

Dear Jones College Prep Families, Friends, and Supporters,

Welcome to a new school year filled with promise, passion, and the endless potential of our remarkable Eagles!

We are Brandy Kemp, mom to junior Bennett, and Sieglinde Lim-Seiwert, mum to sophomores Armand and Tristan. This is our second year working together as Co-Chairs of the Flying Eagles Annual Fund, and we are thrilled to lead this important effort once again!

Friends of Jones have long been the architects of a vibrant community - the planners of joyful gatherings and memories in the making. But at the very core of our mission is something quietly urgent: bridging the widening gaps left by Chicago Public Schools' constrained budget, and ensuring every Jones student receives more than just the basics.

Transparency matters. According to the CPS Opportunity Index - a system that directs resources toward schools with greatest need - Jones stands near the very bottom of the funding scale: a score of 13 out of 55, lower than 99% of CPS high schools. Though our families are fortunate in many ways, this means Jones does not qualify for most federal or district grants tied to need. The result: even as Jones families strive to give generously, our annual fundraising lags behind other selective enrollment schools - last year, Whitney Young families raised \$800,000; Walter Payton brought in \$600,000; our own total was less than \$200,000.

This gap grows wider as district support for after-school and Out of School Time (OST) activities shifts due to recent budget changes. Just last year, \$80,000 in emergency allocations kept our doors open late, lighting the way for clubs, academic teams, arts, and sports - a sanctuary for passions and friendships that flourish after the final bell. As those resources recede, and as COVID relief funds dry up, the future of these programs now rests with us. CPS has worked to shield essential academics from deep cuts, but the rich tapestry of Jones - the music, the theater, the robotics and drama, the teamwork and triumphs - will only endure if our community steps forward.

What does your gift make possible? Every donation helps rent offsite halls for AP exams - so students can focus without distraction - underwrites supplies for clubs and academic teams, and keeps vital extracurriculars alive. This is how fleeting moments blossom into confidence, leadership, and lifelong memories.

Our goal this year is bold: \$300,000 - a sum that is only possible if all Jones families unite in support. We warmly invite you to consider donating \$300 or more, if your means allow, as a gift that bridges our school's unique gap and brings us closer to the opportunities our students deserve. Monthly giving helps make this stewardship easy, and many employers offer matching programs that double your generosity.

Every single dollar is an investment in a story unfolding: our students growing, striving, and soaring ever higher.

To fully fund vital programs and close pressing gaps created by recent budget changes, we aim to reach our goal by **October 15**. Your timely gift is crucial to ensuring the continued success and enrichment of every Jones Eagle.

Thank you for joining us in this vital work, for believing in Jones, and for supporting every student's journey to success.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Brandy Kemp & Sieglinde Lim-Seiwert

[**DONATE NOW**](#)