

Montessori International Children's House

Tuition Assistance Guidelines

The decision to provide your child with a Montessori education is an important investment in his future. We work hard to offer our community such an opportunity at an affordable cost, seeking to maintain a variety of families who help make our enrolled population diverse.

We appreciate the sacrifices many parents make to enable their children to attend MICH, and we understand that not all families can afford the full cost of a MICH education. Our school's tuition assistance program was established to further our mission and to assist those families who demonstrate financial need.

Eligibility for Tuition Assistance

Presently, only current MICH students and their siblings are eligible for Tuition Assistance. Financial aid is granted on the basis of demonstrated family need and the availability of funds. Families applying may receive a financial aid grant to cover a portion of their child(ren)'s tuition.

To determine eligibility for financial aid, the Financial Aid Committee relies on information provided by families in the School and Student Service for Financial Aid's Parents' Financial Statement ("PFS"), which is available online at <http://sss.nais.org>. This information helps to determine objectively the contribution each family is able to make toward educational expenses, and enables us to award financial aid based on need, school policies, and available resources. In the case of divorced parents, both parents must complete the PFS, regardless of legal custody.

Confidentiality of Financial Information

The financial records of all applicants are strictly confidential and are reviewed only by the members of the Financial Aid Committee.

All financial aid awards are confidential agreements between the recipient family and the school. MICH does not share any financial aid award information with any other party. Conversely, families may not discuss financial aid information with any party other than a member of the Financial Aid Committee. Families who share financial aid information may be in jeopardy of having their aid withdrawn and may not receive future aid.

Application Process and Timeline

Eligible families who wish to apply for financial aid must apply online by completing a Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) before December 31. The application is available from School and Student Services at <http://sss.nais.org> by November 15. There is an application fee for which the applicant family is responsible. To view the PFS workbook and application instruction booklet, visit this link: <http://tinyurl.com/michPFS16>

Families seeking financial aid must reapply for financial aid each year.

Financial Aid Decisions

The Financial Aid Committee will consider applications for financial aid annually in the month of January.

Applicants are informed of their financial aid award within two weeks of the meeting of the Financial Aid Committee. Upon receipt of the financial aid award letter, families will have seven business days to accept or decline the award in writing. When the award is accepted, the child recipient will be fully enrolled upon the receipt of a signed enrollment contract and

the re-enrollment fee. Contracts are sent home in January and are due back in February. The enrollment contract governs all issues related to enrollment and/or withdrawal of students from MICH.

Financial aid awards are contingent upon the recipient family submitting to MICH a copy of their federal tax return for the calendar year ending December 31 no later than April 15. MICH reserves the right to rescind an award if there is a significant discrepancy between the financial information provided on the application and the figures on the tax return. MICH also reserves the right to withdraw its financial aid commitment to families who are in arrears on tuition payments.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the range of the aid awarded?

Financial aid awards are made based on the demonstrated need of the family; however, the awards will never cover the full cost of tuition. We believe every family should make some financial commitment to their children's education.

When will we receive the money awarded?

Recipients of financial aid awards do not receive an award payment. Rather, the amount of the tuition obligation for the student-recipient is discounted by the amount of the award.

If my child receives aid this year, will it be renewed next year?

Not necessarily. Every family must apply every year to be considered for a tuition assistance award. Receiving an award is not a guarantee of continued awards.

What if we have paid full tuition in the past, but now find we need to apply for aid?

Every family at MICH is important to us. If your financial situation has changed since last year, you may be eligible for financial aid, regardless of whether you paid full tuition or were denied financial aid in previous years. Additionally, if your financial situation changes after the deadline and you find that you are not able to pay the full tuition for the coming year, we encourage you to contact the MICH office to discuss your options.

For More information

Should you have any additional questions regarding the financial aid process, please contact Marge Lohmann at 410-757-7789 before winter vacation begins. After that date, refer to the SSS website.