



February 15, 2017

Dear FACS Parents,

This letter has some length to it, but we trust you will read it and carefully consider our request for your participation in our upcoming **Smart Run for Technology** the morning of March 17, 2017.

The goal of the Smart Run is to raise funds to place Promethean ActivPanels (similar to “Smart Boards”) in every FACS classroom. At about \$5,000 per panel, this is a big undertaking for our school.

We know that you may already feel stretched in paying tuition. That is why our school rarely asks for gifts from our families. It is important, however, for all of us to remember that tuition at FACS is consistently lower than Tennessee public school per-student expenditures, and lower than most other private, full-service, college-preparatory schools in the Mid-South. Delivering high quality education at a reasonable cost requires careful budgeting; improving an area as vital as classroom technology requires all of us to work together.

Why are we specifically making ActivPanel technology a goal? Studies show students learn more, retain more, and “learn to learn” better the more they interact with curricula and instruction. Here are some of the benefits of the specific technology we have chosen:

- Teachers have instant access to educational apps, wireless connectivity, and mobile device mirroring.
- Devices such as musical keyboards, digital lab sensors, and droids/robots may be utilized with the system in support of STEM education.
- Teachers can create, save, and share digital notes with the entire class.
- The processor capacity of the ActivPanel can be easily and cost-effectively upgraded over time to keep pace with frequent advances in computing technology and web-based tools.
- A program called ClassFlow provides interactive and collaborative use of classroom devices, digital curricula and learning assessments.
- Teachers have access to professional software through which they can deliver interactive lessons and access a wealth of teaching activities, tools, and templates.

Below you will find four ways you can help us achieve our vision for continuous improvement in classroom technology at FACS. Please remember that all gifts to FACS are tax-deductible.

1) **Support your child with a pledge for the Smart Run March 17.** Elementary students will bring pledge materials home in Friday Folders in early March. They will ask for a pledge per lap. These are short laps (up to 35) that will be run on the practice field behind our modular. Secondary students should also approach you with a support request in early March. Secondary students will form teams of six students each to compete in ‘Sader Games. Among other prizes, the team raising the most sponsorship support will win a prize. Gifts may be given in any amount to support these teams.

2) Consider becoming a **Smart Run Business Sponsor.** If you own a business, you will receive sponsorship benefits that place your company name in front of our parents, teachers, alumni, and those outside the FACS community with whom we communicate.

3) **Ask a decision-maker in the company you work for to consider becoming a Smart Run Business Sponsor.** Many area companies benefit from the patronage of those in the FACS family. Additionally, a large percentage of FACS students come back to the Memphis community after college, work for area businesses, and contribute to a stable community. You will want to take with you the case letter for business sponsorship and the business sponsorship registration form, both available on the FACS website.

4) **Consider becoming a Smart Run Family Sponsor.** If you would like to sponsor our classroom technology effort with a gift in honor of or in memory of someone who has positively impacted your family, such as an extended family member, a teacher, or a coach, we encourage you to do so. We will honor both you and the selected individual in a variety of ways.

Should you wish not to be acknowledged, anonymous sponsorships are also encouraged.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS about any of the above? Please contact FACS Communications Director Deborah Wade via email at dwade@facsmemphis.org or via telephone at our FACS office number (901.458.5543) or at her mobile number (901.262.6346).

Again, this is a major effort for our school. It takes all of us working together to best prepare students with a Christian worldview to learn and lead in our society. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Wendell Meadows, Head of School

Joe Newman, Secondary Principal

Sharon Schaade, Elementary Principal