

CHESTERFIELD MONTESSORI SCHOOL

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

TUITION ASSISTANCE POLICY

CMS is committed to providing an authentic Montessori program for children of diverse backgrounds. Acceptance of students is made independent from tuition assistance requirements. To ensure the long-term quality of the education we offer, we feel it is essential to maintain racial, social and economic diversity.

Chesterfield Montessori School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, tuition assistance programs and any school-administered programs.

FUNDS

The Head of School will identify a dollar amount, not to exceed 5% per year, from the Operating Fund to be dedicated annually to financial assistance as part of the budget approved by the Board of Directors.

Additionally, any restricted contributions to CMS, earmarked for Tuition Assistance, will be added to the funds available for tuition assistance awards. At its discretion, the Tuition Assistance Committee will award all or part of the available funds in a given school year.

Any amounts not awarded will be returned to the Operating Fund, except that any Tuition Assistance Restricted Contributions not awarded will carry over to the next school year. Such contributions, together with any interest earned on them, will be made available for tuition assistance awards for the following school year.

TUITION ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The CMS Tuition Assistance Committee (TAC) consists of three members, including the Business Manager and two parents nominated by the Head of School. Each TAC Member shall serve for a term of one year. Committee members may be re-nominated for an unlimited number of successive terms. The purpose of this Committee is to administer and approve the CMS Tuition Assistance Program. Committee members sign confidentiality agreements to assure that all applications are handled in confidence. The Committee submits recommendations for tuition assistance to the CMS Board of Directors for final approval.

CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

Tuition assistance awards are based on a family's demonstrated financial need, number of children enrolled at CMS, commitment to the school and the availability of tuition assistance funding. An independent firm, School and Students Service for Financial Aid (SSS), which specializes in the evaluation of tuition assistance applications, analyzes the financial criteria for each applicant. The SSS computation helps the Committee determine the amount of need for tuition assistance for each family. This information, along with the other award criteria, is used to make an award recommendation.

Once an award is granted, the school reserves the right to withhold it (1) if the students fails to perform current schoolwork at an acceptable level; (2) if the student's behavior or lack of cooperation is deemed unacceptable; (3) if tuition payments are overdue; or (4) if the student leaves the school.