



STARS Gala Auction Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does “STARS” in STARS Gala Auction stand for?

A: The STARS Gala Auction is the signature fundraiser of Eastside Catholic for the benefit of our students and their programs.

STARS stands for **S**tudents and **T**eachers **A**chieving **R**emarkable **S**uccess—The EC auction has carried this name since 2002 (and perhaps even earlier than that).

Q: When and where is the auction?

A: After two years of Online Auctions in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, we are excited to celebrate in person once again on Saturday, March 26 at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue. The Silent Auction will be online, but items will be displayed in the Evergreen Ballroom on the lower floor followed by a sit-down dinner and Live Auction in the Grand Ballroom on the upper floor.

Q: What does the Online Silent Auction look like and how can I participate?

A: If you participated in our Online Auction the last two years, the format will be the same. You will be able to use the same account that you set up in prior years. Thanks to our generous community, we are delighted to offer you an incredible array of items for bidding during the Online Silent Auction including the coveted 15 reserved parking spaces in the senior lot. Having the Silent Auction online reaches friends, family, and supporters beyond our inner community. The Online Silent Auction opens three days before the Gala on March 23 and will close on March 26 at 6:45 p.m., just prior to the Live Auction and sit-down dinner. Only the 15 reserved parking spaces will have a guaranteed bid price. All other packages will remain open until they close on March 26 at 6:45 p.m. The packages will be displayed at the event in the Evergreen Room, located on the first floor of the Hyatt. Look for signs leading you to the registration tables and into the ballroom. More information regarding the Online Silent Auction will be coming soon.

Q: What happens during the Live Auction?

A: The Live Auction and sit-down dinner happen simultaneously in the Grand Ballroom soon after the Online Silent Auction closes at 6:45 p.m. Guests will be escorted from the Evergreen Room to the Grand Ballroom on the upper floor via escalators and elevators. The Live Auction offers a variety of packages where guests can bid by holding up their bid cards. Each guest or household is assigned a bid number and is given a bid packet that includes bid card/s upon check-in at the registration

tables. If you want to bid on a certain package, simply hold up your bid card and the auctioneer will call out your bid number. The last bid number called out is the winner of that package. The Making a Difference campaign or Raise the Paddle as well as the Dessert Dash also takes place during the Live Auction.

Q: What is the evening schedule?

- A:** 5:15-6:00 p.m. Crusader Club VIP Reception
6-6:45 p.m. General Admission & Online Silent Auction
7-10:00 p.m. Dinner and Live Auction
10-11:00 p.m. Post Dinner Dancing and Celebration

Q: When does registration open and how much is General Admission?

A: [Online registration](#) opens on **Monday, February 14** and closes on **Friday, March 18**. Take advantage of early registration pricing and save \$20 per person. General Admission pricing is:

- \$130 per person for early registration through March 7
- \$150 per person after March 7

Q: What is Crusader Club and how much are the tickets?

A: Crusader Club is an intimate gathering from 5:15-6:00 p.m. It is a relaxed atmosphere before general admission opens. Crusader Club ticket price is \$250 per person and includes:

- Gala Dinner Admission
- Hosted cocktails with hors d'oeuvres
- President's champagne toast
- Catalog and seat signage recognition
- Complimentary valet parking ticket

Q: Who is chairing the auction this year?

A: We are truly grateful to our 2022 Co-chairs Thomas and Kristin Vogeles. Thomas and Kristin are proud parents of Anders '19, Graeme '22 and Marcus '24. Thomas and Kristin along with many dedicated auction volunteers have been planning an exciting and fun-filled event for our community to benefit our students and their programs.

Q: How many people attend the auction?

A: We've had as many as 580 guests and volunteers. The Grand Ballroom can accommodate up to 600 seated guests. Let's beat the record and go for 600! EC parents, grandparents, alumni parents, friends, supporters, and alumni (21 years of age and over) are welcome!

Q: What is "Making a Difference?"

A: "Making a Difference" is often referred to as "Raise the Paddle" or "Fund a Need." Each year, funds raised for Making a Difference during the Live Auction are dedicated to a specific need. This year, Making a Difference is dedicated to enhancing safety measures for the front entrance doors to EC as well as providing a dynamic lighting system for our gymnasium. Our goal is to raise \$250,000. Click [here](#) to learn more about this year's Making a Difference initiative and donate [online](#) today.

Q: How are the rest of the funds raised through the auction allocated?

A: Proceeds from the auction enable our students to have the opportunities and advantages of programs including day retreats for all grades, assembly speakers, various clubs, art supplies, scholarship, tuition assistance, career seminars, drama, athletics and much more. Auction funds also help with the school's daily operations.

Q: Is there a family donation requirement?

A: Eastside Catholic does not have an auction donation requirement. We rely on the generosity of our community for a successful fundraising event and encourage all families to support our efforts at whatever level is comfortable for them. At this time, cash donations to underwrite the cost of the auction is encouraged. Click [here](#) to donate online.

Q: Should we attend the auction even though we cannot spend a lot?

A: Yes, we encourage everyone to attend. The STARS Gala Auction EC's signature fundraising and largest social gathering! There is truly something for everyone. Come for the party, stay for the fun!

Q: Will food be served at the Gala?

A: Yes, hors d'oeuvres are passed during the Online Silent Auction that takes place prior to dinner and Live Auction. Dinner is served with complimentary [JBookwalter](#) wines generously donated by John and Susan Sercu. Meals include a cheeseboard, salad, and entrée. Desserts are purchased through the Dessert Dash.

Q: What is Dessert Dash?

A: Dessert Dash is a fun way for your entire table to bid on an array of scrumptious desserts. Everyone at your table will have an opportunity to contribute any amount they wish. Tables with the highest bid amount gets to dash to the dessert table first, so be sure to bid high! Designate a dessert runner and when your table number is called, your runner quickly dashes and grabs a dessert!

Q: Can you accommodate dietary needs?

A: The online registration page will have a "Dietary Restrictions" field where you can state dietary needs and restrictions.

Q: What is the attire for the event?

A: The STARS Gala Auction is an elegant evening spent with EC families, friends, faculty, staff, and supporters. Ladies should feel comfortable wearing cocktail dresses, festive attire, or a gown if you choose. For the gentlemen, suits and ties are the norm with optional black tie.

Q: Can I request to sit with friends?

A: Yes. The online registration gives you an opportunity to request to sit with friends. If you do not have a preference, the auction team will help put together a table for you with parents who have students in the same grade(s) or who have students who are in the same activities as yours.

Q: How do I pay for my auction purchases? Do I need to bring cash?

A: When you check in at the registration desk, your credit card will be swiped twice, once for auction purchases and once for raffle ticket purchases. You will not be charged unless you make a purchase. All auction and raffle tickets will be paid by credit cards and all sales are final. You may use cash to purchase cocktails at the bars located in the Online Silent Auction area.

Q: Will there be dancing after the Live Auction?

A: Yes, the party continues after the Live Auction! The dance floor is just steps away from the Grand Ball Room so you don't have to go far to continue the merriment. There will be a DJ, light snack, and dance music to close out the evening.

Q: Does the Hyatt offer discounted rooms for overnight stay?

A: Yes, make the STARS Gala a weekend staycation! A limited number of rooms are available on a first come, first reserve basis. The discounted rate for a standard room is \$145plus tax and includes complimentary overnight self- parking. [Reserve](#) your room and indicate "Eastside Catholic Room Block" as your group affiliation. Reservation deadline is March 11 and is on a first come first serve basis. Only a limited number of rooms are available, so book early.

Q: Is my donation tax deductible?

A: Eastside Catholic School (Tax ID # 91-1034894) is a non-profit organization. Donated items, sponsorships, and cash underwriting are potentially deductible as permitted by law. A comprehensive receipt detailing all auction donations and purchases will be mailed to you shortly after the auction. Always check with your tax advisor for more information.

Q: Can I take my auction purchases home after the Gala?

A: Yes, we encourage our guests to take their purchases home before leaving. Packages will be ready for pick up in the Evergreen Room (lower Level) where the Online Silent Auction is held starting at 9:30 p.m. Item Retrieval closes at 10:45p.m. All items and packages not picked up at the Gala will be returned to EC. Please contact the Events Office or Director of Special Events [Mayten Gross](#) to pick up your items/packages.

Q: How can I support the auction?

A: There are several ways to support the auction and our students.

- [Register](#) to attend the Gala and have a great time!
- [Donate](#) cash to underwrite the cost of the auction
- [Donate](#) to Making a Difference
- [Sponsor](#) a Faculty/Staff to attend the Gala
- Volunteer to help at the Gala- please contact [Anna Blaney](#) to sign up.

Q: What are the Covid-19 Protocols at the Gala?

A: We will follow all current DOH and King County COVID-19 mandates.

Q: Do I have to wear a mask?

A: As of this writing, yes. Masks must worn indoors except unless when actively eating or drinking. We continue to monitor mask mandate and will adhere to King County mask protocols.

Q: Who is this year's auctioneer?

A: Matt Lorch is this year's Auctioneer. Learn more about Matt [here](#).

Q: Do we have an Emcee?

A: This year's emcee is EC's very own Student Life Coordinator Elisa Pa'aga. Elisha graduated from EC in and will bring great energy to the auction.

More Questions?

Contact Director of Special Events [Mayten Gross](#)