

FAQ for participants

1. Why do we need an auction?

State funding of K-12 education is never sufficient to reach education goal set by school and expectation from parents. The excellence of Somerset Elementary School relies on super strong partnership between parents, community and business. Years of such deep involvement generates amazing outcomes that could only be envied by many other public schools within Bellevue School District. For many years, Somerset Elementary School remains one of the highest ranked elementary school in the State. Thanks to the very successful auction 2015, the PTSA, over the past two years, not only supported numerous educational, safety and community programs, but also funded five full-time Instructional Aides who assist teachers at each grade level, allowing all students more effective and individualized instruction time.

Even though the fall fundraising reached our minimum goal, we still need to raise another \$120K to continue our current sponsored programs and extra curriculum for the school year 2017-2018. There is no other feasible means rather than auction to raise such amount of money.

2. What would happen if we fail to raise enough money?

IF we do not raise enough money for the school year 2017-2018, we will have to cut some programs. Even though we do not have a definitive answer at this moment, we know for sure instruction aids (IA) will be significantly impacted. Our PTSA sponsors five instruction aids in school year 2016-2017, which takes more than 50% of our PTSA annual budget. Through feedbacks from the school, teachers, and parents, we learned IA is an exceptional program that is mostly appreciated by our educators. IA not only directly benefits students who are in need of special attention, but also help classroom teacher stay focus on teaching majority of students without being distracted.

3. What activities will be included?

You will have a wonderful opportunity to relax from a busy schedule, network with your old friends, make new friends, and enjoy a cocktail reception, while you can check out what is being offered in our gift card board or silent auction. Or you can join your friends with some casual and fun games before gourmet dinner. You will enjoy a gourmet meal and a friendly competent live auction which you surely will actively participate. Together we will demonstrate our passion in education and strong support to our Somerset Super Stars.

The detailed agenda is under developed and will be available in March 2017.

4. Can I donate money instead of attending this auction?

As much as we appreciate your generosity, we strongly encourage you to join us in the auction, because your attendance will serve as an assurance and support to other participants with the shared passion on education. When you raise your paddle, you not only donate, you also

demonstrate your commitment to everyone in the room that you are investing our future; you want to make a difference by directly involving into our children's daily education.

5. What is silent auction? How does it work?

In silent auction, people bid item by writing down their name and bidding price on the same sheet so that everyone can see. Before the auction is closed, people can revisit the item and place a new bid price if necessary. For more details, see <http://www.wisegeek.org/what-is-a-silent-auction.htm>.

6. What is live auction? How does it work?

In live auction, an auctioneer will call out price for an item and take raised paddle of people as bid at certain price. For more details, see <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-live-auction.htm>.

7. What items will be included in the silent and live auction?

Our motivated volunteers will do all their best to solicit donations from school families, communities, and businesses. Even though we do not know yet what kind of donations we are going to get, we expect to receive gift cards, vouchers, collectables, services, electronics, teacher experience, and other unique experience that is not available on market. In addition, each classroom will produce one art work for live auction. We will update inventories periodically. Stay tuned.

8. I want to help. How?

Please email **emailaddress (need to update)** or call **PHONE NUMBER** if you are willing to help. We will find appropriate tasks to fit your schedule and capability.