

Whistler Waldorf School
Application for Tuition Adjustment
2009-2010

Dear Parents,

Choosing independent education for your child and family is a decision that requires much contemplation both on a philosophical level and a financial level. In an ideal world we would be able to choose the educational system we want for our children on its relative merit and not on financial means. But, since our current reality is such that alternative choices are not fully-funded by government, we, as an organization, must raise the additional needed funds to pay our teachers, provide a roof over our student's heads and supplies for our classrooms.

While we endeavor to keep our fees as low as possible, it is impossible to not have these fees. And while most teachers in a Waldorf school recognize they chose this job more because it is their life calling than for high financial reward, we, the school community, must take responsibility for providing a livable salary so that they can be free to provide the best education for our children.

When asking for tuition adjustment for your family, please consider the following:

1. What can our family realistically provide to ensure that the school is financially healthy and viable, ensuring that this education is available to my family in the future?
2. Are there any other sources that can be pursued? Is there a parent, grand-parent, or family relative who would be inspired to help with tuition or make a donation to the school?
3. What choices have we made to free-up our financial situation to allow us to contribute to the school?
4. Is our family's need for tuition adjustment temporary? When our financial income changes positively, can we provide more, or can we re-pay the difference?

Essentially, it comes down to personal as well as community responsibility. If it is truly a hardship to your family to pay the full fees then tuition adjustment is available and will be granted confidentially and without judgment. We trust that every family will evaluate their financial situation honestly and provide what they are able to ensure our children get the best education possible.

Application Process:

To apply for tuition adjustment, please:

1. Compose a short cover letter, addressed to the Tuition Adjustment Committee, indicating:
 - i) the details surrounding your application for tuition adjustment,
 - ii) how much tuition adjustment you are asking for, or what you evaluate you are able to contribute, and
 - iii) if temporary, how long you anticipate you will need tuition adjustment.
2. Complete the attached financial worksheet (This can help you determine what level of tuition adjustment you may need.) Please do not put your name on the worksheet.
3. Attach a copy of your family's 2008 Notice of Assessment tax information.
4. Drop off the package in a sealed envelope, marked confidential, with your 2009-10 Enrollment Package, to the school office by **April 20, 2009**, care of Peggy Vogler.

Determining Fees:

1. An independent financial specialist will review the information (in confidence, all names and social insurance numbers will be removed by the TA chairperson) and make recommendations to the TA Chairperson.
2. The TA Chairperson will then contact the family and let them know the level of tuition adjustment granted by July 1, 2009. If the level is higher than the cover letter indicated, the family, if they feel they want to, can provide additional information that the committee may not have considered.
3. The independent financial consultant and the TA Chairman will sign off on a report to be sent, in confidence, to the Whistler Waldorf School book-keeper for entry into the accounts.

Please note that this process is not intended to put up barriers for tuition adjustment, but to ensure that a fair and equitable process is in place so the school can be a healthy, financially responsible, accountable organization, able to provide the best education possible for our children.