



# The Waldorf School of Garden City

## FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM 2023-2024

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Waldorf School of Garden City strives to be an environment where diversity is celebrated. The School actively seeks a student body that represents a wide range of ethnicities, races, faiths, religions, socio-economic groups, genders, and LGBTQIA+ community members.

Our financial aid program supports this diversity by making the School more accessible to families of varying economic backgrounds. The School demonstrates this commitment by dedicating a sizable share of the annual budget to need-based support. However, the School also recognizes that the primary responsibility for financing a student's independent school education rests with their family. As a result, the School is not in a financial position to support lifestyle choices that have a negative impact on a family's ability to pay tuition. We expect all parents to contribute honestly toward tuition, including seeking employment to help defray tuition costs.

### ASSISTANCE POLICIES

#### **FINANCIAL NEED**

All financial aid awards are need based, calculated solely on demonstrated financial need.

#### **REVIEW PROCESS**

Awards are determined by the Financial Aid Committee (FAC), a small group appointed by the Board of Trustees. In determining awards, the Committee relies upon the expected family contribution as calculated by Blackbaud Financial Aid, an outside service providing financial assessment information to our School, the family's submitted tax returns, and any special financial considerations communicated by the family. Final aid decisions are based on the Committee's assessment of the family's need and the budgeted funds available. Please be aware, there is always a greater demand for aid than there are available resources.

For returning families, the FAC must be in receipt of a signed re-enrollment contract and deposit before the committee will review your financial aid application.

Upon receiving your financial aid award letter, you have **seven** days to either accept, appeal, or decline the award.

#### **APPEALS**

Appeals of financial aid awards must be made in writing within **seven** days of the initial award letter and addressed to the Waldorf School, Attention: Financial Aid Committee or [littreann@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:littreann@waldorfgarden.org). The appeal letter should include additional information with supporting itemized documentation that describes special circumstances occurring since the submission of the original application. The Committee will respond to your appeal within **seven** days of receipt of your letter and you subsequently have **seven** days to either accept or deny the final financial aid award.

#### **SINGLE, SEPARATED, OR DIVORCED PARENTS**

It is the School's position that both parents retain the obligation to contribute to the education of their child(ren), whether or not there is a legal agreement between them to do so. Therefore, the School considers the financial

situation of both parents and requires that each complete a financial aid application and provide the appropriate tax forms and schedules.

### **ANNUAL APPLICATION REQUIRED**

Financial aid must be applied for annually. While the School cannot guarantee the same level of financial support beyond any single year, the goal is to continue offering an award consistent with a family's demonstrated need whenever possible.

### **APPLYING**

**The deadline for submitting financial aid applications and supporting documentation is February 15<sup>th</sup> for returning families.** Given the increasing demand for need-based support, it is imperative that returning families meet the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to avoid significant penalties. A 20% penalty will be assessed against any award where either the financial aid application or the supporting documentation is received after February 15<sup>th</sup>, with an additional 20% for every late month thereafter.

For new families, if you are interested in applying for financial aid, we recommend you submit your application along with your admissions application to receive a timely response. Once all the paperwork is submitted, the FAC will decide on an award based on need and funds available.

**Note: Admission decisions are made separately from decisions regarding financial aid.**

***Families applying to the Sweet Peas or Nursery programs are not eligible for Financial Aid; except for those who have children in older grades.***

### **To apply log-in to your Blackbaud Parent Portal/Financial Aid Management**

**For more information on how to apply:**

<https://www.waldorfgarden.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Financial-Aid-Application-Info-23-24.pdf>

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

The following supporting documentation must be submitted to Blackbaud Financial Aid (upload directly onto your Blackbaud account- please do not send documents directly to the school) for your application to be considered complete:

- **2021** tax forms for current, and newly applying, families
- W-2's from each job held by parents/guardians
- Most recent pay stub from each job held by parents/guardians
- All corporate, partnership, and trust forms if a household member owns 20% or more interest in a corporation, partnership, or trust
- 1099/1099G if applicable
- Other documents may be required depending on individual circumstances (e.g. credit card statements)

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Information related to financial aid is kept in strict confidence, and students receiving assistance are not held to different academic or behavioral standards. Please note that to be considered for financial aid, the payment of open tuition balances must be current. While families requesting aid must submit the completed student contract, this contract is not binding until a decision has been reached regarding their financial aid application.

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[www.waldorfgarden.org](http://www.waldorfgarden.org)

516.742.3434

For more information contact:

Nicole Littrean, School Administrator

[littreann@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:littreann@waldorfgarden.org) or ext. 303

