2026-2027 COUGAR FUND
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE COUGAR FUND?
A: The Cougar Fund serves as Clariden's top fundraising priority each year, providing essential, unrestricted support for Clariden's people, programs, and priorities across academics, arts, athletics, and campus life. Annual gifts represent a meaningful investment in our students and in the future we are building together, ensuring that our students, faculty, and school community continue to thrive.

Q: WE ARE ALREADY PAYING TUITION. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE ANNUALLY TO THE COUGAR FUND?
A: Clariden directly invests every gift back into the educational needs of current students. When the school asks for money beyond tuition, we are asking each Clariden stakeholder to help ensure that the best-trained, most committed adults are available to enrich the day-to-day intellectual, social, and personal development of every student. You are already an invested member of the Clariden community; as such, we encourage you to make the school a priority for your charitable giving.

Q: DOES OUR DONATION REALLY MATTER? WHERE DOES THIS MONEY GO?
A: By donating to the Cougar Fund, you have the unique opportunity to make a direct and immediate impact on the student and faculty experience. Giving through the Cougar Fund provides critical operating dollars and supports what makes TCS extraordinary – **outstanding teachers, rigorous education, professional development, cutting-edge technology and classroom resources, and exceptional student experiences.** As a non-profit, independent school, we rely on the generous participation of our entire community to help make this incredible education a reality for every student who calls Clariden home.

Q: WHAT IS THE RIGHT AMOUNT TO GIVE?
A: The right gift amount is one that is personally meaningful to you and makes you feel good about supporting Clariden! Whether you can meet the **full $3,000 per-student ask**, give above it, or contribute at another level, trust that when pooled together, Cougar Fund gifts have significant impact. **Every donation is equally needed. Every donation absolutely counts.**

Q: WHY IS PARTICIPATION SO IMPORTANT?
A: High participation in the Cougar Fund is a huge vote of confidence in Clariden and a testament to your belief in what we are doing and the future we are building together. **Your generosity tells students something powerful: You believe in them. You believe in their ideas. You believe that what they are learning and creating matters.**

Q: WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE COUGAR FUND CAMPAIGN?
A: Cougar Fund donors represent all members of the Clariden community – current parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, staff, board members, friends, and corporate matching programs. Strong community participation helps provide the experiences, resources, and opportunities that make Clariden special.

Q: ARE THERE OTHER WAYS WE CAN SUPPORT THE COUGAR FUND?
A: Yes! Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage their employees to donate to charitable organizations like Clariden. Some also contribute funds to recognize and support employee volunteer hours. Most programs match donations dollar-for-dollar, and some will even double or triple your gift amount. If your employer requires a tax ID number or EIN, please include 75-2599601. Visit our "Ways to Give" page to **find out if your company offers matching gifts and/or will financially support your volunteerism at the school.** Thank you for exploring the opportunity to amplify the impact of your contributions!

Q. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE COUGAR FUND EXCEEDS THE GOAL IN A GIVEN SCHOOL YEAR?
A. Donations received above and beyond the budgeted annual goal allow Clariden to address any unforeseen needs as they arise. In the past, key items such as tuition assistance and ancillary student expenses, faculty support and crucial facility upkeep and upgrades have been underpinned by an exceptionally robust Cougar Fund. Unrestricted giving benefits the entire campus and elevates the experience of every Clariden student.

Q: WHO CAN WE CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?
A: For any questions, concerns or clarification regarding the annual Cougar Fund, please contact Dr. Shelly Myers, Director of Advancement, at SMyers@ClaridenSchool.org or 682-237-0400.

THE CLARIDEN SCHOOL

Thank you for supporting the students and faculty of Clariden!
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Donate Your 2026-2027 Cougar Fund Gift!

Check for a Company Match