

October 2019

Dear NCP Family and Friends,

With the first month of school behind us, our students and teachers are settling in for the important work that encompasses an academic year at Northside. As always, the energy and enthusiasm are palpable as our clubs meet for the first time, our athletic and academic teams take part in competitions, our freshmen get settled in, and our seniors are visited by hundreds of college and university representatives who are vying to have Northside students on their campuses next fall.

Yet amidst all of this excitement, we continue to face challenging funding issues that impact our current programs and our school's future. While the district's funding has shown modest improvement in the last couple of years, Northside's has not. The fact is that the funding that we receive from CPS does not fully support the work that we do at Northside.

Each year, Friends of Northside, our parent fundraising group, is presented with a lengthy list of essential items that are not covered under our current budget. In the 2018-2019 school year, FON funded many needs: athletic equipment and uniforms, classroom supplies and equipment, professional development for teachers, transportation for extracurricular activities, and staffing for college counseling, technology support, office staff, and school security. Try to imagine Northside without these items or services.

Last year, our parents contributed roughly \$400,000 to Friends of Northside. Only through the determined fundraising efforts of FON and the financial support of Northside families have we been able to bridge the gap between what the CPS Student Based Budget provides, and what Northside needs to thrive.

How can you help? You can make a tax deductible contribution to Friends of Northside's Annual Appeal. Our goal is to raise \$500,000 this year to cover our long list of needs to maintain the current programming for our students. It is an ambitious, but attainable goal if each one of our 1077 families were to make a donation. In recent years, families have made donations anywhere from \$10 to \$10,000. And as you contemplate your contribution, please keep in mind that 43% of NCP families live at or below the poverty line. Therefore, we ask that every family who is able, consider the "Champions Circle" or the "Other Giving Options." Each and every donation is important and direct giving through the Annual Appeal is the most effective way to help.

We need everyone to participate either monetarily or by volunteering - or both. One of the lessons we want our students to learn is that people, acting together as a community, can accomplish great things. Year after year, our wonderfully diverse Northside community has come together to overcome hardships. The incredible accomplishments of Northside are a direct result of the work and dedication of the Northside community of parents, students, faculty, administration and staff. I am honored to be part of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KM', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kelly Mest, Principal