

Hello Claremont Middle School Community,

Soon our kids will be starting a new school year, so I thought this is a good time to look back, look forward and reflect. Has what's important to you changed from this time last year?

Over the past few months, as parents you may have experienced some of the wide-ranging emotions that I've felt. I've felt worry around the countless global and local problems that we're facing. I've felt the joy of spending more time with my kids. I've felt the frustrations of spending more time with my kids. I've felt compelled to help neighbors and local small business owners. I've felt a need to stay away from people. I've felt a need to be around people.

Have you, like me, at times felt like a rudderless boat, tossing with the waves, with little ability to take specific action to fix the problems you're seeing – or reinforce all the good you'd like to see more of?

At times like this what helps me is to try to clear my mind, focus in and think "what can I control?" How can I most effectively do my small part?

After some reflection I saw an answer right in front of me – Claremont Middle School. Supporting Claremont helps parents like us reinforce what is most important to us during these times – our kids' education and social development, reinforcing a diverse community that is getting to know each other and learning how to help each other out, supporting social justice, helping teachers do their work, and creating a generation of kids who value each other.

Donating money or time to Claremont is the single most important thing you can do to make a difference – and see that difference in action.

This year, we will face different and unexpected challenges. A well-funded PTA will be able to support the administration in making sure that all our students are well educated and ensuring our school community stays connected and protected.

The Claremont Fund is the way for parents and the community to support the school. You can make a one-time gift or sign up for a monthly donation. We ask every family to give what they can.

We suggest \$995 per family or \$125 per month over 8 months. We recognize that this may have been a tough year for many families. If that's your situation then we completely understand. Your community has you covered. **If, however you feel fortunate that you still have your job and your family is still healthy, this is your time to give generously.** Give an amount that is significant enough that you can feel the difference you are making. This is the year, this is the time. Consider this: if you were to have any regrets in the future, would it be because you gave too much or too little?

If you can't give money, you can donate time. There will be lots of opportunities to give a few hours per week throughout the year. Even a one-time contribution of an hour or two of your time will make a difference. Claremont needs you!

We are honored and lucky to have you as part of our community.

Warmly,
Dan Clifford
PTA President