

Blanchet Catholic School Benefit Auction

Frequently Asked Questions



[Why am I being asked to donate?](#)

The auction is Blanchet's largest fundraiser and net proceeds are applied to the school's operating budget where they provide assistance for students and fund programs. With the support of fundraisers like the auction, we are able to limit tuition increases and continue to enhance our educational programs.

[What is my family expected to donate?](#)

As part of your Enrollment Agreement, all Blanchet families are required to make an auction contribution. To fulfill this obligation, families can either: donate \$100 in cash or a gift card/certificate valued at \$100 or greater; or contribute 1 or 2 new physical auction item(s) with a minimum current retail value of \$100 or greater by Friday, September 22.

Our goal is for the auction to offer a reasonable number of high quality items that appeal to many interests. Our auction experience has shown that lower priced auction items often do not sell well. If you are donating physical items to the auction, please make sure these items are new (or antique) and of wide appeal.

If you are purchasing items for the auction, we would much prefer that you donate one item valued at \$100 or greater, compared to four items valued at \$25 each. There will be items available to purchase for the Blanchet auction on display at both the New Student Orientation (August 31) and Back to School Night (September 12).

[When are donations due?](#)

Donations are due by **September 22!** This may seem early, but the auction team needs time to enter the donations into our computer system and prepare the auction catalog. This deadline approaches quickly once school starts, so you are encouraged to make your donation soon. There are incentives for bringing in your auction donation to New Student Orientation, 1st day of school and Back to School Night. More information will be mailed later this summer.

[How should I submit my donation?](#)

Cash donations can be made online. Physical items need to be delivered to Blanchet and can be dropped off at the main office or at the development office. Please make sure your physical item is accompanied by a donation form. A form is enclosed with this mailing and additional copies are available online.

[What if donating is a financial burden to my family?](#)

Blanchet families can solicit auction donations from friends, family and business associates and these donations can count as your contribution. For example, ask a contractor friend to build a doghouse or your lawyer to donate a gift certificate to the auction. If you have friends who own businesses, encourage them to purchase an ad or buy a table at the auction. Just make sure to completely fill out the auction paperwork so we know whom to thank for the donation and indicate that your family should receive credit for the donation. The auction office has letters about the auction that you can provide to potential donors to help in this process.

[I would like to donate an item, but am not sure what is needed. Can you give me suggestions?](#)

Of course! Please refer to our Auction Wish List on our website. If you would like to discuss an auction donation in detail, please contact Auction Coordinator Toni Nanneman.

[Does attending the auction count towards my auction obligation?](#)

Sorry - no. Cash donations from parents help us pay for the auction expenses and auction items help raise money for the school. However, for the event to be financially successful, we also need parents to attend the event and invite their friends to participate.

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How much are auction tickets?

Auction tickets cost \$75 per person. In addition to supporting the school and being able to enjoy the great silent & live auctions, your auction ticket covers your catered meal and one complimentary beverage. Invitations will be mailed in September.

What is the suggested attire at the auction?

The auction is a Sunday-best event. If you are volunteering, you will be instructed as to appropriate attire for your shift. We do request that you not wear jeans, please.

When can I sign up to attend the auction?

Official auction invitations will be mailed in September. However, auction tickets are available now online. We encourage you to begin thinking about whom you would like to invite to the auction. Each auction table seats 8 guests.

I've never attended the Blanchet auction. Please describe the experience.

The Blanchet auction is known for its beautiful decorations and excellent customer service. The evening will begin with cocktails and a silent auction in the Lee Student Center, followed by a catered dinner and live auction in the Main Gym. Auction items will be available to preview on the Blanchet website prior to the event. We also encourage guests to purchase Best of Live raffle tickets at the event. Only 100 tickets will be available for \$100 each. At the beginning of the live auction, we draw one winner who then gets to select one of the live auction packages as the prize.

What volunteer opportunities are available?

There are dozens of jobs available - helping decorate for the event, serving as a cashier the night of the auction, setting up and cleaning up for the event, helping publicize the event, seeking donations for the auction, and much, much more! We'll be highlighting different jobs available each week in our e-newsletter and will soon publish a volunteer needs list on the website.

Why should I volunteer?

We need you and it's fun! Over 220 volunteers donated 828 hours to the auction last year (and this doesn't include the hundreds of hours contributed by the auction committee to plan the event). The auction is a great way to learn new skills, meet new friends and support our wonderful school.

Can my student volunteer?

YES! We typically have over 100 students volunteering the night of the auction. More information for student shifts will be available as the start of school approaches.

I have some input about the auction I would like to share. How can I get involved?

Join our Auction Team, or attend a meeting to find out more information. Contact Mrs. Nanneman for meeting dates and times.