



# PTO Spring Fundraiser FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Spring Fundraiser?

The annual spring fundraiser is the Grace PTO's biggest fundraising and community-building event of the year. Money raised at the silent auction enables us to make Grace an even more amazing place through support for school programs. The PTO donates the net proceeds to the Variable Tuition program.

### When and where is it held?

After a successful pivot to online silent auctions during the COVID years 2020-2021, the PTO is excited to have the best of both worlds this year: an outdoor, in-person community builder on April 30<sup>th</sup> on the school's blacktop. An online silent auction will run throughout the weekend, from April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The doors open at 6:30 pm and the festivities usually run until about 9:30 pm.

### When did invitations go out?

Invitations have been distributed electronically via email to all members of the Grace community. You can RSVP online at [www.geds.org/pto/auction](http://www.geds.org/pto/auction) or by returning the envelope that will be handed out during drop-off the week of April 5<sup>th</sup>. When you RSVP, you won't receive physical tickets; we will have your name at check-in.

### Can I purchase extra tickets and bring friends?

Of course! The more, the merrier. We are always happy to see new faces and old friends. The Spring Fundraiser is a wonderful way to meet our extended community including alumni, their families, and current and former faculty.

### How much does it cost?

Tickets are \$50 each. This year, we are also offering \$25 tickets for individuals who may find the higher cost prohibitive to attendance. The two tickets are effectively the same and the selected ticket price is kept confidential.

### Can I bring my child(ren)?

Sorry, kids, this is an adults-only event! Attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

## Spring Fundraiser Event Basics

### I've never been to this Spring Fundraiser before. How does it work?

First of all, plan to have fun! As you've probably found out by now, Grace is one of the least stuffy places around and the Spring Fundraiser is true to that feeling. When you arrive on campus, you will check in with volunteers



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and be given a bid number. This number can be used for fun activities such as our instant photo booth, our “wine pop” and a heads and tails game. Remarks will be made by the Head of School and the PTO, and you will be given an opportunity to privately pledge a donation, should you so choose. This year, we will have a DJ to further enhance the festive atmosphere and look forward to seeing your best dance moves!

## **If I attend, must I make any purchases or pledge a donation? Is there an “understanding” or “expectation” that I will spend money?**

Absolutely not! While the auction helps raise money for our school, it is also a social event. We hope you come, spend time with others from the Grace Community, and most importantly, enjoy yourself!

## **The Silent Auction**

### **What is the Silent Auction?**

The online silent auction allows you to examine and bid on various items displayed on the virtual catalog throughout the weekend. All silent auction items have been assigned to a category and have an auction number.

### **How do I find the Silent Auction online?**

The online auction website is <https://gracegryphons.schoolauction.net/campfire/homepages/show>. Click on the **Virtual Auction Signup** button, on the lower right side of the page to register for bidding.

### **How Do I Place a Bid in the Silent Auction?**

To bid on an item, you simply enter your bid online. You will receive electronic updates of being outbid throughout the duration of the auction. Be the highest bidder when the bidding closes and you win the item! You can bid as many times as you like. You will also have an option to enter your own personal “highest bid” – the maximum amount you are willing to bid on an item – and the system will automatically raise the bid amount by the specified increment, should you be outbid.

### **When Does the Bidding Stop?**

The bidding ends at 2:00PM on Monday, May 2, 2022.

### **What kinds of things are there on which to bid?**

The auction catalog will be made available electronically during the week April 25<sup>th</sup>. There is always a wide variety -- from restaurant certificates, theater and sports tickets, museum passes, camps, baskets, and many one-of-a-kind items and services put together by teachers, parents and friends.

### **Is everything expensive?**

We have worked hard to ensure there is a wide range of items for sale, in terms of price and value. In addition, we will have some budget-friendly items available for multiple purchases.

### **What is the community art project I’ve heard about?**

Rather than having individual grades create a group art project, the entire Grace student body has participated in a community art project this year. The physical project will be included in the online auction, with prints available for individual purchase at a budget-friendly price.



## The Special Appeal

### What is the Special Appeal?

The Special Appeal is an opportunity for all bidders to contribute to a community-wide fundraising effort to benefit a specific purpose at Grace. In the past, Special Appeal funds have been designated for Grace Scholars, the library, and the science program. The 2022 Special Appeal will benefit the Faculty Support designation of the Gryphon Fund which impacts everything from faculty salaries to professional development. The 2022 Special Appeal will be conducted through private pledges made during the in-person event and on the online auction platform. A gift of any size makes a direct and meaningful impact on the support we can offer our dedicated faculty!

## The Raffle

### Wait, There's a Raffle, Too?

You bet! This year's raffle is a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. If your number is pulled during the live event, you will win 50% of the raffle proceeds! The other 50% will be added to the overarching fundraiser.

### When Can I Buy Raffle Tickets?

Raffle tickets will be on sale the week of April 25-29, during drop-off hours. During the week, we can accept cash or checks for your raffle purchase (no Venmo!). You can also purchase raffle tickets at the April 30<sup>th</sup> event, during the first part of the evening.

## The Really Important Things to Know

### How do I pay for the items I win?

We accept cash, checks, Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. If you purchased your tickets online for the in-person event, you may have vaulted your credit card. This will be charged for any item purchased throughout the weekend. If you choose to not attend the in-person event, but want to participate in the online auction, you will be asked for your credit card number when you register for the online auction.

If you prefer to pay by check to avoid having the PTO pay the processing fees, please contact Karl Vela at [kvela@geds.org](mailto:kvela@geds.org).

### I'm excited for the in-person event! What should I wear?

Dress comfortably for a fun and festive evening! There's never a need to break out the black tie at Grace. If you feel like dressing up, people certainly do wear dressy clothes but others may to wear jeans. Whatever you decide, please dress for the weather – we will be outside and while you may warm up on the dance floor, evenings can be chilly in late April.

### Will there be food? Drinks?

Absolutely! We will have a delicious assortment of appetizers to sustain you throughout the evening. We will also have an open bar of beer, wine, and nonalcoholic options including a signature nonalcoholic punch.



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## I Want to Be Involved

### Is there any way I can help with the Auction?

Yes! Many hands are needed to make the auction a success! We are always looking for volunteers.

- **In the week before the auction:** you can staff the raffle sales before school starts.
- **On the day before the auction:** Run errands or drop off requested borrowed items at the school (during school hours).
- **April 30<sup>th</sup>:** Help set up and decorate the blacktop! Join the team from 8:30am – 12:00pm to move tables, affix tablecloths, and hang decorations from the rented party tent.
- **On the night of the auction:** we are still seeking volunteers to greet people and help with check-in, as well as hardy souls stay after the music ends and help clean up.

If you want to be involved, we can find something that fits your interests and schedule. Check out our [Signup Genius](#) for specific requests.

### How can I make a donation?

You can donate an item to be included in the online auction, put together items for a basket (these are very popular), arrange for a business donation, or you can purchase a sponsorship (or arrange for a business to do so). Sponsors will be recognized throughout the fundraiser on a variety of platforms. Other ways you can help are:

- **Sponsor a teacher:** donate \$50 to support a teacher's admission to the auction. This is an option on your reply card.
- **Make a donation** to the Special Appeal for Faculty Support when purchasing your event tickets at [geds.org/campfire](https://geds.org/campfire).

## I have more questions. Who can I talk to?

Contact us at [graceptoauction@gmail.com](mailto:graceptoauction@gmail.com).