

“The Beat is On”

Restore the Choral Program at Jackson Middle School

We are asking for your donation to maintain Choir at Jackson Middle School at its current level and we come to you with a sense of urgency. We are experiencing a funding shortfall next year at Jackson Middle School that will cut the choir program to half time. This will not only affect the choir program but also likely impact our ability to maintain our award winning choral Ensemble and superb Spring Musical next year.

We need your participation in raising **\$45,000** quickly to restore this program. The arts are not expendable even when times are tough. Our community needs excellence in the arts more than ever.

The Jackson community is strong and passionate about the arts! We are calling you to action.

We need:

- Someone or some company to donate a matching grant
- Jackson families to donate
- Jackson Alumni families to support the legacy of choir
- Incoming 6th grade families to contribute
- Grandparents and community members to support

We will be using the Portland Schools Foundation to collect our money as is required when raising money for teaching positions. The first \$10,000 raised will be fully allocated to Jackson Middle School. After the first \$10,000, Jackson will be allocated 2/3 of all monies raised with 1/3 of the funds given to the PPS Equity Fund for redistribution to other PPS schools through two grant programs: PSF School-based Equity Grants, a data driven formula that directs funds to schools with the greatest needs and PSF Community-based Grants, promoting family and community involvement in schools. The choir portion will only be funded in .25 FTE (Full time equivalents or teaching positions) increments with a goal of .5 FTE. Any money that can't be used for the FTE for choir will be used to purchase FTE at Jackson to support the arts, electives and lower class sizes.

Please write your tax-deductible check to Portland Schools Foundation and note “Jackson Middle School” in the memo. There will be a collection box in the office.

Or go online and donate directly to the Portland Schools Foundation website at <http://www.thinkschools.org> Make sure to designate to Jackson Middle School.

We must be committed to preserving and protecting our truly amazing arts programs at Jackson.

Questions: (503) 977-0247 or email Chesnutt@spiritone.com.

Karin Chesnutt Parent/Arts Advocate

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