

RIDGEFIELD ACADEMY TUITION ASSISTANCE UPDATE

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Contents

Welcome	1
FAQ	1
Did You Know?	2
Looking for an Overview?	2
Tuition Assistance Workshop at Ridgefield Academy	2

Welcome from the Financial Aid Office!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide specialized information to current and prospective Landmark Preschool (LP) and Ridgefield Academy (RA) families about the schools' tuition assistance process.

This is our seventh year with FA newsletters, and I hope you will find it useful. The tuition assistance process can feel like a daunting one at times, and one of my chief goals is to partner with you to simplify and de-mystify it as much as possible.

Over the course of the school year, these newsletters will include helpful tips about the process, educate families about Landmark Preschool and Ridgefield Academy's commitment to tuition assistance, and increase communication between school and home on this very important topic.

Believe it or not, the time is upon us to contemplate the 2020-2021 school year

already, so please do read through the attachments and familiarize yourself with the information. They include a one page overview to answer as many of the "nuts and bolts" of the what/when/where/how variety, a FAQ regarding tuition assistance, and some information specific to our Landmark Preschool and Ridgefield Academy tuition assistance program.

As I work my way through my seventh financial aid application cycle at RA (though certainly not my first with financial aid; this is my 26th year in independent schools, and 22nd working with financial aid!), I look forward to working with you as we strive to make access and affordability a reality for as many families as possible in our Landmark Preschool and Ridgefield Academy communities. -David Suter

Answering some FAQ about FA at RA and LP

Q: When can I start the financial aid process for 2020-2021?

A: Beginning now, you can log-in to solutionsbysss.com/parents and complete your Parents Financial Statement (PFS)

Q: Can I complete a paper application or do I have to go online?

A: School and Student Services (SSS) by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) has "gone green" and no longer accepts paper applications.

Q: What is the deadline to apply for aid for the 2020-2021 school year?

A: January 15, 2020 is the due date for completing the PFS to be considered for the first round of aid awards; applications completed after that date will be subject to a rolling, or funds available, evaluation.

Q: What other forms do I have to submit to have a completed file?

A: Families must submit 2018 & 2019 1040's & W-2's, at least, in addition to their PFS. These can be uploaded to the SSS website.



Solutionsbysss.com is a valuable online resource to aid you in your application process

“The time is now to begin the financial aid process for 2020-2021. If you need assistance with the process, let us know!”

Looking for an online overview of the process?

In addition to attending an in-person evening workshop on November 19th, you might go to the website <https://www.solutionsbysss.com/parents/resources> for a great online overview. On this helpful website, you can identify financial aid options and take the guesswork out of making an independent school education more affordable.

You might consider reading the “Family Guide to Financial Aid,” downloadable in

PDF form. You can also download an ebook called [Understanding Financial Aid](#), or review the five most common sources of aid. Finally, you can see FAQ’s, look at relevant case studies, and browse the NAIS guiding principles for families.

Whether it is reading their documents, calling their toll-free support helpline, or applying online, SSS by NAIS is there!

How about coming in to talk, one-to-one?

One of the best parts about being at a small independent school is having the ability to build relationships.

Parents are invited to come in at any time and sit down with the Director to talk about your application for aid. Your submitted personal information is confidential, and held in confidence by the aid committee.

Each family has a unique set of circumstances, and every parent may have their own questions. So, at any point you want to get further clarification, give a call or send an email so that we can meet!

Did you know that....?

...27% of the student body at Landmark Preschool & Ridgefield Academy receives tuition assistance.

...the school granted \$2 million for the 2019-2020 school year.

...the average need-based award for this year is \$12,615.

...families may have more than one child enrolled and receive tuition assistance.

...more than 2,100 schools use SSS to help with tuition assistance.

...more than 160,000 families work through SSS each year to receive tuition assistance from their children’s private or independent school.

[Come Learn More About the Tuition Assistance Program at RA & Landmark Preschools!](#)

[When: Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 at 7:00pm](#)

[Where: Summit Building, Ridgefield Academy](#)

Cookies, coffee and conversation about the tuition assistance program with time for Q & A at the end