



### **Bloom Bash 2020 FAQ's**

#### ***What is BLOOM?***

Bloom is St. Odilia School's annual Gala. The main event is our live and silent auction night usually in April, but it kicks off in February with our Week of Wishes campaign and our Great Gathering events last through the summer and into the fall. Bloom was started in 2013 by then-kindergartner moms Amy Twombly and Angela Drange as a great way to build our community while also raising funds for projects that the school's annual budget can't cover. It has been a huge success every year, and we are so thankful for our past and present chairs Amy Twombly, Angela Drange, Joelle Cagnetta, Catherine Steffen, Abby Donohoo, Jaelyn Davern, Erin Maki and Kristin Dacey.

#### ***Where does the money raised from Bloom go?***

It is the mission of St. Odilia School to educate the whole child: spiritually, academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Through BLOOM, we have worked hard and accomplished a lot to help our students academically through new curriculums and technology, and physically with our rock climbing wall, playground, and security of the building. We've done this through our live auction sales, our silent auction, Great Gatherings, and also our direct appeal known as our "Fund-A-Need". Now is the time to help our students emotionally, spiritually, and socially. Our plan for BLOOM 2020 proceeds is to enhance our mental health and counseling programs, as well as our enrichment and reading support programs. BLOOM's fundraising will help empower kids to be proactive in meeting the challenges life brings them, whether in the classroom, the playground, or even away from school. We will do this by providing additional mental health specialists, curriculum for all students, and additional resources such as speakers for both parents and students. Please help us meet our children's needs and prepare them for success no matter what life throws at them. Also, we have additional new needs for funds to help us equip our school, students and teachers for a safe return to the classroom this fall. We also recognize that there are families who are not comfortable sending their children back to school, and funds will be needed to help enhance our distance learning program for those that cannot return to school in the fall.

#### ***How will this year be different?***

Because of COVID-19 the decision has been made to move our event to a virtual gala. This ensures

health and safety for all, especially when we are planning for our children to go back to school in the fall. We will not be selling tickets and there will be no live auction. Instead, all items will be put into the general auction. Our bidding site is also where you can go to donate directly to our fund a need! You will not need tickets, only a bidder number. If you did not buy tickets to the previously planned events, you will need to register for a bidder number. If you did buy tickets you will automatically be assigned a bidder number. Bidder numbers, auction items and fund a need donations can all be made at our bidding website, <https://bloom.cbo.io>

### ***What is the timeline for the event?***

Week of Monday, July 27 - Get ready for the big event! Buy your Bloom Bag (a link will be sent out) and swing by school and pick it up from the security desk all week from 9-3!

Wednesday, July 29 - Auction opens! Be sure to have your bidder number ready and check out all the amazing items we have available this year! Fund-A-Need will also open - look for a link on how to text to donate!

Thursday, July 30 - Organize a small "Bloom Bash" of your own! Have a few friends over for outdoor cocktails while you bid and watch our event virtually! Having a small group over? Let us know by emailing bloom@stodilia.org. We will drop off a goody bag of items for you and your guests!

Friday, July 31 - the big event! Look for links to watch our event! They will be posted to Facebook, as well as sent out from school. Take photos of yourself watching the event and add the hashtag #BloomBash2020 and post to social media. We will have a drawing of all the families who posted a picture, and the winning entry will win \$1000 for the teacher of their choice to be used for classroom items. Have your Bloom Bash bag? You will be entered twice if you include the Bloom wine glass in your photo!

7:30 PM - Look for links to speeches and live streaming!

8:00 PM - last call for silent auction bidding! The bidding will close promptly at 8:00! Winnings can be picked up at school Saturday, August 1 from 9:30-11:30. Can't make it to school at that time? No problem! Feel free to swing by the security desk at school weekdays from 9-3 to pick up your winnings!

### ***Do I have to be a parent of a St. O's student to participate?***

No! Anyone can bid or donate from anywhere! Just sign up for a bidder number and bid and donate all night long!

### ***How will I get my winnings?***

If you are the lucky winner of a live auction event, you will get all of your information/winnings the night of Bloom. Please plan on picking up your winnings Saturday, August 1 at school between 9:30-11:30. If this doesn't work for you, swing by during the week from 9-3 and someone at the security desk will be able to help!

### ***How do I bid?***

Auction - Anyone can bid on items at the silent auction using the website <https://bloom.cbo.io> If you purchase tickets to the event, you will get a bidder number via email from Click Bid the week before the event. Please don't register for a bidder number - you will get one automatically. If you won't be able to make the event, you can register for a bidder number at [bloom.cbo.io](https://bloom.cbo.io). You will be asked to input your info, and then a bidder number will be emailed to you. Silent auction bidding opens a few days before the event and closes at 8:00 PM on the night of the event.

### ***How do I donate to our Fund-A-Need?***

We've made it very easy to donate to our event! There are couple different ways to do it:

1. Text keyword: bloom to phone number 56651 to start a donation over text. To complete your donation, a link will be provided via text message that provides a secure payment page.
2. Online, go to <https://cbo.io/d/bloom> to donate!

### ***What are Great Gatherings?***

Short answer - they are great parties! Long answer - two or three couples join forces and pay for a party as a donation to the school, then Bloom sells tickets (usually 10 - 20) for people to attend. The ticket money goes to the school, and the hosts get a receipt for their donation to the school for their tax records. The tickets usually sell for \$25-\$100, depending on several factors. Each party has a theme - we've had curling lessons, bowling, 80's parties, Oktoberfest, bunco, pie making classes, etc. You can purchase tickets to these events on the Bloom website, starting the week before Bloom. Check your email and Facebook for final sale dates!

### ***What can I do to help?***

Starting in the winter, start looking for donations for our live or silent auctions! Talk to places you normally go, or people you normally use for services. We are always looking for donations and sponsorships. Forms with the donation and sponsorship information are on the Bloom website. Please remember to check with your employer for sponsorships!

You can also talk with friends and get a group together to host a Great Gathering. If you'd like to host one but are having a hard time coming up with a theme, talk to a chair - we have lots of ideas!

Also, look for the SignUp Genius with more volunteer opportunities. We need folks to help with bringing donations to and from the site, set up, clean up, as well as various tasks that can be done both before and after the weekend of the event.

***Where can I go to get lots more info?***

You can check out the Bloom website at <https://www.bloom-gala.com>. Also, follow the event on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/St.OdiliaBloom/>. You can also check out the bidding website at <https://bloom.cbo.io> You can also contact us for more info - [bloom@stodilia.org](mailto:bloom@stodilia.org)