

## Donation Statement 9/4/20

Donation to school: \$10k (plus \$10k employer match) total \$20k. Donation to Teachers and Staff: Total amount will be disclosed at the HSA Meeting on Thursday September 10, 2020.

After much reflection we decided that it's a perfect time to make a donation to our wonderful St. Rose school and the teachers and staff! These past months have shown us all how essential the school and teachers are in our everyday lives. We tend to think that the school is only "for our kids", not for us, but we are all interconnected in ways that perhaps we all did not understand until this year. While the pandemic has taken much from us, it has also sharpened our senses as to what is important and meaningful in our lives. We were so grateful that the teachers continued to "show up" for our kids when the school transitioned to online learning back in March. Even a short Zoom call each day provided a sense of stability and structure to our children's day - we saw in their eyes that they felt that they "still mattered" to their teacher. The teachers probably will never know that impact they made and continue to make. The teachers and all those who work in the school are required to be flexible and supportive in ways we haven't known before. This gift is our way of saying "thank you - we see you - we know every day is filled with uncertainty - we appreciate you!". Additionally, it's obvious that the school has had to incur additional expenses as a result of the pandemic. We are hoping part of this gift can help offset those expenses.

The genesis of this donation was a dear family member who passed away in 2013. He was a college journalism professor who loved languages, playing the piano and teaching. To say he was a great influence in our family would be an understatement. He was simply an extraordinary human being. He spoke of teachers as great influencers yet at times - underappreciated and overlooked. He made a gift to a school years back to reward a teacher for teaching excellence and I never forgot it. He also made random small monetary gifts to people he met in his everyday life. He would talk with them about their lives – ask them how they were really doing. He was intentional with everyone he met and a true friend to so many. He demonstrated that giving brings joy to the giver as well as the receiver and that if we can all just extend a little grace to each other in this time of suffering, we'll all be better off.

We feel blessed to be a part of the St. Rose community!