

Frequently Asked Questions



Q. How does Squares for Success work?

A. Squares for Success, aka S4S, is the Foundation’s latest virtual fundraiser. It uses a grid that looks like a bingo card. Simply ask friends and family to claim a square representing a dollar amount they pledge to donate and see how many squares you can get crossed out. To spread the word, you can post your grid on Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites, pass it around via email, or share it while on a family Zoom.

Q. Where does the money go?

A. Monies raised during Squares for Success count toward the Foundation’s annual fundraising goal of \$100,000. Donations to the Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, are transferred directly to the school for use at its discretion. This money supplements the public funding that River receives and helps partially underwrite the cost of the classroom assistants who make our Montessori learning environment thrive.

Q. How many squares do we need to cross out? Can we pick more than one?

A. As many as you can! The card has small, medium, and larger numbers available for donation, so that hopefully everyone you approach can find an amount that fits their budget. There’s no limit to the number of squares someone can claim.

Q. Are donations tax-deductible?

A. Yes – the Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

Q. How can friends and family pay for their squares?

A. We’re offering two ways to donate funds for S4S:

- Our online portal, CheddarUp, has a “Squares for Success” campaign at: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2021-2022-river-montessori-annual-fundraiser>

The online portal enables payment by credit card, with a 5.3% processing surcharge automatically added; or you may pay using direct debit from your bank account, also known as an e-check, for a flat fee of \$0.45 regardless of the donation amount. We recommend the e-check option!

- Donors can write a check made out to “River Montessori Foundation” and hand it to you, or mail it to: River Montessori Foundation, c/o RMCS, 3880 Cypress Drive, Suite B, Petaluma, CA 94954
- If friends or family would prefer to pay cash, you can pool their monies and submit an online or check donation for the grand total.

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Q. Why can't we use Venmo?

A. The Foundation is already using Venmo for a couple of other campaigns, and we need to keep the Squares for Success funds separate. In addition, Venmo is starting to charge service fees we'd rather avoid. You can always ask S4S donors to Venmo you directly, and then you can write a check or donate online for the pooled amount.

Q. How long will Squares for Success last?

A. Our S4S fundraiser will close on Friday, August 27, 2021 – bring your completed square to our monthly RMF meeting if you plan to attend! Of course, after that, you can use the game card at any time as a fun way to raise funds for River.

Q. This fundraiser is overwhelming! What's the alternative?

A. There's no obligation to participate in Squares for Success, or any fundraiser. If you prefer to donate directly, you can always send contributions online or via check as described above. Our CheddarUp portal includes options for monthly giving as well as one-time and corporate gifts. We appreciate donations of any size!

Our annual fundraising goal of \$100,000 works out to roughly \$640 per year per child. That number may seem big, but if your children attended a private preschool before coming to River, then you were likely paying as much or more each month.

Q. I have a question! I have a great idea for a fundraiser! Who do I contact?

A. We'd love to hear from you! Email foundation@rivermontessoricharter.org.