



When education is this good powerful things can happen.

Portage schools' secret advantage in the quest for excellence: faculty and parents working together.

Recent statistics about Portage Public Schools are impressive:

- Achievement scores in the top 3% in Michigan.
- State MEAP scores in the 90th percentile and above state averages in every grade.
- The only public school district in the state with an accredited International Baccalaureate program for high school students.
- Named "Outperforming District" by Standard & Poors—only 8% of districts statewide have earned this.
- Gold certificate award from the Annual Education Quotient—awarded to only 16% of the nation's schools.
- Certificate of excellence in financial reporting from the Association of School Business Officials, recognizing the district's exceptional fiscal management.

We all benefit from a strong school system. To keep pace with the demand for innovation, we need your financial investment. Your children's future depends on it.

Thanks to the leadership of the Portage Public school faculty, our school system has made exciting curriculum and program improvements our students have needed to stay competitive.

Portage Schools and PEF: Partners in Excellence

For 15 years, the Portage Education Foundation has provided quiet but important funding to our school district for the small extras—from new science projects and music exploration to staff development and technology enhancements—not covered in our annual budget. Our district is fortunate to have this alternative funding resource.

A reinvigorated Portage Education Foundation endowment will change the face of education in Portage for generations to come. Our schools will no longer be dependent only on public funding. Instead, they will have access to a permanent, alternative and completely private funding resource to dramatically improve and innovate key areas of instructional, technical and experiential learning.

Introducing "Putting Excellence First"

We're launching a bold new endowment campaign, "Putting Excellence First." We will seek contributions from parents, businesses and faculty. Would you consider making an investment in this effort?

How an Endowment Works

When you make a gift to the Portage Education Foundation endowment, your gift becomes part of the endowment's principal. The principal is never distributed, but is carefully invested so that the earnings can be used to benefit Portage Public Schools year after year.

The Gift that Gives Back. How?

Tax Deductions and Credits.
(and we've done the math for you!)

\$400 Gift (Married couple filing jointly-itemizers)

- 200 50% Michigan Tax Credit Max. \$200
- 56 Federal Tax Deduction based on 28% tax rate

You Pay! \$144

\$100 Gift (Single person-itemizer)

- 50 50% Michigan Tax Credit Max. \$100
- 14 Federal Tax Deduction based on 28% tax rate

You Pay! \$36

It really does make sense to participate!

To find out more, visit www.portageps.org.

For more information, contact:

Tom Vance

Community Relations Manager
Portage Public Schools
8111 S. Westnedge Ave.
Portage, MI 49002
(269) 323-5000

Just imagine...

...preparing our students to succeed in an increasingly global culture by teaching them a foreign language before middle school.

...better preparing our high school students for college and careers in science and technology by investing in cutting-edge science equipment never before offered in our community.

...providing more in-depth instruction to our younger students by broadening the reach of the International Baccalaureate program.

...deepening artistic expression by offering extended orchestra opportunities and hosting "artists in residence" to inspire our fine-arts students.

...ensuring literacy for all by expanding the district's literacy program.

...recognizing our faculty members' passions to be the best they can be by supporting staff-driven teaching innovations and assisting those teachers pursuing national certification.

Great ideas, with more to come. Let's make them happen.

Catch the spirit of 100% participation! We need you!

Yes! I want to help Portage Public Schools rise to the next level!

I pledge a total investment of \$ _____ Pledge installments to be paid over: 1 year 2 years 3 years

Name(s) _____
(for recognition purposes)

Address _____

Email _____ Phone () _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Does your employer offer a matching gift program?

(name of employer)

I'd like my gift to honor a great teacher or commemorate a loved one.

(please name the honoree)

Checks should be made payable to KCF/PEF General Endowment Fund and mailed to the Portage Education Foundation, P.O. Box 2043, Portage, MI 49081-2043.

Portage Education Foundation-General Endowment Fund is a component fund of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, and, as such, is subject to the Foundation's authority to redirect donations received to another beneficiary without approval if the purpose of the fund is deemed no longer widely beneficial or necessary, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable needs of the community.