



2020-2021 DIRECT APPEAL: Frequently Asked Questions

The Direct Appeal encourages Q300 families to give or raise funds to pay for crucial enrichment programs, services, and resources that deepen your child's learning experience at Q300. Since we are unable to hold in-person fundraisers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Direct Appeal will likely account for most of the amounts raised this year. Nearly **100% of your donation** will go directly to enriching education at Q300.

1. **Why should I contribute to the PTA, given that Q300 is a public school?** The PTA raises money to help **cover the funding gap** between the **cost of the enriched education** your kids receive and Department of Education (DOE) funding. The DOE does not pay for teaching assistants, certain enrichment programs and electives, and other priorities and does not provide extra funding for Q300's gifted and talented status. Further, unlike many other public schools, Q300 is not eligible for Federal Title 1 funds (which are provided to schools with a certain percent of households that are at or below the federal poverty level).
2. **How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected what Direct Appeal funds will be used for?** Thanks to your generosity, in previous school years, we have hit the ground running by providing enrichment programs in both the lower and upper division, teaching assistants in the lower division, and other resources, and organizing community-building events. However, the pandemic has upended our plans. Due to the delay in the start of school, class scheduling difficulties, and other pandemic-related challenges, enrichment programs have been delayed until early 2021 and the teaching assistant program has not yet moved forward. We will update you on any changes.
3. **What will the Direct Appeal funds be used for?** As for now, the funds will help pay for the following:
 - a. Schoolwide:
 - Up to \$300 per teacher, social worker, and guidance counselors for wish list items, educational supplies and resources.
 - Teacher professional development, such as Responsive Classroom training, differentiated instruction workshops, and team building.
 - Chromebooks, iPads, wireless microphones, stylus pens, and other resources.
 - Loan of Chromebooks for remote learning to Q300 families in need.
 - b. Lower Division (K-4th Grades):
 - Enrichment programs taught by groups such as Arts Connection (visual arts and possibly music). Other groups, which we hope to have in the Spring 2021, include Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, NYC Chess Kids, and Center for Architecture.
 - Support for the kindergarten stepping-up and 4th grade moving-up ceremonies.
 - c. Upper Division (5th-8th Grades):
 - Enrichment electives taught by groups such as Art House Astoria and the Astoria Film Festival.
 - Support for clubs and electives, including Math, Brain Games, Yearbook, Debate, and Storytelling.
 - School resources such as laptop carts, printers, library books, microscopes, and gym equipment.
 - Support for 8th grade graduation.

Q300 Parent-Teacher Association, Inc.

Lower Division: 28-37 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102 • Upper Division: 31-51 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11106

www.q300pta.org • directappeal@q300pta.org

4. **How is the PTA budget determined?** In the Spring semester, the PTA identifies the needs of each grade in consultation with Q300 administration, teachers, families, and students. Once the PTA budget is created, the PTA budget is voted on by the PTA's general membership at its June meeting. It is amended from time to time. For a copy of our PTA budget, please contact treasurer@q300pta.org.
5. **Why is it important to get high family participation?** We strive for high family participation in the Direct Appeal. **Prior to the pandemic, an annual average of 69% of Q300 families donated to the Direct Appeal and other fundraisers.** By giving to the Direct Appeal – at whatever level is right for your family – you show funders that we have an active, engaged, and committed community.
6. **How much should my family give or raise?** We are mindful that these are financially challenging times, due to the pandemic. For those who are able to help support the school through the Direct Appeal, please give or raise an amount that makes sense to your family. As in previous years, we have provided suggested amounts, which will help fund our programs and services, cover those families who are unable to give or raise, and help us hit the ground running in 2021. **For the lower division (K-4th grades), the suggested give or raise amount is \$1,500 per student (\$150 per month for 10 months). For the upper division (5-8th grades), the suggested give or raise amount is \$1,000 per student (\$100 per month for 10 months).**

Of course, you may donate more or less than the suggested amount – please give what you can afford. **Families have donated a range of amounts.**

7. **Can my family contribute in installments?** The online contribution form (see below) provides an option for you to arrange for scheduled contributions based on your family budget. An example is a 10-month installment plan that coincides with the school year.
8. **How can my family, friends, and colleagues donate to the Direct Appeal?**
 - a. Make a one-time donation by check or credit card. Please send the completed contribution form and check, if applicable, in your child's communications folder or by mail to: Q300 PTA, Inc., 28-37 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102. Checks are payable to: Q300 PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION, INC. **For one-time donations, check is preferred, as the PTA incurs fees on credit card payments.**
 - b. Donate online by credit card, PayPal account, or other methods online through <https://www.q300pta.org/fundraising/da/>. You can set up recurring donations via credit card, or PayPal. For ACH transfers from your bank account, please contact treasurer@q300pta.org.
9. **How can I fundraise and think creatively about my contribution to the Direct Appeal?** Q300 families have sent an email or letter to friends and families with a copy of the Direct Appeal documents and some have organized lemonade stands and stoop sales to help raise funds.
10. **Can I participate in my corporate matching program?** The PTA may be eligible for your employer's corporate matching program. Please provide us with the necessary forms from your employer.
11. **Are donations tax-deductible?** Yes. The PTA (EIN: 47-2258209) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your charitable contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.