

Frequently asked questions about Gift Cards

DO I HAVE TO BUY GIFT CARDS? No, but I wish you would. The school has requested that each family contribute \$100 either in volunteer hours, in-kind donations (with receipt) and/or gift card purchases. It is up to you how you chose to donate to the school. The nice thing about gift cards is that you receive full face value of your gift card at a merchant that you already frequent, and you still contribute to the school.

HOW MANY GIFT CARDS DO I HAVE TO PURCHASE? As many or as little as you like. You only purchase the gift cards that you need. Orders deadlines fall on the last day of the month and around the 14th of each month. We deposit checks on the 1st and 15th and gift cards are generally available by the 5th and 20th of each month, depending on holidays and weekends. Only fully paid orders are released to be filled. **Checks should be made out to U Prep Scrip.**

WHY SHOULD I BUY GIFT CARDS? Why not? Everybody shops somewhere that takes a gift card. A \$25 Starbucks card has a 7% rebate. That means it's worth \$1.75 back to the school, not much. However, if 10 people purchased a \$25 Starbucks card, it would add up to \$17.50 per month. Now, if those 10 people did that every month for a 10 month school year, that would mean \$175.00 to the school. That's just in Starbuck's cards.

WHAT DO THE GIFT CARDS LOOK LIKE? They look exactly like a gift card you would purchase in a store. They have full face value on them and some are reloadable through our ShopWithScrip.com program. You can't tell a school purchased gift card from a store purchased gift card because there is no difference.

HOW ARE GIFT CARD CONTRIBUTIONS FIGURED? U Prep purchases gift cards at a discount rate (anywhere from 2% to 20%). When a family buys a gift card, your donation account is credited the difference between the purchase price and the face value of the gift card.

WHAT? For example, Holiday Market gift cards have a 10% rebate on their gift cards. For a \$100.00 U Prep order, Holiday Market sells it to us for \$90.00. That is a 10% or \$10.00 discount. A U Prep family purchases that gift card for \$100 (face value). The school has now made \$10.00 and the family is credited \$10.00 toward their donation contributions.

HOW DO I REACH THAT GOAL? Easy! Make a conscious effort to purchase gift cards each month for groceries, gas, that random birthday present and watch your contributions grow. Here is an example of a typical month of purchases.

\$100.00 Arco AM/PM gas card 2% rebate = \$2.00 in contributions
\$ 50.00 Holiday gift card 10% rebate = \$5.00 in contributions
\$ 10.00 Jamba Juice card 7% rebate = \$0.70 in contributions
\$ 25.00 Barnes & Noble gift card 9% rebate = \$2.25 in contributions
\$ 20.00 Burrito Bandito certificate 10% rebate = \$2.00 in contributions
\$ 10.00 Starbuck's gift card 7% rebate = \$0.70 in contributions

By using the above example you contributed \$12.65 to U Prep just by using gift cards for some of your regular monthly purchases. In addition, that \$12.65 is credited to your donation account and you received full face value on all of the cards. No fees or reduced value. These are purchases you would have made anyway, but you stopped and purchased gift cards first. Way to go!