

January 25, 2012

Hello Friends—

This is a fund-raising letter. I'm asking for a **small donation** to a great, feel-good, tax-deductible cause.

The cause: Geeky, smart teenagers at Carnegie Vanguard High School. These young men and women are living proof that a campus does not make a school; kids/teachers/parents do. Despite operating out of a slated-for-demolition elementary school for 10 years, these 500 Carnegie students' achievements have now earned the school a rank of **11th best high school in America** by *Newsweek* magazine.

Here's the GREAT news: the district is building a new campus, set to open Aug. 2012. (The old school is *really* decayed.) The bad news: small schools don't "qualify" for big-school amenities. While we don't need all the extras, there *are* things we think are critical.

We think sports fields matter. **Smart kids have bodies, too**—and it's important to exercise them. Our hope: one baseball diamond shared with one soccer field, one tennis court, and a sand volleyball pit. It's not a lot, but we think it will do the trick.

We think a theatre matters, too. We've got the building shell, but we don't have money for theatre lights, sound or tech equipment. We parent advocates believe **theatre teaches all kids to become confident speakers and passionate advocates for the causes they believe in**. That's our future! We're asking for your help to develop this space.

Past CVHS parents contributed \$100,000 to this cause. This year, current CVHS parents have contributed another \$100,000. It's amazing to see, from just 500 families. But we need to widen our circle of giving. **Will you help raise the remaining \$150,000?**

Your \$50 and \$100 gifts will work wonders. Many small gifts add up quickly. If for some reason this letter lands in the hands of a REALLY BIG donor, we will name the theatre (or baseball diamond) after you. Promise! Smaller donors get our **eternal gratitude**—and the knowledge that you'll help a generation of kids to come.

It's a one-time ask, and a one-time opportunity.

Your donations ARE tax-deductible. Here are 3 ways to help:

1. Send a check to "CVHS PTO GATE", 10401 Scott St., Houston, TX 77051
2. Give electronically at www.vanguardian.org. Click on "GATE" campaign.
3. Talk to a real, live human. Call Jeff Basen-Engquist at 713-726-8126, or email jfbe@comcast.net. Jeff has information about naming opportunities.

We'll acknowledge every donation. Thank you for including us in your generosity for 2012.