

WELCOME FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE!

David M. Suter | Associate Head of School & Director of Enrollment



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

This is my twelfth year with FA newsletters, and I hope you will find them 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 2025-2026 school year already, so please do read through the entire newsletter and familiarize yourself with the information. This year, Ridgefield Academy is excited to announce that for 2025-26, we have chosen Clarity as our new financial aid application system. You will find that Clarity offers a streamlined and user-friendly financial aid process that can take as few as twenty minutes to complete. It is mobile-friendly, so you can complete your application on your phone or tablet. Clarity has many tools to help you with the process and answer as many of the "nuts and bolts" of the what/when/where/how variety regarding tuition assistance.

As I work my way through my twelfth financial aid application cycle at RA, 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

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 Looking For An Overview?
[Family Application Webinar](#)
 on 10/28/2024 @ 6:30pm

**APPLY
 NOW!**

<https://app.clarityapp.com/sign-in>
 to start the process now!
 When prompted, please use the
code 8251 for RA!

THE TIME IS NOW TO BEGIN THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS FOR 2025-2026 IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH THE PROCESS, LET US KNOW!

LOOKING FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS?

You might go to the website

<https://www.clarityschools.com/quick-reference-guide>

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 also consider reading the "[Family Application Guide](#)," review the "[Video Introduction](#)," and/or refer to the "[Quick Reference Guide](#)" to help answer any questions you might have.

Whether it is reading their documents, calling their toll-free support helpline (206-210-3752), emailing for support (support@clarityapp.com), clicking the "Help" button in the lower left corner of the app, or applying online, Clarity is there to help!

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!

Family Information Webinar:

Join Clarity for an event designed to empower families who are interested in financial aid for private and independent schools!

When: October 28, 2024 @ 6:30pm ET

[Register Here](#)

FAQ'S

Q: When can I start the financial aid process for 2025-2026?

A: Beginning now, you can log-in to <http://app.clarityapp.com/sign-in> to start the process. Code: 8251 for Ridgefield Academy.

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

A: Clarity does not accept paper applications, but is mobile-friendly, so you can complete your application on your phone or tablet.

Q: What is the deadline to apply for aid for the 2025-2026 school year?

A: January 1, 2025 is the due date for completing the application and 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 forms do I have to submit to have a completed file?

A: Families must submit your 2023 Federal Income Tax Return with all supporting schedules. Clarity has streamlined this process - sign & submit a Form 4506c to give Clarity permission to pull your prior year tax returns.

DID YOU KNOW...



\$2.5 MILLION
granted in tuition assistance
granted for the 2024-2025
school year



\$18,586
average need-based award
for the 2024-2025 school
year



> 1
families may have more than
one child enrolled & receive
tuition assistance.



20%
of the student body at
Landmark Preschool & RA
receives tuition assistance