

D-E Holiday Gift FAQ's

We hope this list of Frequently Asked Questions will help address any inquiries and that you'll participate in this D-E tradition.

- * **What is the Holiday Gift?** The Parents' Association coordinates the collection of gifts from participating families to be pooled and equally distributed amongst all teachers and staff that are employees of the school. Instructors that come from outside D-E for special programs are not included. Gift recipients will receive a check from the Holiday Gift at the start of winter break along with a list of all participating families. The amount contributed by each family is not listed.
- * **Is this the same as Annual Fund?** The Holiday Gift is not related to the Dwight-Englewood Annual Fund, which defrays the cost of our children's education not fully covered by tuition and allows the school to enhance its programs. The Parents' Association encourages families to continue their support of D-E by contributing to the Annual Fund.
- * **Does this replace individual giving of gifts to teachers or staff?** If your family is interested in giving thanks to teachers or staff, the Parents' Association encourages your voluntary participation in the Holiday Gift as an alternative to independent gifting efforts. School policy prohibits individual giving of more than a token gift, but a joint gift from the parent community enables the value of each gift to be more significant. Our gifts are also appreciated for their demonstration of unity across our parent community and thoughtful inclusiveness as we ensure that all D-E teachers and staff (approximately 240 individuals) are recognized.
- * **Is there a suggested amount?** Every gift is valuable! Some parents suggest they find it helpful to consider the amount they wish to spend on behalf of each child for specific teachers or staff and use that total; others mention it is useful to know we distribute the Holiday Gift across slightly more than 240 teachers and staff each year, so we definitely appreciate any and all contributions as every single gift strengthens the spirit and support we share across our community.
- * **What about end of year gifts?** Although we call it a "holiday" gift as we collect and distribute gifts just before winter break when holiday spirits are high, the Holiday Gift actually shows our year-round appreciation for teachers and staff, so parents do not have to worry about planning for additional gifts for the end of school year, other holidays, or school events.
- * **Who participates?** There is traditionally very high engagement across all school divisions, roughly 75% of current families! Many parents feel that the Holiday Gift provides a truly appreciated and easy option for them to say thanks, thus reducing some holiday stress, and the faculty and staff have been deeply touched by this strong show of support from the parent community.
- * **How do I participate?** Please make your check payable to the "Dwight-Englewood Parents' Association" and fill out the participant form so we know who the gift is coming from. Please submit this to the PA using one of the following options:
 - * **Snail-mail:** Send to "PA Holiday Gift, Dwight-Englewood School, 315 E. Palisade Ave, Englewood, NJ 07631"
 - * **Drop-off:** Secure lock boxes are available at the Front Desk of Drapkin Hall (Lower School), Front Desk of Umpleby (Middle School), and the Klein Center Coop (Upper School)
- * **Is there an online option?** To avoid fees for processing credit or debit card payments and to ensure that 100% of your contributions go directly to teachers and staff, the PA is currently unable to offer an online option.
- * **Do I get a receipt?** As we are collecting gifts rather than tax deductible, charitable contributions, receipts will not be issued by the PA but Committee co-chairs listed below are happy to verify your gift was received if you reach out to them
- * **When are gifts due? All contributions are due by Monday, December 16.** Please be mindful that we cannot extend this date nor make exceptions if we are to succeed in issuing gifts and printing lists of participating families by winter break.
- * **What happens if I miss the due date?** Contributions received after due date will be applied to next year's Holiday Gift and your family's name will be included on next year's card. If you are concerned that you might risk the deadline, please reach out to Committee co-chairs to coordinate drop-off arrangements as needed. We want to provide all families that are interested in participating with an opportunity to do so!

For additional inquiries, please contact Holiday Gift Committee Co-Chairs:

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