



THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Affording A Cambridge School Education

We realize that a Cambridge School education, while an excellent investment in your child's future, represents a significant financial commitment. Private education is expensive and we know few families for whom it is not a sacrifice. Families must understand that they bear the primary responsibility for financing their child's education to the extent they are able. However, to ensure that The Cambridge School remains economically diverse, we are committed to offering and growing a generous Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Tuition Assistance is a grant from the school which defrays the cost of tuition for those who qualify.

The Cambridge School's Tuition Assistance Program has been an important part of the school's financial plans since its inception. We desire that the school reflect the larger Christian community in as many ways as possible. In addition to ethnic diversity representative of North County San Diego, broad socio-economic representation among our families is another way that The Cambridge School desires to distinguish itself.

As such, Tuition Assistance is as much a service to the school as it is a service to the families who benefit directly from it. A well-funded, family-income-based Tuition Assistance Program increases the number of qualified candidates who can join our community, and it strengthens every program in the school by including students whose families could not otherwise provide classical and Christian education for their children.

Here are some FAQ's that have come up in conversations with parents:

Why choose Christian schooling?

As parents, we consciously provide the best nutrition possible for our children's growing bodies, whose current and future health likely depends significantly upon the quality and example of our choices in nourishment. Similarly, the intellectual and spiritual health of young minds and souls depends significantly upon the quality of intellectual and spiritual "nourishment" we provide. Good schooling should include 1) both academic challenge and cultivation of critical-thinking skills, 2) patient, consistent cultivation of ethical and moral character as well as good decision-making, 3) an appropriate living curriculum in

the form of the adult models around them, and 4) respect for each child's unique personality and blend of gifts, abilities, and limitations as deserved by an "image-bearer" of God. For these and other reasons, especially in the face of the complex and subtle pressures inherent in the culture of our times, parents often desire the support of Christian schooling to help buttress their efforts at home and to cultivate a Christian worldview in their children.

How do young parents afford the tuition for private schooling?

Many parents simply assume that their budgets cannot afford tuition for quality Christian schooling. Sometimes, however, family or friends (most often, grandparents or godparents) offer to help with the cost, and occasionally, churches contribute a tuition subsidy directly to a Christian school for students from their congregations. In almost all cases, good financial planning can arrange for tuition to be paid with pre-tax dollars, thus reducing the impact upon a family's budget.

What if a family still cannot afford quality Christian schooling?

Some young families—perhaps 1) a single-parent family, 2) a one-income family, 3) one with several children to educate or 4) those in special circumstances of crisis—need more assistance. While trying to use gifts which go into the operating budget of schools to control tuition costs for all of its families, most Christian schools offer some other type of financial aid—usually in the form of discounts for multiple children, church membership etc., which offer a modest degree of help to limited budgets. Some families are, however, still excluded by the cost.

Increasingly, however, visionary schools in pursuit of further quality are recognizing that tuition assistance must be used not to keep schooling "affordable" but to keep schooling "available." They are charging the true cost of educating each child (given a critical mass) while budgeting for and implementing a college-type, family-income-based tuition-assistance calculated and administered by a third-party agency in a confidential process—essentially allowing each family to pay what its income and budget can afford. Such is the case with The Cambridge School, which offers a visionary program of Classical Christian schooling.

How is Tuition Assistance paid for?

A portion of the budget each year is set aside for Tuition Assistance. We consider it as much a budget reality as utilities and rent, not an “extra” to consider *if* there is extra money available.

How do I apply for Tuition Assistance?

Applicants submit an application and financial information to a confidential, third-party assessment agency called FAST. The application fee is \$34.00 and can be accessed through the Cambridge School website www.cambridgeclassical.org under the admissions section. Based on the information parents submit in the FAST application, FAST provides the school with an independent, confidential assessment of a family’s ability to pay for educational expenses. Please be assured that your personal financial information will be held in strict confidence.

If I receive Tuition Assistance, will my child’s teacher know?

No. Tuition Assistance awards are determined by a very small committee. No one outside of that committee and the business office staff knows which families receive assistance.

If I receive Tuition Assistance, will I or my child be treated differently?

No. Our admission policy is “need-blind,” and every person in the school is treated equally in every situation.

Isn’t Tuition Assistance like charity?

In a sense it is, in a sense it is not. It is in that the school has determined that having families from a broad socio-economic spectrum is important to our mission. So families who cannot afford full tuition gain access through the school’s generosity. It is not like ordinary charity in that the whole community benefits from having a better school as a result of the awards.

How does a college-type, family-income-based tuition assistance benefit ALL school families?

Every student and family in a Christian school benefits from tuition assistance provided to some families on a family-income need-basis. How?

- A. A program of tuition-assistance at a Christian school which encourages students whose families could not otherwise afford full tuition to attend bolsters a sense of shared Christian community and mission.
- B. Instead of a community comprised primarily of financially “comfortable” or affluent families, a much broader socio-economic range of families--one more characteristic of a healthy congregation and of the Body of Christ--can receive quality classical and Christian schooling which integrates faith and learning into a comprehensive world and life view and then go on to live intelligently and purposefully in service of God and man.
- C. Tuition assistance enables children to occupy seats otherwise empty, and by adding what a family can afford to pay, this advances a school financially by lowering the average cost per child and extending the reach and influence of its mission by adding new families who could not otherwise join the school community.
- D. The resulting increase in the pool of students allows a school to fund its strategic plan, developing and expanding more rapidly its programming, both academic and co-curricular, and its staffing. Additional students and revenue bring additional opportunities for individualizing among students as well as increasing the number and variety of opportunities to discover and exercise their God-gifted abilities and talents.

Who should apply for Tuition Assistance?

Anyone who is concerned that they may not be able to afford a Cambridge School education for their child(ren) may apply, especially if your total tuition is more than 10% of your family income. Many factors are considered by the company that processes our tuition assistance applications. Applying does not guarantee qualifying, but if your family qualifies, the school will do everything within the parameters of the budget and the award process to meet the need. And, you don’t know if you qualify unless you apply!

We are grateful for all of the parents who have committed themselves to the pursuit of classical and Christian education for their children. Please contact the school at info@cambridgeclassical.org if you need more information about our Tuition Assistance Program. We look forward to continuing this exciting journey with you.