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Home of the Cougars



Why a document on tuition and fees?

The purpose of this document is to share the current financial fees and policies for the school year. As a result of the increasing costs to educate children, tuition income has become a more critical component of the general budget. This document outlines the fees and the policies governing tuition, as well as two means of financial assistance. Any other incidental charges will be detailed in the registration materials.

Central Lutheran School

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TUITION AND FEES

Mission Statement

Central Lutheran School assists our congregations and parents by preparing children to become disciples in this life and the life to come.

Enrollment and Admission

Early Registration for 3 year old preschool through 8th grade opens February 1 for families who are members of association congregations and for any families who already have students attending CLS (and are current on their tuition account). Confirmation of seat in class will not be determined until **end of early registration**, with priority given to association members on a first-come, first-served basis.

Regular Registration opens Friday, April 1, 2011, and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Three-year-old preschoolers must be 3 years old by Sept. 15, 2011. Four-year-old preschoolers and Kindergarteners must be 4 or 5 years of age, respectively, by September 15, 2011.

All new students enrolling at CLS shall provide a copy of their birth certificate. All students will be required to meet all immunizations, physical examination and health requirements set by Iowa Code.

The students and parents must respect the purpose and policies of CLS. The administrator will meet with the families of new students to explain the purposes of the school. This requirement may be met in group or individual family meetings.

Permanent records must be received for all new Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Students will not be fully admitted until 1) permanent records are received and 2) the permanent record has been reviewed and approved by the administrator. The administrator will have the final determination as to whether the student will be allowed to enroll.

2011-2012

Registration and Tuition Rates

Estimated 11-12 Cost to Educate each Child: \$4,525

Registration Fees:

- 3 year old Preschool: \$65/child
- K to 8 up to March 31: \$290/child
- K to 8 April 1 and after: \$340/child

Tuition Rates:

- 3 year old member tuition: \$85/mo (plus milk)
- 3 year old non-member tuition: \$90/mo (plus milk)
- 4 year old member/non-member tuition: \$0*
- K to 8 member tuition (yearly):
 - \$1,280 1st child, \$788 2nd, \$420 each addtl child
- K to 8 non-member tuition:
 - \$2,880 1st child, \$1,800 each addtl child

*The Iowa legislature has yet to determine if the State will continue to offer tuition-free preschool for all 4 year olds. CLS reserves the right to charge tuition and registration (comparable to area preschools) if this funding is reduced or eliminated.

Fees and Payment

The Board will set the fees to be charged for tuition and the various programs of the school. Annual fees for the school year will be outlined prior to registration. Incidental charges will also be detailed in the registration materials.

Fees for registration will be due upon receipt of registration. These fees are non-refundable, pending class space and/or administrator approval.

Other fees (lunch, tuition, etc.) will be billed and are due on the first day of each month during the school year beginning September 1.

A late fee of \$10 will be charged to a family's account each time a tuition payment is overdue by more than 5 calendar days. If prompt payment cannot be made, the family may request a temporary late fee exception from the Administrator and must submit an alternate plan for delayed payments in writing. If an account remains delinquent as of May 15, the Board may refer the account to a collection agency.

Textbooks

Student textbooks are considered rental property. If they are not returned in good condition at the conclusion of the school year, a damage assessment will be levied. As textbooks are the property of the school, all textbooks must be returned to the school if a student withdraws prior to the conclusion of the school year.

Financial Assistance

There are two ways families can receive financial assistance at CLS: Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (STO) and Special Partners in Christian Education (SPICE). Both programs are described below.

Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization

The Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (STO) has been established to assist families who want a Lutheran education for their children. The Iowa Lutheran STO is affiliated with the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education. You may download the application online at www.IowaLutheranSTO.org or request an application from the school office.

These criteria must be met in order to be eligible for assistance from the Iowa Lutheran STO:

1. The child(ren) must be in grades K-8 as of the 2011-2012 school year. At this time, preschool is not supported by the law.
2. Family income (defined as the amount shown on Line 22 of the Federal Tax Form 1040) can be no more than 300% of the poverty level. Go to www.IowaLutheranSTO.org to see whether you qualify.
3. The goal of the STO is to help as many families as possible, so feel free to email questions to the STO at IowaLutheranSTO@mchsi.com or ask for help from your school - do not let any part of the process overwhelm you!
4. The deadline for applying for assistance is May 1, 2011 for the 2011-2012 school year. STO's goal is to advise people of the status of their applications by June 1, 2011.

SPICE

(Special Partners In Christian Education)

Central Lutheran School's financial aid program assists families who cannot afford the tuition fees that are required to attend CLS. Through the generosity of individuals, these funds are available and awarded to families on a NEEDS basis. Indirect fees such as registration, school supplies, fundraisers, and personal expenses are not included.

It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian requesting this assistance that any amount not covered by SPICE must be paid by May 15 of the school year. *All eligible applicants receiving funds are asked to donate their time by serving as a volunteer at various CLS activities and events.*

Funds can only be awarded to those who have completed the following requirements.

1. **Apply for assistance from Iowa Lutheran Student Tuition Organization (STO).**
2. **Fill out the necessary SPICE request form available in the school office or on the school's website.**

The government's Free and Reduced Lunch guidelines and the US Census Bureau Poverty thresholds are used to award funds in an equitable manner. Family income (defined as the amount shown on Line 22 of the Federal Tax Form 1040) can be no more than 200% of the poverty threshold for each family. Those families with income levels over 200% will be eligible for a reduced percentage of their requested need. A limited amount of money is available for assistance, so it is important that you fulfill all the requirements. God willing, your personal blessings, along with an equitable share of our SPICE funds, will make it possible for your student to attend