An Invitation to Participate
SANTA BARBARA MIDDLE SCHOOL
“You’re part of a remarkable enterprise of students and adults. It’s unlike anything else in the world. It’s a remarkable community and that is shouted from the rooftops by every student, parent, trustee, faculty, and staff member. That message is compelling, and it is loud and clear.”

- Ted Hill, Chair, California Association of Independent Schools, 2006 (in reference to an SBMS experience)
At SBMS, our community is the foundation of our school and creates the magic on which an SBMS experience is built. It starts with “The Deal,” when students pledge to practice kindness, to make a difference during their time at SBMS, and to put forth their best effort every day. In return, faculty and staff commit themselves both in and out of the classroom to cultivating each student’s academic and personal growth.

As parents, you are an essential part of the fabric that is our community. We invite you to make Santa Barbara Middle School your school by getting involved in a way that is meaningful to you.
Volunteering

VOLUNTEERING
There are countless opportunities to volunteer at SBMS, ranging from assisting in a class or coaching a sports team, to helping with school plays, gardening, or serving in the Deli. Parents also lend specific professional services, such as architectural design, legal, landscaping, food and nutrition, and construction. Do you have a special interest or skill to share? We want to know about it! We greatly appreciate your time and generosity. Contact Development Director Phoebe Hitchman at phoebe@sbms.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

PARENT ASSOCIATION
The purpose of the Parent Association (PA) is to promote communication between SBMS faculty, staff and families, to enrich our school community through social events and volunteer efforts, and to inform and educate parents at monthly Parent Association meetings. All SBMS parents are automatically members of the PA.

Throughout the year, the PA hosts parent coffees, weekly parent walks, grade-specific family gatherings, parent volunteer opportunities, and parent cocktail parties — all designed to build friendships and facilitate the communication between parents and students inside and outside the classroom. We invite you to participate in the PA or in one of the many committees needed to plan the school’s signature events. Contact Parent Association President Heather Copp at heathercopp@yahoo.com to learn more.
BUILDING COMMUNITY

Like any school, SBMS is filled with events and traditions which are unique to our culture and school experience. Our school’s main community-building events are Homecoming, Songfest, and Rites of Passage. Parent leadership and participation is critical to making these a success each year, and families are strongly encouraged to attend.

» **HOMECOMING** – Organized by our PA, parents, siblings and friends create colorful signs and a delicious feast to welcome students home from the fall expedition. It is a touching ceremonial cornerstone of Middle School culture.

» **SONGFEST** – This is our annual music performance for our students in all of their varying abilities of musical talent – some beginners, and some ready for the big stage and their own tour. It is truly a day of youthful courage and a spectacular musical and community celebration.

» **RITES OF PASSAGE** – This is our graduation ceremony for the ninth grade class and is held every year at Elings Park. Each student chooses someone to speak for them, and these speakers emphasize the tremendous growth they have witnessed in the student. The entire school is invited to attend.
GIVING TO SBMS

Participating in fundraising is one of the many important – and necessary – ways you can help SBMS. Like most independent schools, the tuition we charge is less than the actual cost to educate a student. The support of our parents, trustees, faculty/staff, grandparents, alumni, and alum parents enhances every student’s experience at SBMS. We are deeply grateful for your generosity.

THE ANNUAL FUND

Our Annual Fund runs every fall and meets the direct and immediate needs of the school this year, benefiting each and every student. This fund contributes approximately seven percent of the school’s operating budget and gives you the option to make a tax-deductible contribution at a level that is comfortable for you. In the spirit of community and because we all believe in the mission of Middle School, we ask all of our current families, trustees, and faculty/staff to donate to the Annual Fund, and we are proud to have achieved 99% or higher participation every year.
SPRING DINNER & AUCTION
One of our main community events, our Spring Dinner & Auction supports school-wide needs, allowing us to fund priority projects and innovative learning opportunities. Whether you can provide leadership as an Event Chair or simply give a few hours of your time, participation from all parents is welcomed to make it a successful, casual, and fun evening. We take pride every year in keeping our Spring Dinner & Auction consistent with our school culture and feature student performances and ninth grade leaders who participate at the event.

CAPITAL GIVING
Capital giving helps to preserve and enhance SBMS for the future, whether in support of our exceptional faculty, our innovative curriculum, our scholarship program, or our historic and beautiful campus. Capital gifts are given above and beyond Annual Fund contributions and can be pledged over several years. We invite you to be part of these ambitious and exciting efforts.
If you’d like to get involved or learn more about how you can contribute to the SBMS experience, please contact Phoebe Hitchman, Development Director, at phoebe@sbms.org.