we need your help!

Each year, a group of volunteer parents (the McDonald Parent-Teacher Association or PTA) work with Principal Facilla to raise much-needed funds, beyond what SPS provides, that help our school and our students succeed. These additional funds must be raised from our McDonald community: parents, extended family members, employers and other community members. Please consider making a financial contribution to help sustain and strengthen dual language and international education at McDonald!

Our goal is to raise $450,000 this year

This means a suggested donation of $1,450 per student, but any amount helps!

- **~80% pays for additional staff** that provide immersion support, lower McDonald's student to ratios, and improves differentiated learning.
- **~5% pays for other academic support** such as classroom materials and professional development for staff.
- **~5% pays for our community events and communication** that keep us all connected and informed, including International Night, parent coffees, our weekly newsletter and website, and scholarships for students and families in need.
- **~10% pays for fund-shifting support to CANSSPA & SESSFA** organizations that support schools with lower fundraising opportunities.



Thank you, arigato, gracias...for generously supporting McDonald International School!

Donate here!

McDonald PTA Fundraising FAQ

What is the McDonald PTA and why do we fundraise?
PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. It is a group of parent and teacher volunteers who support and assist with the education of our children at school. We fundraise to support our students' learning and dual language immersion (DLI) beyond what Seattle Public Schools provides our school.

What does our donation fund?
Nearly 80 percent of the funds we raised last year pay the salaries of staff and stipends for interns that support dual language learning and **reduce the student to teacher ratio and offer additional cultural/language support.**. The rest goes toward hosting community events for our students and their families, and providing materials in our classrooms and professional development for our teachers.. For more information about the PTA budget, visit https://mcdonaldpta.org/ or come to a PTA meeting!

Other schools in the district have DLI programs and do not fundraise for staff. Why do we need to do this at McDonald International?
Depending on the equity tier of the school, funding from the district is allocated differently. Some immersion schools use external grants, such as Title I and City Levy grants, to support staffing. Those options are not available to us at McDonald so the PTA must fundraise to staff our DLI program.

What positions are we filling?
This year, we are allocating $250,000 to fund 2.2 Dual Language Instructional Assistant (IA) positions.

Did we raise money last year for the intern program that has since been paused for the 2025–2026 school year?
We stopped fundraising for the intern program last year once we were informed that the intern program would be paused for the 2025–2026 school year. As a result, we ended the year approximately $40,000 short of our original fundraising goal. Of the funds we did raise:

- **$30,000** has been allocated to support the possible return of the intern program in the 2026–2027 school year. If the program does not resume, these funds will be available to support other aspects of dual language classroom instruction.
- **$20,000** has been allocated toward language and cultural support for the current year to help mitigate the absence of our valued interns.

What are Instructional Assistants?
IAs are hired as staff through Seattle Public School (SPS) and the PTA pays their salaries by providing SPS with the funds we raise. They are fluent in the target languages, provide continuity year to year, and currently assist in grades K-1. Our fantastic IAs are Maestra Enedina (Sp-K), Profe Mayra (Sp-1), and Teiko Sensei (J-K).

Wouldn't it be beneficial to have Instructional Assistants in every grade?
Yes, but the district has imposed an annual cap of $250,000 on what we can raise and spend for staff positions at our school. This year, in addition to the three half time IAs, our donations are funding a half time fully-credentialed ELA teacher.

Why do you suggest a $1,500 per student donation?
Each year, PTA has to factor in a number of variables to determine the family ask. With cost of living adjustments for our instructional assistants, fewer students in our overall population, and our fund shifting model, an ask of $1,500 per student will enable us to reach our goal and fund all of our school's needs. We also recognize that not everyone is able to give at the same level. Please consider donating what you can—every dollar truly makes a difference and brings us closer to reaching our goal.

What is the deadline to donate?

It's important that we collect the majority of donations by **December 2025** in order to make timely commitments to our teachers, instructional assistants, and other classroom support staff for the 2026–2027 school year. Our goal is to raise **80% of the total funds by the end of 2025**, though we will continue accepting donations into 2026.

Do I need to donate in one lump sum or can I make smaller, monthly payments?
You can donate in one lump sum OR make smaller monthly payments! On the donation website (link/QR code provided above), simply select a monthly payment and your total donation will automatically be divided into five equal payments that you will be charged monthly from September through January.

Is McDonald PTA a 501C3?
Yes
McDonald Elementary PTA
Employer Identification Number: 27-2995791

Do I have to pay online?
No, we also accept cash and check. If you would like to submit a payment this way, please fill out this form and submit it to the school's main office c/o PTA Treasurer. Please make a check payable to McDonald Elementary School PTA. Checks can also be mailed to:

McDonald School PTA
Attn: Treasurer
144 NE 54th Street
Seattle, WA 98105

What do I need to do if my employer will match my donation?
When you make your online donation, simply check the box that asks if you will get a matching donation from your employer, then let your employer know the payment can be made online or by check mailed to McDonald School PTA, Attn: Treasurer, 144 NE 54th Street, Seattle, WA 98105.

Further questions?
Contact: donate@mcdonaldpta.org