



# St. Peter School

The Key to Educational Excellence since 1868



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017





As we begin our 150th year, St. Peter School remains an institution of faith, academics, and community. We are part of a long history of educational excellence—a tradition that began in 1868 with the Sisters of the Holy Cross from Notre Dame, Indiana.

Our teachers, students, and families share a great passion for learning and a commitment to academic excellence, spiritual formation, and positive social-emotional growth. Our students take part in a rigorous

and meaningful academic curriculum with the resources to fully engage them in the learning process, and we consistently perform in the highest tiers of national achievement tests. We have a strong Catholic identity through a robust prayer life, regular participation in the liturgy, celebration of the liturgical seasons, school-wide service learning, and strong relationships with our regional supporting parishes.

By effectively reorganizing our approach to fundraising, restructuring tuition, creating a culture of giving, community building, and advancing the school's message, we have set the foundation for long-term stewardship to safeguard the future of St. Peter School far beyond its 150th anniversary.

I am very grateful to the many dedicated individuals who, through generosity of time, talent, and support, have been instrumental in allowing us to continue to provide an exceptional education for all our students. We could not achieve our goals without your generosity.

May St. Peter School continue to grow as a family of learners sharing in an education characterized by Catholic values and academic excellence, and may God continue to bless St. Peter School!

**K. Jennifer Ketchum**

*Principal*





# 2016-2017 Faculty and Staff

**Jennifer Ketchum**

*Principal*

**Debra Duff**

*Coordinator of School  
Programs/  
Assistant to the Principal*

**Joanna Lowther**

*Office Manager*

**Ester Ackerman**

*Nurse*

**Meghan Keller**

*Counselor*

**TEACHERS****PRE K – GRADE 8****Jean Zwald**

*Pre-K*

**Adriana Yeroushalmie**

*Pre-K Assistant*

**Deirdre Kiyonaga**

*Kindergarten*

**Sister Tirhas and  
Sister Kidane**

*Kindergarten Assistants*

**Alice Hale**

*Grade 1*

**Sister Ghennet**

*Grade 1 Assistant*

**Erica Lopez**

*Grade 2*

**Michele Monk**

*Grade 3/Lower School  
Dean of Instruction*

**Margaret Royals**

*Grade 3 Aide*

**Allison Atherton**

*Grade 4/Extended Care  
Director*

**Katie Mullins**

*Grade 5*

**Caroline Mills**

*Grade 6/Middle School  
Religion/Social Studies/  
Latin*

**Alex Pellegrino**

*Middle School Teaching  
Aide*

**Danny Schaechter**

*Grade 7/Middle School  
Language Arts/  
Literature*

**Theresa Ferry**

*Grade 8/Middle School  
Math/Assistant Principal  
of Instruction*

**SPECIALISTS****Kelley Allen**

*Physical Education*

**Trish Blomquist**

*Art*

**Kim Evans**

*Resource Instructor,  
Grades 6–8*

**Sara Foresi-Perrotta**

*Library Aide*

**Jeni Freed**

*Librarian*

**Gheran Goddard**

*Music*

**Dezra Hinkson**

*Science, Grades 4–8*

**Claire Jolly**

*Resource Instructor,  
K-Grade 2*

**Geri Massimini**

*Band*

**Henry McDaniels**

*Head of Maintenance*

**Monica Pabón**

*Spanish*

**Gina Pruitt**

*Resource Instructor,  
Grades 3–5*

**Jim Shackelford**

*Technology*

**Megan Wurm**

*Instructional Technology*



## 2016–17 Pastor/Principal Advisory Board

### EX-OFFICIO

Rev. Gary Studniewski  
(St. Peter's on Capitol Hill)  
Principal Jennifer Ketchum  
Rev. William Gurnee  
(St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill)  
Fr. George Schommer, *OP*  
(St. Dominic Church)

### PRESIDENT

Lindsay Slater

### VICE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Hall

### SECRETARY

Debra Duff

### CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Michelle Easton  
Julie Penndorf

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Theresa Ferry  
Michele Monk

### MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

Nicole Wetjen  
Genevieve Maul

### SUSTAINABILITY

Anthony Militello  
Joseph Routh  
Donna McNamara

### HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA)

Liz Martin  
Christine Derwin

### AT-LARGE

Susan DePlatchett  
(St. Peter's Parishioner)  
Phyllis Jane Young (Community)  
Ted Southern  
(St. Peter's Parish Finance Board)





Dear St. Peter School Parents:

We are pleased to say that it has been another terrific year at St. Peter School.

The school continues to excel in all aspects of faith, academics and developing well-rounded, self-confident young individuals. This is demonstrated by how well this year's graduates did on their high school placements. It is also demonstrated by our outstanding and caring teachers and faculty.

With the end of the year, we are saying goodbye to Principal Ketchum. She has been an incredible leader and has forever left her mark on our school. Principal Ketchum has taken us to new levels of excellence and has put us on a path of stability and excellence for years to come. Thank you, Principal Ketchum, for nine incredible years of hard work, commitment and dedication.

This summer, we will welcome a new leader for our school: Ms. Karen Clay. Principal Clay comes with the highest recommendations and extensive experience leading Catholic elementary schools. We will be in good hands.

We continue to closely follow the strategic plan, and once again we are pleased that the school ends the year in a good place in meeting our four main goals of Catholic Identity, Academic Excellence, Community and Sustainability. As we strive to meet these goals, we have continued to put our school, children and community on a very sound educational and financial footing.

As we look forward to next year, we have begun planning for our 150th Anniversary. We are excited that with a little creativity and a very large tent, we will be holding next year's auction gala at the school. It will be fitting to celebrate such an important occasion at "home," and we hope to have a few alumni there as well.

For the coming year, Liz Hall will be taking the reins from Lindsay Slater as the President of the Pastor/Principal Advisory Board. She will be able to provide continuity and insight to our new principal.

Finally, the success of our students and our school starts with our parents. We want to thank each of you for the support you give to your children and for your involvement with the school in both time and treasure. We have an incredible school, and it starts with each of us.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Slater  
*President*

Liz Hall  
*Vice-President*



## 2016-2017 Giving

We are grateful to those supporters who magnified their annual giving by requesting matching gifts from the following employers:

**Biogen Idec**

**Boeing**

**Diageo**

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**Lockheed Martin**

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**Northrop Grumman**

**Raytheon**

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**The Travelers Companies**

**Turner Broadcasting System Inc.**





## GIFT CIRCLES

Thank you to our generous donors (current families, *unless otherwise noted*). Your giving and high-level participation make all the difference to St. Peter School's students, program, facilities, faculty and staff.

### 1868 CIRCLE

**\$2,500 and up**

Raymond and Julia Bucheger  
Christopher and Marie Cox  
Topher and Debbie Cushman  
Mark and Stacey Dion  
John and Michelle Easton  
John and Kerry Feehery  
Timothy and Alexandra Fouts  
Philo and Elizabeth Hall  
Leonard and Maura Jeffords  
Walt and Dana Lukken  
Brian and Marliiss McManus (*parishioners*)  
Christopher and Colleen Morton  
Lindsay and Gail Slater  
Jason and Anne Thomas

### THE KEYS TO SUCCESS CIRCLE

**\$2,000 to \$2,499**

Anonymous  
The Moran Family Foundation

### THE ROCK ON THE HILL CIRCLE

**\$1,500 to \$1,999**

Christopher Coakley and  
Elizabeth Martin  
Nicholas Fontana and Wanda Ng

Thomas and Jill Kozeny  
John and Stephanie Lester  
Thomas and Donna McNamara  
Patrick and Anne O'Rourke  
The Schutter Family  
David and Hollis Silverman  
Mladen Sokolovic and Rachel Ney  
Robert (Ted) Southern and  
Karin Rodgers (*parishioners*)

### THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS CIRCLE

**\$1,000 to \$1,499**

Paul and Stephanie Ahern (*past parents*)  
Marion Buelken (*current grandparent*)  
Michael and Tracy Caudill  
Edward and Susan Corrigan  
Michael Fleszar and Christine Derwin  
Andrew and Joan Goldfrank  
David and Mary Ann Fox  
Keri Hayes and Collin Tatusko  
Terence Heffernan and  
Sheila Samaddar  
Vincent and Jacqueline Hurley  
Booth and Jennifer Jameson  
Theron Korsak  
Thu Le (*alumna*)  
Rich and Betsy McIntyre

The McKendree/Corkery Family  
Todd and Sarah Novascone  
Gregg Porter and Sally Aman  
Reince and Sally Priebus  
Timothy Rutten and Kellie Donnelly  
Brett and Nina Schaefer  
Sonny and Dione Sharmin  
Justin and Dana Shum  
Nicholas Tabori and Colleen Durbin

### ST. PETER PANTHERS CIRCLE

**Up to \$999**

David and Breann Almos  
Kathleen Amacio  
Fr. David Arsenault (*alumnus*)  
Jeffrey and Brooke Augello  
Eric and Kathy Bergren  
John Bidwell and DeLania Hardy  
Hans and Anita Binkert (*current grandparents*)  
Peter and Kristine Brookes  
Jose and Kelly Ceballos  
Scott and Alison Cernich  
Paul Ciampoli and  
Fabiola Rodriguez-Ciampoli  
Craig and Elizabeth Cookson  
John and Marilyn Cookson  
(*current grandparents*)



The Honorable and Mrs. B. Waugh Crigler  
*(current grandparents)*

James and Michaelen Crowell

David Delcher and Roxanne Wallace

Ecolab, Inc. *(friends)*

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Anthony and Giuseppina Militello

Paul and Elizabeth Murray

John Myers and Megan Uzzell

Temesgen and Hanna Negussie

James and Suzanne Nelson

Molly Collins Offner *(past parent)*

Stanley and Lauren Pawlowski

Chris Peot and Laura Grosso

Jonathan and Julie Penndorf

Ben and Angela Phillips

Mark and Lori Prater

John and Julia Reed

Frank Rinaldi

Ian Roberts and Mary Erler

David and Tara Robertson

Joseph and Jennifer Routh

Ross and Elizabeth Safford *(past parents)*

Douglas and Kimberly Saunders

Maurice and Vera Lee Sullivan *(current*

*grandparents)*

Stephen and Belinda Traud *(current*

*grandparents)*

Ram Uppuluri and Jackie Krieger

Fred and Donna Uzzell

*(current grandparents)*

Bianca Waters

Lloyd and Lisa Weems

Mark and Nicole Wetjen

Gregory and Sentho White

Christopher and Jeanette Whitener

Irwin and Irene Wiehe *(current grandparents)*

Kenneth and Katharine Wingert

Caroline Wood

Mark Yucha and Fiona Shanks Yucha

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Christopher and Ester Ackerman

Allison Atherton

Kim Evans

Sara Foresi-Perrotta

Theresa Ferry

Jeni Freed

Alice Hale

Rev. Msgr. Kevin Hart

Jennifer Ketchum

Erica Lopez

Joanna Lowther

Megan Keller

Deirdre Kiyonaga

Claire Jolly

Katie Mullins

Gina Pruitt

Rev. Gary R. Studniewski

Adriana Yeroushalmie

Jean Zwald

*The 2016–2017 Annual Report is a publication of St. Peter School acknowledging contributions from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness. Please contact Debbie Duff at 202-544-1618, [dduff@stpeterschooldc.org](mailto:dduff@stpeterschooldc.org) with questions or comments.*









## 2017 Annual Auction and Gala

Salsa dancing, cigars and high spirits of all kinds (including rum!) were in high gear at the St. Peter School annual auction and gala, A Night in Old Havana, held on February 4, 2017 at the Sphinx Club in downtown Washington, DC.

More than 350 bidders—including current parents and parishioners—joined the fun at the event and the week before via the school Web site. The Live Auction, on the heels of a four-star dinner, raised \$73,500, with a record-breaking \$33,200 raised through Father Gary Studniewski's heart-felt call to support SPS student scholarships and our sister school in Haiti. Other Live and Silent Auction items included a serene Bethany Beach vacation; a special dinner with Father Gary, Father Jordan and the incoming SPS principal; and an assortment of priceless SPS treasures, including front-row seats at graduation and the Christmas Concert.

Friends of the school stepped up, too, with 13 sponsors advertising in the program and even on auction paddles to raise another \$10,000. In the end, after all bills were paid, the school netted more than \$81,000! A hearty Arriba thank-you, too, to the Auction Committee Chairs:

Stephanie Lester and Misty Marshall, Theme and Decorating; Breann Almos, Catalog; Rachel Fall, Advertising; Rebecca Kuhn, Silent Auction; Hollis Silverman, Live Auction; Kathy Bergren, Set-Up; and Dana Lukken, Night-Of-Event.

*Top photo: Havana Panorama: The Sphinx Club Ballroom. Middle left: From left, SPS parents John Easton, Tophier and Debbie Cushman. Middle right: From left, SPS parents Jen Squires, Marie Cox, Eydie Costantino and Kelly Ceballos. Bottom photo: From left, SPS parents Mark Dion, Dana Lukken and Misty Marshall.*





## Fore! A Good Cause: 4th Annual St. Peter School Golf Classic

More than 50 current parents and friends of the school took to the links on June 1, 2017 at The Country Club of Woodmore for the Fourth Annual St. Peter School Golf Classic.

A targeted effort by planners yielded the highest number of class foursomes to date—and the first-ever female four-some member. On-course fun included Caddyshack Trivia, mulligans and sporting the SPS plaid skirt to improve tee-off location. The 18-hole event also included two popular Silent Auction items: a three-month family membership to Woodmore and a round of golf with former Washington Redskins player Brian Mitchell.

This year's post-classic reception was held back on Capitol Hill at another classic: local watering hole, The Tune Inn.

The benefit raised more than \$11,000 for SPS scholarships, facility improvements and curriculum development. Thanks to Golf Outing Chair Topher Cushman and planning committee members Joan Goldfrank, Meagan Jancy and John Feehery. A round of sponsorship thanks, too: The Beer Institute, Headline Sponsor; Cantina Marina, Awards Party Sponsor; FIA and Topher Cushman Real Estate, Beverage Cart Sponsors; and National Capital Financial Group, Luncheon Sponsor.

*Top left: From left, former SPS parent Rich Masters joins current parents Walt Lukken and Topher Cushman at the Tune Inn. Top right: From left, Craig Cookson, Joey Routh, Booth Jameson and Skip Thompson. Center: From left, Peter Flynn, Ray Bucheger, Chris Coakley and Peter Brookes. Bottom: From left, David Cushman, Joe Mallek, Topher Cushman and Scott Jancy.*



## Mindfulness, Year Two

St. Peter debuted a new Mindfulness Program in September 2015 as part of its social-emotional learning curriculum. Two full school years and several teacher training sessions later, the effort has been seamlessly incorporated and reaped countless rewards.

Grade 1 teacher Alice Hale has found mindfulness techniques especially helpful at lunch time. "Slowing down and taking a breath," she explains, "helps children enjoy their food and each other's company and discourages multi-tasking." Even her young students are, as a result, "more present in the moment of this valuable, community-centered portion of our day." Mrs. Hale also urges students to be more mindful during transitions, which are naturally busier.

"Cultivating mindfulness at a young age helps students learn how to handle the stress and demands of our increasingly fast-paced world," explains Principal Jennifer Ketchum. "It is so important to slow down and become aware of and grounded in the present, which, in turn, allows students to be healthier, better learners.

"Mindfulness," she adds, "is a wonderful complement to our Catholic faith, as we all learn to become still in order to experience prayer and the presence of God fully in our lives."



## Scientific Achievements

St. Peter School students enjoyed a strong showing in the Regional Department of Energy Middle School Science Bowl in February.

The team of five, pictured above with SPS Science Teacher Dezra Hinkson, successfully navigated a series of tough round-robin competitions, eventually losing the third place tie-breaker.

Students also made their mark at the D.C. Elementary STEM Fair in June (photo on right), earning First and Third Place Grand Awards; First Place Awards in Botany, Engineering and Computer Science, and Social and Behavioral Science; and a Third Place Award in Chemistry.





### Encouraging Critical Thinking

During School Year 2016-2017, teachers incorporated into their classrooms the principles and practices of Project Zero, a Harvard University-based effort aimed at cultivating an engaging classroom environment of deeper, more critical thinking. Teachers studied and discussed *Making Thinking Visible*, a key Project Zero reading, at monthly professional development sessions throughout the year. The result: More engaged students—and teachers!

### A High Note for Advanced Band

The St. Peter School Advanced Band earned one of only eight Superior ratings awarded at the 55th Annual Archdiocesan Music Festival held at Bishop McNamara High School on March 12, 2017. Eighteen bands, representing 23 area schools, participated in the event. SPS Advanced Band includes 32 students from Grades 5–8. The group is directed by Band Teacher Gerianna Massimini.



### Hoop Dreams

The St. Peter School U14 White team (boys 14 and under; one of the official St. Peter's parish teams) defeated St. Peter's Olney 48-38 for the league championship -- the first time a U14 St. Peter's boys team has ever clinched the title. The mostly Grade 7 crew led from the first basket and never trailed during the entire game. The U14 team is joined by U12 and U10 teams—for boys and girls. Teams are coached by current SPS parent Ned Ertel and parishioner Ryan Donahue.



### **Around Town**

Grade 1 students, accompanied by their teacher, Sr. Ghennet (see photo, top left), enjoyed a field trip to the Natural History Museum to see the Orkin Insect Zoo and Butterfly Pavilion.

After ending a unit on soil and preparing for a new unit on plant life, students in Grade 2 went on a field trip to the U.S. Botanic Garden, on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, where they got their hands dirty potting cacao beans (see photo, bottom left).

Grade 6 took a walking field trip of the neighborhood with their teacher Ms. Mills and her brother, an Architecture major at Catholic University. The students examined the Greek influence on the design of the U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court (see photo below).



### **Around the World**

Students traveled to and learned about Ireland, China, Greece, Denmark, The Philippines, the United Kingdom, Bolivia, Japan, Australia and Belgium during International Day in May.



## Student Families: Another Year of Caring for Our Neighbors

The St. Peter School sense of community is a treasure, and the longstanding “Student Families” program strengthens community ties within the school and extends the good will into the neighborhood. Ten inter-grade Student Families groups meet quarterly to carry out a school-wide, community service project. Working together, students gain an awareness of the broader world and an appreciation of each other.

### Student Families Project, March 30, 2017



#### Easter Baskets for Capitol Hill Group Ministry and Families in Need

After a two-week collection that yielded countless bags of donated

candy and treasures, SPS Student Families came together to assemble 150+ Easter baskets for distribution by Capitol Hill Group Ministry (CHGM). Celebrating community service since 1967, CHGM is a nonprofit group of congregations and concerned individuals of all faiths, united to serve the spiritual and social needs of homeless and low-income households in the Capitol Hill community.

“The Easter baskets were a hit!!!” reported Abby Sypek, MSW, CHGM community engagement manager. “Our staff was so excited to share them with our families, and they all flew out the door before Easter Sunday.” One mother was so thankful, she added, because “she had not been able to purchase anything for her children or grandchildren. We are so grateful that CHGM was the beneficiary of such generosity!”

### Student Families Project, May 18, 2017

#### Remembering the Animals

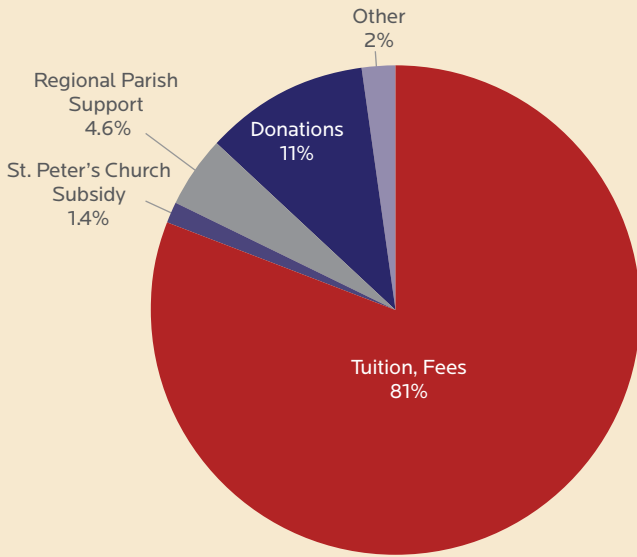
After several students asked Principal Ketchum for a community service project to benefit animals, SPS reached out to the Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA), an organization that protects, rescues and cares for animals in the District of Columbia. Debbie Duel, the group's director of humane education, visited SPS on May 18 to accept overflowing boxes of supplies and treats for the dogs, cats, guinea pigs and birds currently in their care—and to explain how adults and children can protect animals every day.

“The students at St. Peter School were welcoming, kind and thoughtful with their questions,” said Duel. Added Faith Koleszar, HRA community engagement manager: “Your school's donation was the best we have seen for years—maybe ever! Everything was perfect and exactly what the animals need. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU from all our staff and animals.”





# St. Peter School Financial Statement (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

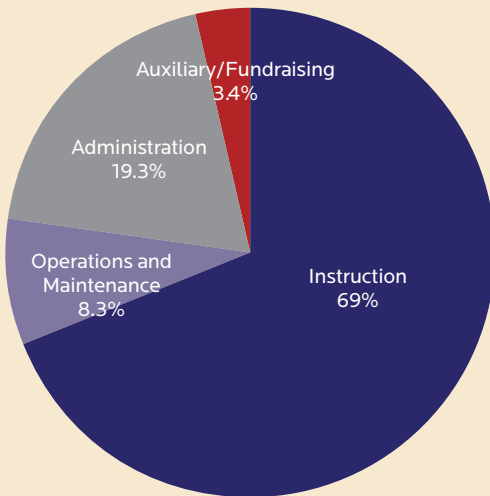


## Revenue

Tuition and Fees:	\$2,455,514
St. Peter's Church Subsidy:	\$42,500
Regional Parish Support:	\$139,251
Donations (1) :	\$331,390
Other (2) :	\$69,013

**Revenue Total: \$3,037,668.00**

(1) Includes Annual Giving, Auction, Golf Tournament, HSA-Sponsored Events, Miscellaneous  
 (2) Includes Lunch Programs (milk, tacos, pizza), School Store, Ski Club, Miscellaneous



## Expense

Instruction (3):	\$1,913,852
Operations and Maintenance (4) :	\$234,599
Administration (5) :	\$535,298 *
Auxiliary/Fundraising:	\$95,324 **

**Expenses Total: \$2,779,073.00**

**SAVINGS: \$258,595**

(3) Includes Salaries & Benefits, Classroom Supplies, Textbooks, Technology  
 (4) Includes Salaries & Benefits, Utilities, Insurance, Facility Repairs & Upkeep  
 (5) Includes Salaries & Benefits, Office Supplies, Furniture, Printing & Postage, Lunch Program, Library, Miscellaneous

\*\$100,000 of Administration Expenses designated to Tuition Assistance  
 \*\*\$50,000 of HSA Expenses designated to Tuition Assistance



# Ways to make a charitable gift:

## Cash

Contributions of cash, checks or money orders are accepted and preferred. Checks and money orders should be made payable to “St. Peter School” with the note, “Annual Giving Campaign.”

## Recurring Monthly Gifts

Many donors find that a monthly check or debit is a convenient way to donate to the Annual Giving Campaign by spreading the gift over several months.

## Credit Card

Contributions by credit card may be made through the pledge form, by phone, by email to the Development Office, or online at our website. St. Peter School accepts Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express.

## Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Contributions can be made by Federal government employees through the CFC.

- The CFC number for our school is CFCV #39466, Local Independent Agencies.
- If you chose to donate through the CFC, please also fill out our St. Peter School pledge form.

- The report we receive from the CFC does not include donation amounts and often states “anonymous” instead of names. Please help us count you in meeting our goals.

## United Way (UW)

To support the school through the United Way, donors must write “St. Peter School” on your forms. We do not have an independent number for United Way, thus we are considered a “write-in-agency.”

## Employer Matching Gifts

Your gift may be matched by your employer. Please consider magnifying your annual giving through an employer matching gift. Check participation details where you work.

## Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities

To transact a securities donation, please contact the Development Office. at 202-544-1618 Ext. 13

## Planned Giving

Supporters can help ensure the long-term financial security of the school through planned giving. Gifts of this type may be made in the form of a will bequest, life insurance beneficiary, or through a retirement plan.





The Key to Educational Excellence since 1868

St. Peter School is a family of learners serving the Capitol Hill parishes and community. We provide our children with an education that is founded on love of God and service to others, characterized by Catholic values and academic excellence and dedicated to addressing each child's unique talents and abilities.



422 Third Street, SE • Washington, DC 20003