



Make Plans to Attend Ben Franklin Academy's 2017 BENefit Bash "A Night at the Speakeasy"

Saturday, November 11 at 5:00 pm
The Vehicle Vault

Mark your calendars, invite your friends & family, and start planning now for this fun and exciting adults-only night out!

What is the BENefit Bash and why should I attend?

The BENefit Bash is our major fundraiser of the year. We are hoping to raise enough resources to construct an outdoor classroom. The outdoor classroom would be a roofed, fixed structure with open sides, student seating, and a stage area for teacher or student presentations. It would be open for use by all grades and would provide yet another differentiated, tangible learning environment for our students. Additional auction proceeds will go toward fulfilling various teacher requests throughout the year. Our goal is for the majority of the money raised from the auction to go directly toward benefiting our school and not toward auction expenses.

How can I get BENefit Bash tickets and how much do they cost?

You can purchase tickets online from Thursday, September 28 through Friday, October 27th at: bfacademy.ptapal.com. Tickets are on sale for \$50 per person from Thursday, September 28 to Friday, October 13. Regular ticket pricing of \$55 will be sold Saturday, October 14 to Friday, October 20. Beginning Saturday, October 21, ticket pricing will be \$60. We will stop selling tickets at midnight on Friday, October 27. No tickets will be available at the door. Buy your tickets early and save!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Email fundraising@bfacademy.org for more questions

What does the BENefit Bash ticket price cover?

Please note that purchasing a ticket to the BENefit Bash, but not attending the event, does not contribute to the needs of the school. The ticket price covers the cost of your dinner meal. This way, the majority of the money raised from the auction itself (our primary fundraiser of the year) goes toward benefiting our school and not toward auction expenses. So, come and enjoy dinner, check out the unique collection of cars on display, and have fun bidding on items to support our childrens' school.

What does my ticket include?

The evening will begin with a silent auction and will include dinner, dessert, a live auction, and access to the Vehicle Vault car museum.

Also, we have researched ticket prices at other school auctions in the area. We found, to our delight, that we are one of the least expensive ticket prices! We want to ensure that you are able to spend funds on the donated items and baskets so that we can all benefit BFA.

What is a “reserved table” at the BENefit Bash and how much does one cost?

- For those who would like a guarantee that they can sit amongst friends!
- \$50 will hold the table only. Individual seats still need to be purchased (8 per table) so please make sure to invite friends to share your table.
- Table will be reserved with desired table name displayed.

To purchase a reserved table please contact us at fundraising@bfacademy.org.

Can I bring other adults to the auction?

Absolutely, everyone is welcome! Feel free to invite neighbors, co-workers, grandparents, and friends. Not only is it for a good cause, but it is also an excellent shopping experience and fun evening.

Are children invited?

Unfortunately, this is an adult only event.

I don't think I can attend the BENefit Bash because I can't get a babysitter.

We know this has been a challenge in the past. Thus, we are thrilled to be able to tell everyone that **Kidstown** will be providing child care at a special rate for BFA Families on November 11th! Thank you Kidstown! \$5 per hour for the 1st child and \$4 each additional child, plus waived registration fees for the night for new families. For more information about rates and the special party theme, please call Kidstown at 720-344-2500.

My spouse/date will be out of town on November 11.

Excellent! You deserve a night of fun with friends. Seriously, you do not have to have a spouse/date to attend. Going with friends is an excellent opportunity to shop for holiday gifts without prying eyes seeing what you are purchasing.

What is the dress code?

Cocktail Attire/business casual is recommended, but feel free to wear whatever makes you comfortable. Gentleman usually wear slacks and button-down shirts—no suits or ties required! Ladies, think “Mother’s Day brunch” to “Date Night.” This year’s theme is “A Night at the Speakeasy” and 1920’s attire is welcome!

Do I need to bring anything?

Auction catalogs will go home in Thursday folders a week before the BENefit Bash event. In order to cut printing costs, we ask that you please bring your catalog with you to the event. Catalogs will not be available at the BENefit Bash.

You’ll also need payment for the cool goodies you’ll be purchasing to support BFA while getting a head-start on your holiday shopping.

What forms of payment will be accepted for the auction items?

We will accept cash, credit cards (Visa, MasterCard & Discover) and checks made payable to: Ben Franklin Academy PTO.

Will I have fun?

We hope so! This is a great way to support BFA as well as a chance to get to know fellow parents and staff members better. It's a very enjoyable, social evening. The first year you attend the BENefit Bash because it helps your kids’ school—but after that you go because it’s fun!

What will be served?

During the silent auction we will enjoy the following buffet appetizers:

Grande Antipasto Display

*Italian cured meats, marinated mushrooms, zesty marinated olives, Italian cheeses and caprese salad.
Served with rustic breads and crackers*

Pretzel Breads and Sausages served with Sharp White Cheese and Ale Fondue

Smoked sausages served with pretzel breads and a sharp cheddar and ale fondue

Following the close of the silent auction, we move to the main floor to enjoy a plated 3-course meal before the live auction begins. You will have your choice of a dual entree or vegetarian dish. The menu is as follows:

SALAD

Winter Salad

Mixed greens, candied walnuts, goat cheese, dried cranberries served with a honey shallot vinaigrette

DUAL ENTREE

Herb Crusted Petite Beef Shoulder Loin

Served with shallot red wine bordelaise sauce

Apricot Chicken Roulade

Chicken breast rolled in dried apricots and herbed mascarpone, sliced and served with mint beurre

~ OR ~

Stuffed Portobello Mushroom - Vegetarian Entree

Portobello mushroom topped with spinach, caramelized onion, feta cheese, and sun-dried tomatoes. Topped with a balsamic reduction drizzle.

Two Side Dishes

Garlic Cheddar Mashed Potatoes

Grilled Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT

TBD

* For food restrictions, please contact fundraising@bfacademy.org

Are drinks included?

Iced tea, water, and coffee are included in the ticket price. Soft drinks are available for a price at the cash bar. There will be two cash bars available; one on each level of the venue. Additionally, the first 100 people to check in at the Bash will receive a complimentary "BENefit Bash" signature cocktail.

What is a Class Basket and why should I donate?

Each class is assigned a theme which the room parents will communicate to classrooms on September 18th. Parents have been asked to give a suggested donation of \$10 per teacher. This donation helps a designated shopper from your class—usually the room parent—purchase items for your theme basket. These baskets will be available for auction at the BENefit Bash. Please sign up and be as generous as you can. Parent participation makes the difference! We appreciate all of your help.

What are Teacher Experiences?

Many of our fabulous teachers donate priceless items to the auction – time for your child to spend with his/her favorite teacher. These experiences range from an afternoon painting pottery, ice cream sundaes after lunch, or pizza and a movie. These items will only be available during the silent auction. Many teachers have indicated a specific date/time for their experiences. The winning bidder will work out times and dates with the teacher(s) directly. Many of these experiences also allow your child to choose a friend to attend with them.

What are Spectacular Socials?

These are auction items for a specified number of attendees at a set price. If you are interested in joining the group, simply add your name and bidder number to the list. You will pay the set fee and are guaranteed to be part of the fun. There are a limited number of spots for each Spectacular Social sign-up, so if you are interested in something specific, go early! These fun groups range from a fun Mama's & Margaritas night, Ben's Brigade Meat Fest, group exercise classes, or learning a skill.

If you would like to host a Spectacular Social, visit bfacademy.ptapal.com. Or, if you prefer, you may contact Sabina Boeckman at sabinap77@msn.com.

I would like to donate an item.

Thank you very much! We are grateful for your support. Visit bfacademy.ptapal.com sign up to donate your item(s). Or, if you prefer, you may contact Shele Steel at silentauction@bfacademy.org.

I have a business and would like to be a sponsor.

Thank you very much! We are grateful for your support! We have sponsorship opportunities available at the following levels:

- Platinum Plus Sponsor \$3,000 - One Available
- Platinum Sponsor \$2,000 - Two Available
- Gold Sponsor \$1,000 - Four Available
- Silver Sponsor \$500 - Six Available
- Bronze Sponsor \$250 - Six Available

In addition, we have BENefit Bash sponsorship packages available for the following:

- "Auctioneer" Sponsorship \$2,000 - One Available
- "Bar" Sponsorship \$1,000 - Two available
- "Check Out" Sponsorship \$1,000 - One available
- "Wine Wall/Growler Grab" Sponsorship \$1,000 - One available

A complete list of the benefits available at each sponsorship level can be found at www.bfacademy.org/sponsors. Please contact Denise Battista at ptosponsors@bfacademy.org for more information.

I have a business and would like to advertise in the BENefit Bash auction catalog.

We offer opportunities to purchase advertising space in the BENefit Bash 2017 Catalog. The advertising space is available as follows:

- Full Page Color Ad = \$225
- Full Page Black & White Ad = \$175
- 1/2 Page Color Ad = \$125
- 1/2 Page Black & White Ad = \$100
- 1/4 Page Color Ad = \$75
- 1/4 Page Black & White Ad = \$60

Please contact Denise Battista at ptosponsors@bfacademy.org for more information.

I don't have a business, but I have great contacts in the community. How can I help?

Donations are still needed for the Benefit Bash! If you have any personal connections to businesses or individuals who are in a position to donate something amazing to our auctions, please reach out to them NOW! They can easily mail it or drop it off at the school (or we can arrange for someone to do pick-ups as well). We must have all items by October 5 to ensure they are listed in the catalog.

You can use the following link to sign up bfacademy.ptapal.com

If you prefer, you can forward the contact info to silentauction@bfacademy.org and we will follow up and provide them with a donation letter and tax receipt.

WISH LIST:

- Weekend or week at mountain condos/homes;
- Tickets to Sporting events, concerts, shows;
- Unique Experiences;
- Restaurant Gift Certificates;
- Ski Equipment, Lessons, Lift Tickets, etc.

We would like to have all the donations to the school by Thursday, October 5.

If each family acquires one donation we could all make this Benefit Bash a huge success and secure funds that will be used for the 2017/2018 school year!

Are volunteers still needed?

Absolutely! Are you interested in helping out with BFA's biggest fundraiser of the year? We need your help to make this important event grow! Please consider joining the BENefit Bash Committee. It is a great way to meet other BFA parents, earn volunteer hours, and help the school. There are many volunteer opportunities for the 2017 BENefit Bash still available: procure donations from the comfort of your home; pick up donations from local businesses; create themed baskets; or volunteer at check-in or check-out the night of the event. We need your help to make this vital fundraising event a success! Please contact us at silentauction@bfacademy.org or attend our monthly PTO meeting on October 19th at 6:30 in the BFA science lab.

What if I can't come to the BENefit Bash, but I still want to participate?

We will be hosting an Online Auction after the event until mid-December (similar to EBay). Anyone can participate, including family and friends who live out of town.

Donations can be made on the BFA Store at www.bfacademystore.org. You can also see if your employer has a company Matching Gifts policy.

Why are we having the BENefit Bash instead of the Fun Run?

We like to think of it as alternating fundraising opportunities. For 2017-2018 we'll have the BENefit Bash. For 2018-2019 we'll have something similar to last year's Fun Run. Everyone has a favorite fundraiser and this way we get to enjoy everything!

Why is the BENefit Bash in the fall instead of the spring?

There are several reasons we moved the BENefit Bash to the fall. One of the main reasons our fundraiser was moved was so that we'll be able to use proceeds from the auction to fund purchases for this school year. We all enjoy the rare opportunity for immediate gratification!

Another factor is venue. It is challenging to find a location that can accommodate our average attendance of 250 people; 500+ auction items; and a live auction. These venues are also the only locations that can hold large proms and weddings. Thus, spring is a challenging time period.

Additionally, we are hoping that by having the event in the fall, families can do a bit of holiday shopping in a fun atmosphere instead of having to turn November/December Date Nights into frantic trips to the mall.

What has the BENefit Bash done for BFA in the past?

Funds from the BENefit bash have purchased playground equipment, the rock climbing wall, the tech lab, thousands of library books, continued upgrades to our technology labs, provided teachers with equal shares of funds collected to purchase items for their classrooms. The list goes on and on.