



Partner Program – Frequently Asked Questions

How does my Partner Sponsorship gift affect the cost of education for urban families?

Tuition at Brookstone Schools is determined on a sliding scale. With more than 87% of our students coming from low income homes, family tuition covers about 7% of the cost of education. The average cost to educate a student at Brookstone is approximately \$8500. We rely upon the generous gifts of donors like you to make up the difference, providing these children a Christ-centered education they could not otherwise afford.

What is the student-Partner relationship like?

Twice each year, Partners are invited to spend time with our students in the classroom and lunchroom at our Partner Days. Partners also receive communication from our students, including two handwritten letters. Some of our Partners desire to become more invested in the life of our students and become Lunch Buddies, but this is completely optional.

Will the student(s) I sponsor at Brookstone ever change?

As part of your support of the work of Brookstone, you can experience the joy of coming alongside a student as their sponsor. In some cases the student you sponsor will change. Why is this? Students sometimes end up leaving us due to the complex social dynamics of high poverty areas. Kids in low-income families often live transient lives. Job changes, housing changes, family changes, addiction issues—all of these are factors that affect schooling.

The good news is that, by God's grace, inner city families at Brookstone often fight against these forces to keep their kids at Brookstone. Nearly 95% of families continue to keep their children enrolled at Brookstone each year, which is a testimony to the remarkable education that the families know their children are receiving.

Despite this general success, in some instances kids and families do end up leaving Brookstone. If the student you sponsor leaves for any reason, we will notify you as soon as it is appropriate—often with a name and picture of a new partner. If this happens, do be aware of the deeper dynamics indicated above.

What happens at Partner Day?

Each Partner Day will be slightly different, but Partner Day will begin with a program including a showcase of students singing, as well as parent testimonies and a report from our Board chair. Partners then are dismissed to *spend time with students in the classroom and at lunch*. Our hope is that through the Partner Days and the letters you receive from your student(s), you will develop a connection with your student.

Can I give gifts to my sponsored student?

No. We do ask that you refrain from giving gifts or money to your sponsored student. If you wish to make an additional financial donation to Brookstone, we will be able to identify a need or program that benefits all the students and fits your intentions.

What if I cannot attend Partner Days?

Students look forward to meeting Partners; *however Partner attendance at these events is completely optional*. RSVPs are necessary to ensure that enough lunches are prepared and available.

Can I get involved in other ways at Brookstone?

Yes. Some of our partners also serve as volunteers/lunch buddies at the school and we encourage this. If you are interested in volunteering, please review the volunteer opportunities on our website.

Must I or my business hold and/or endorse specific Christian beliefs to sponsor Brookstone students?

Brookstone does not set criteria for student sponsorship. While our staff are Christians and sign a statement of faith, we do not require parents or Partners to agree to statements regarding religious beliefs and practices. We appreciate our Partners, regardless of whether or not they share our beliefs.

How long should my Partnership last?

Ideally, each Partner supports their student until he or she graduates from Brookstone. We will invite Partners of graduating students to consider re-partnering with an incoming kindergartener.

We recognize, however, that circumstances change. *Partnership may be discontinued at any time.*

As a Brookstone Partner, you are an important part of the school. Although Partners come from the Charlotte area and beyond, they have one thing in common—the desire to play a part in the education and life of a child. It is recognized that parents are the primary support for their children, but all children need to know that there are others who care deeply about their well-being and are willing to walk with them on their journey through life.

What communication will I receive from my student?

You will receive two mailings from the student: a letter at the beginning of the year and a letter at the end-of-year letter. The spring letter includes a brief note from your student's teacher about the student.

Can I write letters to my student Partner(s)?

Yes. We encourage our Partners to reply with a letter of encouragement to their sponsored student and to share a bit about their life. These letters can be sent to the Office of Advancement.

Can I sponsor more than one student?

Yes. Many of our Partners sponsor multiple students. You will receive communication from all of the students that you sponsor. We try to match Partners of multiple students with students in the same grade, so that at Partner Day you can spend time with more than one student during the day.