

Montgomery Education Foundation (MEF) Viking 1000 Q&A

What is the MEF? Montgomery Education Foundation is a parent and alumni supported group dedicated to “*enriching the curriculum and engaging students and the school community*” at Montgomery High School. We are a non-profit organization, so your tax donations are tax deductible (tax I.D. #68-0376324). For more details visit www.montgomeryhigheducationfoundation.org.

What is the Viking 1000 campaign and what are its goals? We hope to have 1000 members contribute at least \$1000.00 to create a \$1 million dollar endowment.

How will the endowment funds be put to use? First, it will be used to sustain programs already in place, using our mission statement as its guide, by funding grant requests from teachers and organizations on campus including IB, music and chorus, leadership, drama, math, technology, and Project Grad.

As you may already know, California will be facing some harsh budget cuts and our schools will not be spared, losing as much as 3.3 million dollars for our district. Areas of high school education facing cuts are the IB program, the library hours, athletics, counselors, and more. We hope that through the endowment we may be able to make up for some of these losses to insure Montgomery’s excellence and integrity. Our current principal has some long-term goals for Montgomery High School that will be taken into consideration as well, depending on the evolving needs of the campus. Some long and short-term projects being discussed include: working with the technology committee to make equitable improvement in every classroom; college preparation services including tutoring and college counseling; and improving the performing arts center.

As a Viking 1000 Founding Member, will I have any input on monies spent? We encourage donors to attend the monthly meetings where the Board, in conjunction with the principal and the grants committee, discusses funding and ongoing events. You are welcome to join the Board where your voice and vote can make a difference. If you are unable to attend we will keep you updated through our periodic newsletter and/or website through which you will be able to express your interests as well.

What is an Endowment? An endowment is a gift that keeps on giving forever. This is because the capital is invested and preserved and only a portion of the investment earnings are spent each year.

How will the contributions be invested and managed? They will be invested in a diversified mix of stocks, and fixed income securities. The funds will be professionally managed by an established entity with experience in managing endowment monies and will be subject to minimal management fees.

Where should I mail my check? Montgomery Education Foundation, 1250 Hahman Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 (please write your check out to: Montgomery Education Foundation and note “Endowment”).