COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL K-8

2027/2028 STUDENT APPLICATION
MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-7)

STAGE I: PARENT VISIT
Tour of school or attendance at either the *Discover Countryside* Open House on Sunday, September 27, 2026 or the Middle School Admissions Webinar on Tuesday, February 23, 2027.

STAGE II: WRITTEN APPLICATION
Our Middle School utilizes rolling admissons. After a completed applicaton is received, the admissions committee will review the applicant's file. Applications are reviewed as they are received and decisions are issued continuously until the class is full.

Please review the enclosed application instructions and checklist on the inside back cover.

STAGE III: STUDENT VISIT
All-day visit to Countryside School for applicants for whom there is a potential opening. Once the written application is received, the student visit will be arranged. Decisions will be made within 1-2 weeks after the student visit.

Nondiscrimination Policy: Countryside School admits academically qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual identity, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Dear Prospective Family,

Thank you very much for your interest in Countryside School! We offer a unique educational opportunity for middle school students, with exceptional preparation for high school in a warm and secure environment.

Countryside School enrolls students through an application process. The procedure helps identify students who will most benefit from the philosophy and goals of the school program.

To qualify for admission, a student should be working at or above grade level in all subjects and be able to work successfully in the Countryside environment, as evidenced in Stage III of the application process.

Enclosed is an Admission Application Packet for Middle School. Parents are requested to visit the school on an individual tour or attend one of our information events before the written application is submitted so that you may better understand the mission and philosophy of the school.

You and your student are invited to attend the **Middle School Admissions Webinar** on **Tuesday, February 23**, at 7 p.m. Webinar registration will be available on our website in December. In-person student visits are scheduled as part of the final stage of the application process.

If you have any questions relating to the procedures or forms, please contact our Admissions Office at admissions@countrysideschool.org. Again, thank you for your interest in Countryside School. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,



Krystal Young
Head of School

COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL K-8

WRITTEN APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Our Middle School utilizes rolling admissons. After a completed applicaton is received, the admissions committee will review the applicant's file. Applications are reviewed as they are received and decisions are issued continuously until the class is full.

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

- [ ] Applicant information sheet with photo
- [ ] $100 non-refundable application fee
- [ ] Parent questionnaire
- [ ] Student questionnaire
- [ ] Evidence of performance at or above grade level
  - Progress report from the current year and last year
  - Most recent standardized testing results (if available)
- [ ] Recommendation form from this year's teacher (one required; up to three accepted)
- [ ] Financial aid application (if relevant). Please read the Financial Aid page in this packet, and access the financial aid application link on our website.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please contact us with any questions you have about the application process.

Submit your completed forms to:

Admissions
Countryside School
4301 W. Kirby Ave.
Champaign, IL 61822

or email to admissions@countrysideschool.org

Phone: 217.355.1253
Fax: 217.355.7492

Thank you for your interest in Countryside School.



Please attach recent photo here

COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL

4301 W. Kirby Ave.
Champaign, Illinois 61822
217.355.1253 • fax 217.355.7492

OFFICE USE

Date Received: _____

Date Fee Paid: _____

All information provided to the school is strictly confidential

APPLICANT INFORMATION FOR 2027/2028

This form is to be completed by a parent or guardian of the applicant. A $100 non-refundable application fee must be attached. The fee covers processing and screening costs and will not be applied toward tuition.

APPLICANT

☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ _____ For Grade _____

Full Legal Name _____

Name student prefers (nickname) _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Place of Birth _____ Citizenship _____

List schools attended (begin with current school year)

_____ _____

_____ _____

PARENTS

1st Parent ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐ Ms.

Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____

Email _____

2nd Parent ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐ Ms.

Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____

Email _____

Parents are separated or divorced? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, with whom is the applicant living? _____

Should correspondence be mailed to both parents? ☐ 1st Parent ☐ 2nd Parent ☐ Both Parents

Employer _____

Occupation _____

Business Address _____

Work Number _____

Email _____

Employer _____

Occupation _____

Business Address _____

Work Number _____

Email _____

Who referred you to Countryside or how did you learn about the school?

_____

I certify that the information provided on this application is accurate and complete.

_____ _____

Parent's or guardian's signature Date

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PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE - PART 1

The information you provide below and the following checklist will help us get a sense of your child's abilities, interests, and personal style. Feel free to add any information you think might be useful in giving us a good picture of your child.

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Sibling _____ Date of Birth _____

Sibling _____ Date of Birth _____

Sibling _____ Date of Birth _____

Language spoken at home _____

1. What four adjectives best describe your child?

_____ _____

_____ _____

2. Please describe the strengths and talents that you perceive in your child.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. What are your child's special interests and hobbies?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Please describe any areas that you feel need to be particularly encouraged in your child's growth and development.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

[Continued on reverse side]

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE - PART 1 (Continued)

5. Please describe your child's organization, time management skills, and emotional ability to handle new situations (for example: learning new material, being in a new social situation).

6. What are your goals for your child?

7. Has your child been tested or evaluated for possible learning disabilities? If so, please list recommendations.

8. Does your child have any chronic medical or psychological conditions or disabilities of which we should be aware? If so, please explain.

9. Why do you think Countryside School would be a good match for your child?

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PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE - PART 2

Please indicate with an “X” which category best describes your child for each of the behaviors listed below. Using a range of ratings helps us to better understand your child’s greatest strengths. If you wish, comments may be added to provide further explanation.

	usually	**sometimes**	**rarely**
Is a self-starter, takes initiative	☐	☐	☐
Is very creative; original; imaginative	☐	☐	☐
Gets absorbed in topics; seeks out information	☐	☐	☐
Has a good memory	☐	☐	☐
Shows unusual reasoning power	☐	☐	☐
Tries to excel	☐	☐	☐
Is happy working independently	☐	☐	☐
Gets along well with other students	☐	☐	☐
Respects authority	☐	☐	☐
Responds well to redirection or correction	☐	☐	☐
Has a great interest in mathematics	☐	☐	☐
Demonstrates great interest in science or mechanics	☐	☐	☐
Reads avidly	☐	☐	☐

	excellent	**satisfactory**	**needs work**
Child’s time management skills	☐	☐	☐
Child’s organization skills	☐	☐	☐

Please check the math levels your child has completed in school:

☐ Grade 5 math ☐ Grade 6 math ☐ Pre-algebra ☐ Other

What level math is your child doing in school this year? _____

Additional comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Please *handwrite* your answers:

Full Legal Name _____

Name you prefer (nickname) _____

Applying for Grade _____ Current School _____

1. Please describe yourself using four adjectives:

_____ _____

_____ _____

2. What is your favorite subject in school and why?

3. What is your least favorite subject? Why?

[Continued on reverse side]

4. What are your major interests outside of school work?

5. If you could spend a day with anyone, whom would you choose? Why?

6. Is there anything else we should know about you?

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RECOMMENDATION FORM

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 6-7 FOR 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR

To the applicant: Please print the student's name on the first line below and give this form to a current teacher.

Name of Student _____ Applying for Grade _____

Current School _____ Current Grade _____

To the recommendation writer: The above-named student is an applicant for admission to Countryside School. Countryside School is dedicated to offering a challenging and rewarding program to students who are motivated to learn. We would appreciate your candid and confidential evaluation of the applicant. **Please e-mail the completed form (or photographs of both pages) directly to admissions@countrysideschool.org or mail to: Admissions, Countryside School, 4301 W. Kirby Avenue, Champaign, IL 61822. Please mark the envelope CONFIDENTIAL.** This form is for Admissions Committee review only. It is not available for applicant or parental review.

In what grades and subjects do you or did you teach this applicant? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Please circle the words that you feel describe this student:

aggressive	confident	easily discouraged	irritable	organized	self-centered
anxious	conscientious	follower	loner	over-protected	self-disciplined
articulate	cooperative	happy	manipulative	perfectionist	shy
average	disobedient	helpful	motivated	positive leader	social
cheerful	distractible	honest	negative leader	responsible	well-liked

Academic Traits	**Advanced for Age**	**Appropriate For Age**	**Needs Development**	**Below Age Level**	**Comments**
Academic potential	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Academic achievement	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Self-motivation	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Effort/initiative	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Intellectual curiosity	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Attention span	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Organization/study skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Commitment to homework	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Ability to follow directions	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Ability to work independently	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Ability to work in a group	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Ability to express ideas orally	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Ability to express ideas in writing	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Use of time	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Participation in class	☐	☐	☐	☐	

[Continued on reverse side]

RECOMMENDATION FORM FOR STUDENTS (Continued)

Character and Personality

Conduct	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Leadership	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Emotional maturity	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Self-confidence	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Integrity	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Sense of responsibility	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Social relationship with peers	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Interaction with adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Sense of humor	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Creativity	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Respect for others	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Concern for others	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Please write a few words of recommendation in the space provided below. Include your impressions about this student's academic ability, work habits, and relationships with peers.

Please comment on this applicant's attendance, behavior in the classroom, attitude, emotional maturity, and ability to function in their stretch zone:

Please describe parental expectations, cooperation, and involvement with the school.

Math Level _____ Textbook Used _____

I recommend this candidate:

☐ Enthusiastically ☐ Strongly ☐ Fairly Strongly ☐ Without Enthusiasm ☐ Not Recommended

Name _____ Position _____

School _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Date _____

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Countryside School offers an after school care program each school day from 3:00 to 5:45 p.m. Our Extended Day Program includes children from all our grade levels K-8, supervised by two adults. The social climate is that of a neighborhood play group, with outdoor play time and time set aside for homework or quiet time. Healthy snacks are provided. Our current average enrollment is 35 students per day.

The program is flexible, and students may attend on either an everyday or selected day basis - or even part time following another after-school activity. Each day consists of two consecutive sessions. Session 1 which includes a snack, runs from 3:00 to 4:00 pm and curently costs $12 per day. Session 2 runs from 4:00 to 5:45 pm and currently costs $15 per day. (Students who need extended day accommodation *after* participating in after school clubs attend only session 2.) On noon dismissal days, we offer an earlier session from noon to 3 pm. *Extended Day fees for 2027-28 will be set in August.*

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The activities listed below were offered in the past year (subject to change). Fees vary by activity with different clubs offered each trimester.

SPORTS

Our athletic teams practice 2 or 3 days a week and play competitively against other schools. These teams are offered for grades 6-8.

Coed Soccer	August - October
Girls' Basketball	September - November
Boys' Basketball	October - January
Girls' Volleyball	December - February

Our club sports meet 2 days a week and do not play other schools. Typically, the following clubs are offered:

Cross Country	grades 4-8, fall
Coed Basketball	grades 4-6, winter/spring
Coed Volleyball	grades 6-8, winter/spring
Coed Archery	grades 6-8, spring
Coed Track	grades 4-8, spring

ART CLUBS

Art	grades K-1
Art	grades 2-3
Crafting Crew	grades 3-4
Art	grades 4-5
Clay Creations	grades 4-5
Painting	grades 4-5
Felt Hand Sewing	grades 4-8
Anime	grades 6-8
Cardboard Creations	grades 6-8
Yearbook	grades 7-8

SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS

Group Piano	grades K-1
Little Scientists	grades 1-2
Adventure Theater	grades 1-3
Makers Club (creative problem solving)	grades 2-3
Story to Stage	grades 2-3
Artsfusion	grades 3-4
Book Nook	grades 3-4
Movieventures (making movies)	grades 3-4
Kindness Project Club	grades 3-5
Skit City	grades 3-5
Artificial Intelligence in Daily Life	grades 4-5
Board Games: Make & Play	grades 4-5
Coding Club	grades 4-5
Battle of the Books	grades 4-5
Dungeons & Dragons	grades 4-6
Disc Golf Club	grades 5-8
Comic Book Club	grades 5-8
Movie Making	grades 6-8
No Spoilers Book Club	grades 6-8
Dungeons & Dragons	grades 6-8

ACADEMIC COMPETITIVE TEAMS

MathCounts	grades 6-8
Scholastic Bowl	grades 6-8
FIRST LEGO League	grades 5-8

HONOR SOCIETIES

Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad (Spanish)
Chinese Honor Society

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TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

Countryside uses the model of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) for middle school students. BYOD programs enhance student learning in the following ways:

- Students who bring their own devices from home are already familiar with and comfortable using the device, thus increasing productivity.
- Students take care of and are responsible for their device, leading to better outcomes in digital citizenship.
- Having the same device at school and at home creates a seamless opportunity for learning.
- Students' mobile devices tend to be more cutting-edge than what we as a school can provide.

We do not recommend any specific device over another. Students can use a laptop, Chromebook, or tablet with attached keyboard.

Students are provided with a school email account for our Learning Management System.

Phones are not permitted in class without permission from the classroom teacher. Phones remain turned off and in the students' lockers during the day. **Smart watches are also not permitted in class.**

COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that, in order to prepare students for life in an ever more diverse society, a school should strive to attract a qualified student body that reflects the diversity of that society. To achieve this goal, it is essential that the ability to pay full tuition not be the deciding factor in attending Countryside. Therefore, Countryside offers need-based financial aid.

The school's budget provides funds for such aid. This aid is intended as a supplement to family resources, and awards are made to families whose ability to pay school costs is limited. Admission decisions are made independently of financial aid decisions and without knowledge of aid requests, which in no way affect an applicant's chances for admission. The admission procedure and the Financial Aid Program are open to students of any race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, or gender orientation.

PROCEDURE

New families submit a financial aid application at the same time as the application for admission. The Financial Aid Committee evaluates applications according to a standardized format. Newly admitted students will be notified of their financial aid award at the same time as they are notified of acceptance. Returning families must submit their application by February 15.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

To meet the yearly financial obligation of tuition, families have the option of 4 payment plans: annual, semi-annual, quarterly, or monthly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Does applying for financial aid influence the admissions decision?

A: No. Countryside School does not use financial need as a consideration in determining a student's eligibility for admission. The admission and financial aid processes are completely separate. Decisions regarding financial aid are not made until after the admission decision.

Q: Is financial aid a loan? Does it need to be paid back?

A: Financial aid is not a loan. It is a reduction in tuition and does not need to be paid back.

Q: Is there an income cutoff for financial aid?

A: No. Need will vary depending on the number of family members and family circumstances. There is no fixed income limit for aid. A variety of factors are considered, including family income, assets, liabilities, number of children attending Countryside, and extenuating circumstances.

Q: How do I apply for financial aid?

A: We use the online service from Clarity to process applications for financial aid. Please access the link on our school's website Afford page: **www.countrysideschool.org/clarity** and follow the instructions for the Clarity Application Procedure.

Q: When do I apply for financial aid?

A: Families applying to Countryside should submit their application for financial aid at the time that they apply for admission.

Q: Is financial aid automatically renewed each year?

A: No. Because of the school's varying resources, changing applicant pool, and possible changes in family circumstances, awards are granted only on an annual basis. Returning families must reapply by February 15 for aid for the following school year. Priority is given to families who are currently receiving financial aid, provided that they continue to qualify for aid.

Q: How do I reapply next year?
A: Simply log into the same family account you used this year, confirm your pre-filled data or update any fields with changes.

Q: When will I be notified of my award?
A: Newly admitted students will be notified of their financial aid award at the same time as they are notified of acceptance. For returning students, we work with the families to coordinate the deadlines for tuition contract return and the award of financial aid.

Q: How much financial aid could I expect to receive?
A: Using the financial analysis from Clarity, the Financial Aid Committee determines the family's award. A variety of factors are considered, including family income, assets, liabilities, number of children attending Countryside, and extenuating circumstances. In general, the maximum award will be no more than 50% of tuition.

Q: Is the application process confidential?
A: All requests, forms, and awards are kept strictly confidential among the Financial Aid Committee.

Q: Can I receive financial aid to cover supply fees?
A: No. Each family is responsible for paying the yearly supply fee.

Q: What is the New Student Enrollment Fee and does financial aid cover this fee?
A: The New Student Enrollment Fee is a one-time fee for new students and is not covered by financial aid. However, it is taken into consideration by the Financial Aid Committee in calculating the financial aid award. If paying the entire New Student Enrollment Fee in one lump sum is a hardship, a family can arrange with the Business Office for an installment plan for payment.

For more information about tuition, financial aid, and payment options, please contact:

Business Office
accounting@countrysideschool.org
Phone 217.355.1253
Fax 217.355.7492

FOR REFERENCE

COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL

Tuition and fees for the 2027-2028 school year will be set by December 1

TUITION AND FEES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

GRADES	TUITION	REQUIRED FEES
K - 5	$17,775	$600 Student Supply Fee - Due on July 1, 2026
6 - 8	$18,230	$700 Student Supply Fee - Due on July 1, 2026

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT FEE

All new students* accepted to Countryside School for the 2026-2027 school year are required to pay a one-time New Student Enrollment Fee as follows:

New Student Enrollment Fee $1,000 Due 5 days after acceptance

Failure to pay the New Student Enrollment Fee by the due date will result in the cancellation of admission. This fee is non-refundable even if the student does not subsequently attend Countryside or withdraws prior to the end of the academic year.

*The maximum total fee per family is $2,000, regardless of the number of children in the family ever enrolled.

FINANCING OPTIONS 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

PAYMENT PLAN	TUITION K-5	TUITION 6-8	DUE DATES
Annual	One payment of $17,775	One payment of $18,230	• 10 days after receipt of tuition and fees contract
Semi-Annual	Two payments of $8,937.50	Two payments of $9,165.00	• 10 days after receipt of tuition and fees contract • August 15, 2026
Quarterly	Four payments of $4,493.75	Four payments of $4,607.50	• 10 days after receipt of tuition and fees contract • May 15, 2026 • August 15, 2026 • November 15, 2026
Monthly (includes supply fee)	Twelve payments of $1,556.25**	Twelve payments of $1,602.50**	• 15th of every month beginning February 15, 2026 and ending January 15, 2027 (amount of the first payment is the total due to date and is due 10 days after receipt of tuition and fees contract)

All payment options other than annual include a processing fee. For all payment options other than monthly, the supply fee is due on July 1, 2026. **The monthly payment amount includes the supply fee and processing fee.

REFUND POLICY

Upon signing the tuition contract, the parents/guardians are financially responsible and obligated for the full amount of tuition. If the student withdraws, the amounts paid, **less the amounts specified below**, will be refunded to the parent/guardian:

If the student has withdrawn, the amount retained is:

Notice given prior to March 1	10% of annual tuition
Notice given prior to April 1	25% of annual tuition
Notice given prior to July 1	50% of annual tuition
Notice given July 1 to start of classes	60% of annual tuition
Notice given after classes start	60% of annual tuition + prorated tuition for the enrolled period, not to exceed full tuition

If a student is dismissed from Countryside School, the tuition will be pro-rated to the date of dismissal. Any tuition paid beyond the pro-rated amount will be refunded.

The New Student Enrollment Fee is non-refundable in all cases. The Student Supply Fee is non-refundable if a student has attended classes.

Countryside School is an independent K-8 school that fosters high academic achievement, develops creative and critical thinking skills, and emphasizes balanced growth - intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially - for every student.

For more information, please visit our website
www.countrysideschool.org

ISACS
independent schools association of the central states
Accredited Member School

INDEPENDENT. **SINCE 1992.**

Countryside School is fully accredited through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (www.isacs.org) and is recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. The extensive ISACS accreditation process, which must be repeated every seven years, assures that the school adheres to the highest quality educational and operational standards, and it holds the school accountable for achieving our mission *Joy in Learning, Excellence in Education.*

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL?
Independent schools are unique. Each is founded with a distinct mission – a specific, well-defined approach to education. These schools are non-profit and governed by a board of trustees. They are supported through tuition dollars and charitable contributions, and they do not receive government funding. Independent schools typically belong to an accrediting organization such as ISACS.

Joy in Learning
Excellence in Education

COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL

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