

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Germantown Friends School Launches the Maguire Innovation Fund for Progressive Education to Support Programming for Current and Philadelphia Area Students

PHILADELPHIA, PA, December 4, 2017 – Germantown Friends School (GFS) is pleased to announce the creation of The Maguire Innovation Fund for Progressive Education, thanks to a generous gift of \$1 million from Jamie and Lisa Maguire and the Maguire Foundation. This fund is designed to support innovative programming and projects that closely align with the school’s mission to seek truth, challenge the intellect, honor differences, embrace the city, and nurture each student’s mind, body and spirit. Qualifying projects will create the conditions to optimize the potential of our students, as well as support educational access and opportunity for students in the Philadelphia area.

The Fund’s inaugural project is the Algebra Enrichment Project, which provides talented students in Philadelphia public, charter, and parochial schools access to Algebra 1 during their eighth grade year. Currently, public and charter schools, and some parochial schools, do not offer Algebra 1 to middle school students, which makes them less likely to be considered for admission to some of the top independent schools in the Philadelphia region. Also, completing a quality Algebra 1 program improves students’ chances of entering Calculus by twelfth grade, and better positions them to pursue math and/or science in college. Students who complete the Algebra Enrichment Project class receive a certificate of completion from GFS and a letter of recommendation from the GFS teacher.

“The Maguires have been tremendous partners to our school for many years—and to many schools in the region. They are committed to the well-being of all students and want to fund ideas that will make lasting improvements in education,” says Head of School Dana Weeks. “This new fund will allow us to pilot projects that have the potential to become permanent components of the GFS experience and, as such, would transition to programs funded through the operational budget.”

The total annual funding available is approximately \$35,000, and may support multiple projects. Qualifying projects will be identified by a selection committee, clerked by Associate Head of School Page Fahrig-Pendse. GFS faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to apply. GFS partners in the region may also be invited to apply.



About Germantown Friends School

Founded in 1845, Germantown Friends School is a Quaker independent day school for students in grades ECP-12, located in the historic neighborhood of Germantown in Northwestern Philadelphia. Dedicated to reaching that of God in every person, our mission is to seek truth, challenge the intellect, honor differences, embrace the city, and nurture each student's mind, body and spirit. For more information, visit germantownfriends.org.

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