



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



November 2023

Dear Fernwood Families,

As we welcome the traditional time of thanks we want to give thanks to the wonderful families that make up the Fernwood Community. Because of you, this school and community is as strong and robust as it is. And, we are always looking to get stronger.

Fernwood Fund provides support for school improvements, programs, and multiple field trips. A few of these include field trips to the Urban Ecology Center, Schlitz Audubon Center and Peace and Learning Center. The Fund also funds arts enrichments by purchasing musical instruments; and other music programs, such as the Arts in Community Education (ACE) program through the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, the Fund has supported campus improvements, including the ongoing projects on the west playground. The Fund has also provided seed money to the first year of Nature’s Classroom for the upper elementary students. The School and Fund seek to support our students and families in each and every way possible and continue to strengthen our community..

We write to express our gratitude and ask for your continued support as the Fernwood Fund remains committed to supporting the School and the students. This includes continued enhancements on the west playground, an eventual new playspace on the east playground, and repurposing of the greenhouse space.

The last two years we have successfully hosted our spring fundraising event, Fernwood Flights. We look to do a similar event this coming Spring. Donations do not need to wait for the fundraiser. The Fernwood Fund is grateful for every donation, and welcomes donations at any time. Simply click on <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E252729&id=1> and decide how much you want to give. Please be sure to indicate that your gift is for Fernwood on the donation page. The Fernwood Fund puts every dollar right back into the school.

Thank you for your continued support. We invite you all to pop into a board meeting so we can thank you in person!

Benjamin Stocks
Fernwood Parent
Fernwood Fund Board President

Kristy Lowell
Fernwood Principal
Fernwood Fund Board Member



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Fernwood Fund FAQ

What are the Fernwood Fund's goals?

The Fernwood Montessori School Fund is dedicated to enriching the education of children attending Fernwood Montessori School by supporting projects and programs that enhance the educational community and support the mission of Fernwood Montessori School. The Fernwood Fund will raise support for "large-scale" programs, Montessori-based classroom materials – and potentially for capital improvements for the school. This does not replace or diminish the great work by our PTO; rather it adds another dimension to our ability to ask for large gifts and pursue grants.

How is the fund structured?

The Fernwood Montessori School Fund has been established as a dedicated fund within the MPS Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for educational and charitable purposes. The Fund was established under the MPS Foundation to utilize its tax-exempt status, organizational efficiencies and liability insurance. A board has been established to lead this effort.

What are some examples of how money will be raised?

The Fernwood Fund has focused on three primary vehicles for raising contributions to support the school – funding appeals to parents & friends of Fernwood, and the annual spring fundraising event (in the past “Beers and Cheers” and last year “Fernwood Flights”).

How will funds be allocated and who is responsible for making decisions about funding?

Input for school funding needs will come from Fernwood administration, staff and parents. A board of parents and school administration has been put in place to oversee the funding allocation. This year we are continuing our focus on landscaping and site structures that support the Montessori curriculum. The Fund also reviews grant applications to support specific Fernwood projects.

Will meeting minutes be made available?

Yes, meeting minutes will be made available following meetings at www.fernwoodfund.org as well as our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FernwoodFund/> (be sure to “like” us!). Meetings are open to parents or other interested parties.

How can I get involved?

If you are interested in helping with Fund efforts, please contact Ben Stocks (BenjaminMStocks@gmail.com). If you are interested in becoming involved more directly with the Music Parents sub-group of the Fernwood Fund, please contact Molly Pufall-Brown (Mpufall@gmail.com) Meetings are open and future dates available at: <http://www.fernwoodfund.org/board-meetings.html>

How do I donate to the Fernwood Fund?

Donations to the Fund are made through the MPS Foundation, just follow this link and be sure to select Fernwood: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E252729&id=1>

Can I give through my employer's United Way/Combined Giving Campaign?



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



You can provide a donation to the MPS Foundation but giving specifically for the Fernwood Fund through the United Way giving is challenging. Please contact the board for assistance by sending a note to FernwoodFundInfo@gmail.com.