2026 WATERS WILDCAT WALK-A-THON

Q. What is the Wildcat Walk-a-thon and Pledge Drive?

The Wildcat Walk-a-thon & Pledge Drive is our annual fall fundraiser. Between **September 21st** to **October 2nd**, we ask each family to pledge or collect donations leading up to the Walk-a-thon on **Friday, October 2nd**. We don't count laps—we just want everyone to get outside, have fun, and walk!

Q. What is the fundraising goal?

Our goal for the 2026 Walk-a-thon is to raise $120,000 for the school. We're asking families to aim for $500 in pledges or donations, but any amount helps—what matters most is participation!

While we have set a $500 per family goal, we know that many families will not be able to contribute at that level. Every amount helps!

Q. Why are we trying to raise $120,000?

Waters Elementary depends on the generous support of its families and community members to help close the gap in the school budget and raise funds to support critical programs not fully covered by the school budget, including:

- New reading curriculum training for teachers
- A teacher's aide position
- Spanish instruction
- Recess and lunch supervision (Right at School) Teacher appreciation
- Circle of Help (family support)
- Community events

Q. How do I donate to the Walk-a-thon?

Pledges can be made using the following:

Web: www.friendsofwaters.org/walk26

Donate by October 2nd!

Zelle: friendsofwaters.treasurer@gmail.com

Venmo: @FriendsOfWaters

Additionally, you can make a payment via check, payable to "Friends of Waters" and drop it off at the school office or mail to:
Friends of Waters
4540 N Campbell Ave
Chicago, IL 60625

Q. Can I ask friends and family to donate to the walk?

Students and their families are encouraged to spread the word through social media, letters, and phone calls. Just make sure whoever donates includes homeroom numbers so your donation is counted for the right classroom total!

Find more information by visiting **friendsofwaters.org/walk26** or scan the QR code above. If you have any questions or want more information, email **walkathon@friendsofwaters.org!**

Q. Can family and friends attend the Walk-a-thon?

Yes, please! Parents and community members are invited to attend and cheer on the students during the walk. The school will communicate time slots for each class.

Q. Do I have to make a donation?

No. All students will participate in the walk with their homeroom on October 2nd regardless of contributions to the Walk-a-thon.

Q. Can I volunteer or help with the event?

In addition to donating, ***we need parents to volunteer*** to help with set-up, distribute snacks, and join the cheering section at each corner of the route around the school. Sign up using the code below or https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4AABAA2CA3FF2-65726768-walkathon#/

Q. Can I use my Employer Donation Match program?

Yes! Make your donation then complete your employer's match process.

Q. I typically make a recurring donation, can I continue to do so?

Absolutely. When you donate online, select the monthly or quarterly option.

Q. Are there any prizes or incentives for the students?

Yes! Any student with a donation by Thursday, September 24th will be entered into a raffle to be P.E. Teacher for a day with Mr. Archer or Mr. Ortiz!

ALL STUDENTS WILL:

- participate in the Walk with healthy snack after
- be entered into the raffle to help slime beloved Waters staff members
- participate in the community celebration on October 2nd

CLASSES:

- The class at each grade with the highest percentage of participation—regardless of donation amount—will earn 1 EXTRA HOUR OF RECESS.
- The class that raises the most money in the ENTIRE school will win a super cool classroom trophy and an extra hour of fun with Principal Rutkowski!

We know not everyone can give the same amount, and that's okay. Whether you donate, volunteer, or cheer on the students, your support matters. Let's come together and make this year's Walk-a-thon a big success!

FRIENDS OF WATERS · SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL ·