

Partnering with Parents

Ways for you to be involved with life at Bement School





Partnering with Parents

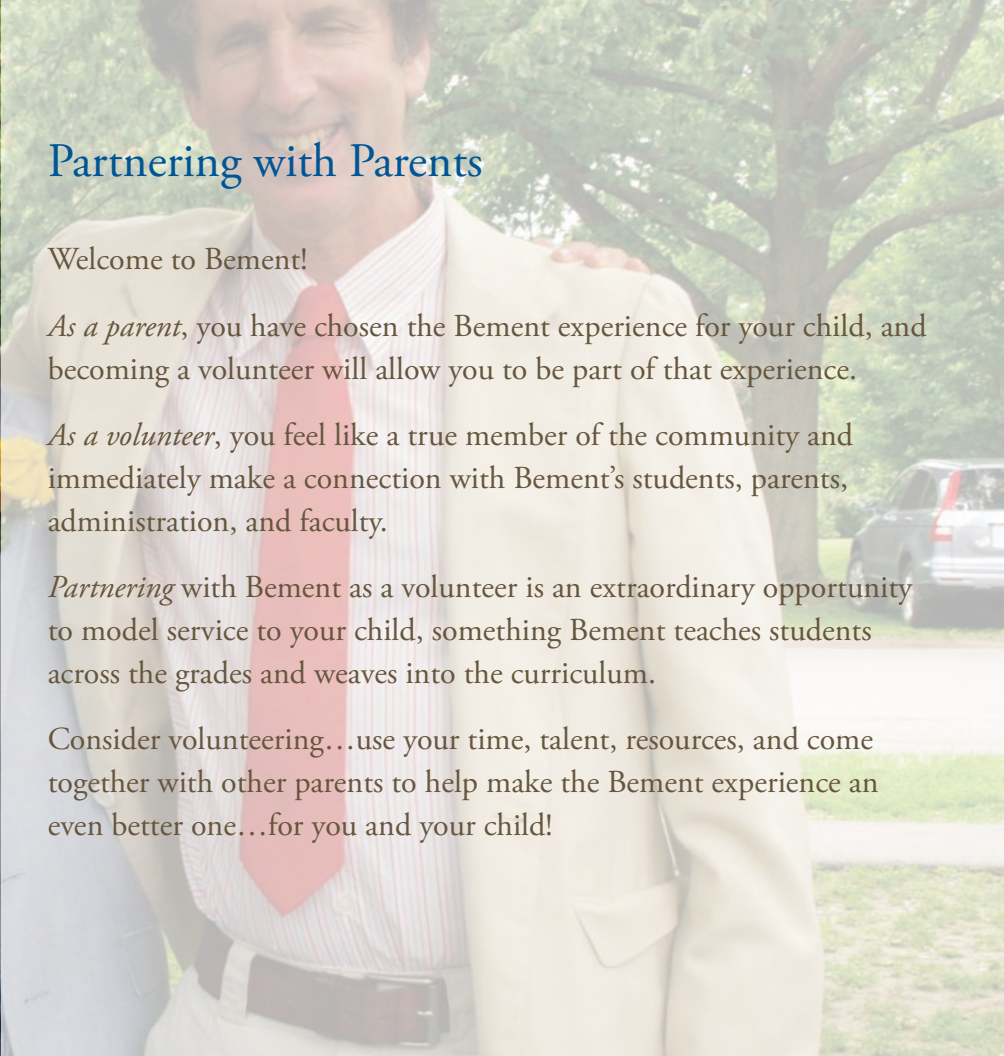
Welcome to Bement!

As a parent, you have chosen the Bement experience for your child, and becoming a volunteer will allow you to be part of that experience.

As a volunteer, you feel like a true member of the community and immediately make a connection with Bement's students, parents, administration, and faculty.

Partnering with Bement as a volunteer is an extraordinary opportunity to model service to your child, something Bement teaches students across the grades and weaves into the curriculum.

Consider volunteering...use your time, talent, resources, and come together with other parents to help make the Bement experience an even better one...for you and your child!



Ways to Volunteer • At a Glance

ANNUAL FUND AMBASSADORS

A parent from each grade is asked to be an *Annual Fund Ambassador* to help raise money for our Annual Fund from their peer group. As an Ambassador, you gain a greater understanding of the value and importance of the Annual Fund. You have the opportunity to educate other parents, while making new friends at the same time. This group is led by the Annual Fund Chair. Normally, the Annual Fund Chair is filled by a parent (or couple) in the school, who is invested in supporting the Fund and has a thorough understanding of the Annual Fund's impact on the school's operating budget and day-to-day life at Bement.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The *Parents' Association* (PA) is comprised of a board of parent volunteers. They organize and lead monthly board meetings and run PA meetings for all parents to attend which are noted as *Open PA Meetings*. They also organize and lead *Class Representatives* for each grade, manage the *School Store*, host our annual *Spring Fling Weekend*, and offer a variety of fundraising and community events throughout the year to help strengthen relationships and build community and school spirit. The monies raised by the PA go to a designated school gift, chosen by the PA board after input from the school.

ADMISSION OFFICE

The Admission Office seeks parent volunteers to act as *Welcome Families* for incoming families. This is a great way to introduce new families to the school, answer their questions, and make them feel welcomed into the Bement community. From time-to-time, the Admission Office will ask parents to host an *Information Night* in their community to reach out to prospective families in specific geographic areas. Lastly, the Admission Office may seek support from *Kindergarten parents* to help with Kindergarten Open House postings.

CHECK OUT [Bement.org](https://www.bement.org)
regularly for the latest news and photo galleries.

Annual Fund



REPORTING OF GIFTS

The Fund runs from July 1st to June 30th of each year. Gifts that come in during that time period will be reflected in that year's Annual Report of Gifts which is printed in the *Bement Bulletin* in late fall and published by the Alumni/ae & Development Office.

GIVING LEVELS

The Blue and White Society (\$5,000 or more)

The 1925 Society (\$1,925-\$4,999)

The Founder's Circle (\$1,000-\$1,924)

Head's Circle (\$500-\$999)

Bement Honor Roll (\$250-\$499)

Bement Merit List (\$100 to \$249)

Friends of Bement (up to \$99)

Partnering with the Annual Fund

PURPOSE

The *Annual Fund* directly supports the daily learning environment at Bement. Whether your child is learning to read, playing a new instrument, practicing good sportsmanship on the field, or learning to love the stage, your child benefits from every moment, every new step, every dollar. Our *Annual Fund Chairs* are dedicated to educating each family about the benefits of the Fund and why investing in Bement matters to all of us. *Annual Fund Ambassadors* will work closely with the Chairs and their respective class in providing any and all information needed for your family to make your gift.

Each child benefits from this experience and *parent participation* is critical to Bement meeting its goals for its students. Take pride in the school you have chosen for your family, and show your pride with your support of the Fund.

GAP AMOUNT

Because tuition does not cover the entire cost of a Bement education, as is common at most independent schools, a hidden scholarship is given to each student. That 'gap' between tuition and fees, less expenses, is a gift to each child and therefore needs to be made up with other revenue.

The gap is nearly \$2,000 per student. The monies raised from our Annual Fund help meet that gap. The Annual Fund dollars help us meet our operating expenses to allow us to continue to offer the type of programs that make a Bement education special.

WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts to the Fund come in many forms: cash, check, credit card, matching gifts, bequests, and sale of stock. To learn more about how to make a gift online or specific stock gift procedures, please refer to our website at: <http://www.bement.org/affaqs.html>.

ELIGIBLE FOR A COMPANY MATCHING GIFT?

please inquire with your employer, and double your gift to Bement.

Partnering with the Parents' Association

The *Parents' Association's* mission is to enhance the sense of community and school spirit among students, parents, families, and faculty.

EVENTS

The *Parents' Association* (PA) will seek your support for the following programs and events:

- All School Picnic
- Fall Bazaar & Pancake Breakfast
- Skating & Basketball Party
- Spring Fling Weekend
- Book Fair
- School Store and more!

Your attendance at such events with your family is welcome and encouraged so that you continue to build your relationship with the Bement family.

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

In an effort to keep parents connected, the PA is responsible for establishing *Class Representatives*; at least one parent from each grade. This parent will be helpful in answering your questions about the school, keep you informed of PA events and needs, and organize class gatherings. The PA always seeks leadership among parents to share their time, talent, and expertise as *Committee Chairs*

for such events as Fall Bazaar, Spring Fling Auction, Spring Fling Saturday Fair, Author/Illustrator Day (every other year), All School Picnic, Skating & Basketball Party, movie outing, gift wrap sales, bake sales, and more.

SPRING FLING WEEKEND

Spring Fling Weekend is a very special event. The *Spring Fling Auction*, a parent event, is held on a Friday night and raises monies for financial aid—*over 35% of our community receives financial aid*. Event ticket pricing is modest and usually covers cost of food and beverages. In order to make the auction

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? QUESTIONS?

bementpa@gmail.com

More Ways to Partner

a success, the PA depends on an auction chair, and decoration, solicitation, and technical support committees. Saturday, a required school day, is the *Spring Fling Fair*, a morning of games and fun for the entire school. Activities needing parental support include the book fair, bake sale, school store, set-up/clean-up, games, and more. This is a wonderful event for the entire family!

Committee chairs and event volunteers are critical to the success of the entire *Spring Fling Weekend*. It is fun and rewarding too!



LIBRARY

Our school librarian is always looking for parent volunteers. As a *library volunteer*, you can easily learn the library's circulation system, shelving procedures, or how to process new materials.

BOARDING SUPPORT

The Dean of Boarding seeks support for Bement's boarding community. During long weekends and, from time-to-time, during vacations, parents are asked to act as *Host Families* to a Bement boarder. Since many of our boarders are from other states and countries, this opportunity allows them to enjoy the comforts of home while often providing *Host Families* with the chance to learn more about the many cultures which comprise our school.

Thank you for considering your partnership with Bement!

School Calendar • At a Glance

SEPTEMBER

- Blazer Exchange
- All School Picnic
- Open PA Meeting

OCTOBER

- Parents' Day
- New Parent Dinner
- Fall Bazaar/Pancake Breakfast

NOVEMBER

- Author/Illustrator Day
Event occurs every other year

DECEMBER

- Holiday Open House
at the Head's House

JANUARY

- Family Skating/Basketball Party

FEBRUARY

- Open PA Meeting

MARCH

- Spring Vacation

APRIL

- Spring Fling Auction (adults only)
- Spring Fling Fair

MAY

- Grandparents' Day

JUNE

- Baccalaureate
- Commencement
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon



THE BEMENT SCHOOL
Fly on your own wings

94 Old Main Street
P.O. Box 8
Deerfield, MA 01342
USA

Main phone
(413) 774-7061

Alumni/ae & Development
(413) 774-3021

www.bement.org

CHECK OUT Bement.org regularly for your weekly Look Ahead and complete school calendar.