WALDORF
SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE

Financial Aid Information and FAQs for 2016-2017

The Waldorf School of Baltimore is committed to seeking a diversity of backgrounds and incomes within its student body and offers a financial aid program to help accomplish this goal. Awards are made to students whose families qualify for aid on the basis of financial need. In order to fairly determine a family's financial need, the school uses a needs-analysis program administered by TADS. Total income, assets, number of dependents, cost of educating all children in fee-charging institutions, extraordinary expenses, and retirement needs are all taken into consideration. Families who are committed to providing a Waldorf education for their children but are concerned about their ability to pay the tuition should consider applying for financial aid. It is not possible to determine if a family qualifies for a grant without the information provided by the application process; however, families currently receiving grants have average incomes between $60,000 and $120,000. Some families receiving grants fall outside this range.

The primary responsibility for financing a student's independent education rests with the family. Because the demand for financial aid is high, families are advised that they may need to seek additional resources to supplement the school's financial aid program. In most cases, the school can meet only a portion of a family's calculated need. The Financial Aid Committee's decisions are influenced by the availability of funds, the number of applications, the needs within specific classes, and the overall needs of the school. Eligibility for financial aid begins in the kindergarten year. Limited financial aid is available in the full day nursery program if parents are working full-time. The school considers financial aid requests from returning students first. Consequently, funds may not be available to offer financial aid grants to every newly accepted student who qualifies for aid.

All families applying for financial aid must submit the online TADS application for financial aid no later than January 5. Noncustodial parents must also submit the online TADS application no later than January 5. The link to create a TADS account and access the TADS application is available on the school's Financial Aid webpage, or the webpage can be accessed at https://mytads.com/?service=ta. **In addition, all other required supporting information, including final 2015 paystubs, 2014 Federal tax returns, schedules, and W-2s, and Business/Corporation tax returns, if applicable, must be uploaded, faxed or mailed to TADS by the deadline.** Please note: all families must submit copies of their 2014 tax returns to TADS even if they submitted them last year. Financial data submitted by parents is

treated with strict respect for confidentiality. Families who receive a financial aid grant must also upload, fax or mail a copy of their 2015 tax return to TADS by April 17.

The Financial Aid Committee will allocate financial aid awards by mid-February for both returning families and newly accepted families. Applications for financial aid received after the deadline will be processed on a rolling basis only if funds are available. Please read all instructions carefully and pay close attention to the deadlines.

The Waldorf School of Baltimore does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational program, admission policies, financial aid policies, employment practices and other school-administered programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to apply every year?

Yes, families need to apply each year that they are requesting financial aid. The school gives priority to returning families.

What are the application requirements for divorced, separated, never married, or nontraditional families?

All adult family members are expected to participate in the application process. Separated, divorced or never married parents must each submit a TADS application, regardless of any arrangements or legal agreements. If a parent has remarried, both the parent and the step-parent should complete the application. For co-habiting adults, both adults should complete the application. If a parent is "absent," the custodial parent must explain the situation on the financial aid application.

What if both parents are not working?

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the school expects that both parents in a two-parent household should earn income once the youngest child is of elementary school age (grade 1) or older and will impute an income for the non-working parent for purposes of calculating a family's ability to contribute to their child's education. Extenuating circumstances may be explained on the financial aid application.

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What supporting documents are required?

In addition to completing the online TADS application, parents must submit the documents listed at the end of the online application. These documents include 2014 federal income tax returns, schedules, and W-2s, 2015 paystubs, applicable business, corporation, or partnership tax returns, and other supporting documents as requested.. Families may also submit a letter explaining any circumstances they wish to include with their application. The supporting documents may be uploaded, faxed, or mailed to TADS.

Do I need to submit my 2015 Federal Tax Return if I receive a grant?

Yes, the 2015 tax return with schedules and W-2s is due by April 17 and may be uploaded, faxed or mailed to TADS.

Can I get help with my online application?

Yes, TADS offers excellent support. You may call TADS at 1-800-477-8237 Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. During the same time you can go to http://www.mytads.com and click on the icon for live help for an online chat, or you can email your question to support@tads.com. The fax number is 612-548-3326

I am concerned about my ability to pay the tuition, and I have some general questions about the financial aid process at the school. Who should I contact?

Families who are concerned about their ability to afford the tuition are encouraged to apply for financial aid. If you have questions about your payment options or about the financial aid process, please contact Linda Zandler at lzandler@twsb.org or 410-367-6808, ext. 206, or Kathy Lewis at klewis@twsb.org or 410-367-6808, ext. 205.

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