



FAQ

FISLER ENDOWMENT

- **What is an endowment?**
 - The endowment is a supplemental funding source for the school. Parents, local businesses, and community members make donations that F²AST invests for long-term growth. Once the portfolio reaches a minimum value, roughly half of the annual investment income will be used to support educational programs at Fisler. The impact will begin modestly, but it will grow significantly over time as the endowment increases in size.
- **Why create an endowment?**
 - Annual fundraising is essential, but it can't match the long-term strength of an endowment. A permanent endowment grows year after year and creates the financial stability Fisler needs to invest in lasting programs. With steady contributions and time, the endowment becomes something extraordinary. Its impact grows far beyond what yearly fundraising alone could ever achieve.
- **What kinds of programs will the Endowment Support**
 - The endowment will support all grades and all classrooms with the goal of accelerating Fisler's development as a premier elementary and middle school. Over time, it can fund new academic programs, additional teachers and specialists, advanced curriculum, enrichment opportunities, and the kinds of experiences that help a school move from excellent to truly exceptional.
- **Why isn't our existing fundraising enough?**
 - Our Fisler Family has been extraordinarily generous for many years, and that support has strengthened our school in countless ways. Yet we also recognize a simple truth: our current fundraising has reached its limit. Parents are exhausted by being asked to participate in multiple fundraisers each year. Annual fundraising is effective for meeting immediate needs, but it cannot accelerate the long-term growth and transformation we envision for Fisler.
- **How is donating to the Fisler Endowment different?**
 - Donations to the endowment are an investment in Fisler's long-term excellence and the strength of our community. Support for PTSA and F²AST remains essential to fund the resources and programs our school and teachers need right now.
- **Can I stop donating to PTSA and F²AST if I start donating to the endowment?**
 - No. Families should continue supporting PTSA and F²AST as they normally do for the next several years. These contributions are what help our students this year and next. The endowment, by design, takes time to grow. Donating to the endowment is an investment in Fisler's future. How quickly its benefits can be realized will depend on factors such as the level of annual giving from our community and the performance of the stock market.



FAQ

FISLER ENDOWMENT

- **What is the goal this year for the Endowment?**
 - Our goal in this first year is participation, not dollars. We want as many families as possible to take part, and our aspiration is 100 percent participation. The real power of the endowment is unlocked when the entire community contributes, even at modest levels, because broad participation creates long-term growth and shared ownership in Fisler's future.
- **What is the FOUNDERS CIRCLE?**
 - The Founders Circle is a small group of parents and community members who choose to make significant leadership gifts to help launch the endowment. These early commitments are especially powerful. They accelerate the endowment's growth and can bring its financial benefits to Fisler many years sooner than would otherwise be possible. We are inviting families and community partners to join the Founders Circle now. Please contact us if you would like more information.
- **What is a sustaining member?**
 - Families who sign up for monthly recurring donations become Sustaining Members. Our goal is for every Fisler family to participate. You can begin at any time, including now, and we will launch a larger community-wide invitation in January.
- **How much should I give every month?**
 - Choose a monthly amount that works best for your family. Some schools set a required or "fair share" donation, but we prefer a different approach. You decide the level of investment that feels right. If \$20 per student per month is comfortable, we encourage that. If you can give more, wonderful. Any amount is welcome. What matters most is that families come together in a shared effort to invest in our students, our school, and our community.
- **Can I just make an annual donation instead?**
 - Yes, you may make a one-time donation. We ask that you also consider a monthly contribution, even a small one, so you can be part of the Sustaining Member program. If you plan to give more than \$100 as a one-time gift, please contact us about making that contribution by check.
- **Why did you decide to focus on monthly donations?**
 - Monthly donations offer many advantages. They provide stability and predictability, which are essential for building a strong financial foundation for the future. Breaking a yearly contribution into monthly amounts also keeps each donation small and manageable. Once you set your monthly amount, you are all set. You can adjust it any time in the future—raise it, lower it, pause it, or simply leave it as is.
- **What is "FUND THE NOW and FUND THE FUTURE"**
 - "Fund the Now" reminds us that we must continue our current fundraisers to support the resources and programs the school needs today. The endowment, however, gives us the opportunity to invest in the Future.



FAQ

FISLER ENDOWMENT

- **What can I do right now to make the biggest difference?**
 - If your family is able to make a larger gift, consider joining the Founders Circle. Leadership gifts help launch the endowment more quickly and accelerate the benefits for our school. Together with other families, your generosity will accelerate the benefits of the endowment.
- **How will donations be invested?**
 - Donations will be invested in a stock index fund. To start, all funds will be invested in the Nasdaq 100 (QQQ). Over time, and as the portfolio balance grows, we will diversify the investments into other index funds and other high-quality, low-risk asset types.
- **Who will be responsible for keeping track of the money?**
 - A committee of parents and the F²AST Foundation are responsible for overseeing the money, investments, and the program overall. Each year the endowment will be reviewed or audited by a CPA.
- **Who will decide how the money gets used at Fisler?**
 - Decisions about how to spend the money will be made by parents and teachers on the F²AST Foundation Board.
- **Can the School or District take the money or tell us how to spend it?**
 - No. The endowment and all spending decisions remain fully under the control of the F²AST Foundation Board.
- **How could this whole endowment project fail?**
 - We studied this carefully and consulted with experts and other schools with endowments. The program will not fail. Growth may be slower or faster depending on giving levels and market performance, but the endowment will continue to grow over time. Patience is key, and the long-term benefits will come.
- **How will I know where my donations went?**
 - The Endowment Committee at F²AST will provide regular updates to the entire school community on the status of the endowment. Families will always know where the funds are held, the current value of the portfolio, how much has been spent, and which programs have benefited. Everything will be fully transparent. This level of clarity is very different from a typical school budget, where most parents have little visibility into the overall funding or how those dollars are allocated.
- **How can I get involved?**
 - Volunteer for the F²AST Foundation. It's open to all parents and teachers. All decisions made by this group are made by a majority vote.