

Fundraising FAQs

Operating an independent school like GISB is not possible on tuition alone. Fundraising allows GISB to support its commitment to bilingualism and academic excellence by providing our teachers and students with the resources they need to thrive inside and outside the classroom. Among many things, your financial gifts help:

- expand financial aid for qualified families
- retain exceptional faculty and support their professional development
- support special academic opportunities like the High School Harvard Medical School Program
- make new library acquisitions and information resources and purchase lab and classroom equipment
- expand and adapt campus facilities to accommodate our growing population

Please join the many parents, trustees, alumni, and friends who donate so that we can continue to offer an outstanding bilingual education to every GISB student.

Fundraising Throughout the Year

GISB Advancement, the Parent Association, and the Parent Council raise funds throughout the school year. In addition to the events listed below, students and other community groups might raise funds for specific purposes as well; for example, grades 11 and 12 usually raise money for their graduation activities. Events are subject to change.

When	Organizer	Fundraiser/Event	In support of the
October/November	Parent Council	Teacher Appreciation	Teacher-Appreciation Fund
November	Parent Association	Advent Wreaths	PA Fund
December	Parent Association	Book Fair	Library Fund
November/December	GISB	Community Cookbook	Annual Fund
December	GISB	Christkindlmarkt German Holiday Market	Annual Fund
December	GISB	End-of-Year Ask	Annual Fund
March	GISB	Spring Campaign/ Day of Giving	Annual Fund
Spring	Parent Association	Flea Market	PA Fund



We already pay tuition. Why should we give to the Annual Fund?

Like other German schools in the US, GISB is a hybrid organization. It supports its mission with tuition and fees like a traditional American independent school, and the German government provides some financial support like a public or state-sponsored school. But tuition plus German government support do not cover the total cost of educating our children. Fundraising helps bridge the gap between GISB's tuition and what it actually costs to educate our students while ensuring the school's long-term financial health. U.S. tax law also encourages donations to independent educational institutions like GISB. As a nonprofit organization, donations to GISB are tax-deductible where tuition is not.

Doesn't the school already have enough money?

Through prudent financial stewardship, the school balances its budget annually. That said, our commitment to an exceptional and accessible bilingual education requires the combined support of tuition, the German government, and a robust Annual Fund.

Who gives?

We invite all members of the GISB community to contribute to the Annual Fund, no matter the amount.

I receive tuition assistance. If I give, won't that jeopardize my ability to receive financial aid in the future?

No, donating money to the school does not in any way affect a family's grant of tuition assistance. GISB's financial aid award algorithm determines a family's "discretionary income" and how much of that would be available for tuition. The decisions a family makes in allocating its remaining income are beyond the purview of the financial aid determination. We are deeply honored to receive a donation from a current family, but even more so when we know that a family has constrained financial resources. Moreover, we are committed to protecting the privacy of all our families. Financial information is not shared beyond the financial aid committee that makes decisions about tuition assistance.

How much should I give?

Every gift makes a difference, whether you give \$5 or \$50,000. The amount you decide to give is entirely up to you. We invite you to give a meaningful gift appropriate to your circumstances—every gift counts; every gift matters.

Why does participation matter?

Contributing to the Annual Fund unites our community behind the common goal of supporting our teachers and students. Contrary to what you might think, German companies do not automatically give to German schools. When considering donations and grants, foundations and other organizations from whom we seek support look for high levels of community participation (the percentage of parents giving, not the dollar amount of individual gifts). High participation rates within our community demonstrate to potential external donors both our commitment to our school's mission and the school's short- and long-term financial stability.



I support the Parents Association and the Parent Council. Why should I give to the Annual Fund?

The Parent Association “friendraises” to finance community-building events like the Oktoberfest. With these “friendraisers” and the participation of the whole school community, they are able to support small and immediate school needs, such as the recent gift of the scoreboard for the gym. Similarly, the Parent Council raises funds to celebrate our superb teachers and administrative staff. The Annual Fund is the best way families can support the school’s larger annual financial needs. 100% of Annual Fund gifts are immediately used to enhance the current year’s operating budget and benefit all students at the school.

How can I give?

Donations can be made in cash, securities, or in kind. Giving a gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds can be financially advantageous since, in many cases, the donor may be able to claim a charitable income tax deduction for the market value of the donation. As a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, donors receive a tax deduction receipt for their contributions.

What are matching gifts?

Matching gifts are a great way to double and even triple the impact of your gift. Many companies will match the philanthropic contributions of their employees. To see if your company participates in matching gift programs, check with your company’s HR office.

My family is only here for a short time - Why should we donate?

The GISB community extends across time and space. Although Annual Fund gifts serve the current school year, all donations are investments in the school’s future. All GISB students, past, present, and future, benefit from the generosity of the gifts families have made in previous years. Monetary donations have a lasting impact on future generations of students through the development of new academic programs. But they can also redound to the benefit of alumni by securing GISB’s national and international reputation for generations to come.