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
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