

Arthur Morgan School -- Application for Tuition Aid

STUDENT INFORMATION

	AMS Grade	Re-enrolling or New Student
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

TUITION CALCULATIONS

What is the total amount you **had planned** to pay AMS for tuition for 2012-2013? _____
Boarding Student Tuition: \$24,495 Day Student Tuition: \$12,200

What is the **maximum** you could pay toward AMS in 2012-13? _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

	PARENT* #1	PARENT* #2
Name		
Address		
Phone		
Occupation		
Employer		
Others who contribute toward AMS tuition:	_____	

*If more than one adult provides regular financial support for this child and the adults providing support file their taxes separately, then a separate Parents' Financial Statement and copies of income tax forms must be submitted from each contributing adult.

If you, (a parent) are a student, please use the back of this form or attach a separate page to describe your current program of study (what and where you are studying, what degree you anticipate, how much time your program involves) and your future plans.

If you have unusual circumstances you would like us to consider, please explain on the back of this form or on a separate page.

CHECK LIST

- | | Check when completed |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Pay Tuition Deposit and submit Student Re-commitment Form (for returning families) or Enrollment Reservation Form (for new families)* | _____ |
| 2. Complete Parents' Financial Statement and file online with SSS in Princeton, NJ. | _____ |
| 3. Complete AMS Application for Tuition Aid.* | _____ |
| 4. Photocopy of federal tax forms.*
(If 2011 tax forms are not available, use 2010 forms and mail 2011 forms when completed.) | _____ |

*Mail to: The Arthur Morgan School 60 AMS Circle Burnsville, NC 28714
Call if you have questions: 828-675-4262

Arthur Morgan School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, and sexual orientation.

**Arthur Morgan School
Procedures for Applying for Financial Aid**

To be considered for tuition aid, families with a student accepted to the Arthur Morgan School should **complete the following:**

1. **New Students Due January 1, Returning Families due February 15:** When the School sends a re-enrollment or acceptance letter, in order to hold a spot for your child at Arthur Morgan School, please complete and return the Enrollment Reservation Form (for new families) or the Student Re-Commitment Form (for returning families). In order to be considered for financial aid, the Enrollment Reservation or Student Recommitment Form and the Tuition Deposit must be received. The tuition deposit (\$500 for Day Students or \$1,000 for Boarding Students) is non-refundable unless, after a scholarship award, you decide your student cannot return to AMS due to insufficient funds. In that case the school may refund 90% of your tuition deposit, if we are notified by the date specified in your award letter.
2. **All Families Due February 1, 2012:** Complete the **Parents' Financial Statement (PFS)**, and **file it electronically** with the School and Student Services of NAIS for Financial Aid (SSS) in Princeton, New Jersey, www.nais.org/financialaid/sss.
Our SSS school identification number is: 1373
3. **All Families Due February 15, 2012:** Complete the Arthur Morgan School **Application for Tuition Aid** and send it to the School. Send a **copy of your federal income tax forms (such as 1040 statements, any supporting schedules, W2 forms)** for each adult who supports the AMS student financially and, if applicable, for parents who are students. If you have not yet completed your taxes for this past year, you may send your previous year's tax forms and send this year's forms as soon as they are available.

PLEASE NOTE:

If more than one adult provides regular financial support for this student and the adults file their taxes separately, then we need two applications, two Parent Financial Statements sent electronically to SSS, and copies of income tax forms for both adults. (When custodial parents complete the form, do not include the non-custodial parent in items 2A or 2B.) In rare situations we agree not to involve a non-custodial parent. To make such arrangements, submit a letter with your Application for Tuition Aid explaining your circumstances.

If any supporting adult has been self-employed, complete the SSS Business/Farm Statement and send it directly to AMS. If your packet does not include such a form, please call the School to request it.

If you, the parent, are a student, please give us a little more information. Use the back of the AMS application or attach a separate page on which you describe your program, your progress toward a degree, and your expected date of graduation. It is customary for the Finance Committee to allocate aid to parental students on a one-time basis, expecting that this money will become available to other families after your graduation.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

The AMS Finance Committee will inform families about tuition aid decisions. We will send you a contract that reflects your financial aid award. You should sign and return your contract by April 1, 2012 or within two weeks of admission.

Policies concerning tuition aid are developed by the Arthur Morgan School Finance Committee and approved by the School's Board. Procedures are established and financial aid decisions are made by the Finance Committee. All information regarding financial aid is confidential, and admissions decisions are made without regard to families' abilities to pay the costs of attending AMS.

The Arthur Morgan School
60 AMS Circle
Burnsville, NC 28714

To receive tuition aid forms or to discuss these policies, call Irene Purser at 828-675-4361.

ARTHUR MORGAN SCHOOL

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Tuition Aid

Why is AMS so much less expensive than other boarding schools?

Our Staff come to the Arthur Morgan School for many reasons, but all find living in our community a deep and rewarding experience, despite the modest financial compensation they receive. Support services for the School (maintenance, secretarial, janitorial, etc.) are performed by staff and students, rather than outside contractors, whenever possible. During the growing season, much of our food comes directly from the school garden. In short, we all believe in the richness of simple living, the wealth of education it offers, and hope to make our school as affordable as possible to all families.

Who makes decisions regarding tuition aid?

Grant decisions are made by the Finance Committee of the Staff Meeting and are based on relative financial need. Policies concerning tuition aid are developed by the Arthur Morgan School Staff Meeting and reviewed and approved by the Board. All information regarding tuition aid is confidential.

How much are scholarships?

In the past two years the *average* scholarship amounted to about 30% of the full tuition. Some scholarships are more and some are less.

How are scholarship levels decided?

The AMS Finance Committee allocates the pool of available tuition aid funds proportionally, based on the level of need of each family relative to the needs of all families applying. Like most independent schools, AMS uses the School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS), a service of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), to help determine the level of financial need. SSS objectively analyzes information based upon a uniform criteria for evaluating parental ability to pay and makes recommendations. The AMS Finance Committee reviews these recommendations along with each family's Application for Tuition Aid and tax forms to determine grant amounts. Please note, the School regrets that it cannot always afford to fund students at the level recommended by SSS.

How do I apply for a scholarship?

If you are currently receiving financial aid from the school we have included an Application for Tuition Aid form in your re-enrollment materials. If you are a new applicant for tuition aid, you can obtain a tuition aid application packet by calling the School Office (828-675-4262). For full instructions, see "Procedures for Applying for Tuition Aid" on a separate sheet.

If I receive assistance from another organization, can I still receive aid from AMS?

Yes; if you qualify for aid from another organization, you may still qualify for further aid from AMS. Some families are able to send their children to the School because they receive money from a variety of sources. We are happy to coordinate efforts with other organizations, asking only that we receive enough advance notice.

Can I appeal for more Financial Aid after the initial award has been made?

Yes, but additional awards are rare. If you receive a financial aid award early in the summer it is possible that at the end of the summer we will have some scholarship funds remaining. These would be available if we have not yet filled all our enrollment requirements by June or if families to whom we have made awards decide to withdraw. Because such additional awards are unusual we ask that you decide upon enrollment and sign your contract when your initial award is made. This is a commitment to pay based on the initial amount awarded. You may write a letter to the Finance Committee of the School requesting consideration for an additional award. If such an award is made, we will issue a new contract. If an additional award is not made, you will be obligated for the initial contract amount.

If I receive a scholarship this year, will I continue to receive aid in the future?

Yes, as long as circumstances remain the same. The Finance Committee's general goal is to continue grants at the same or higher levels in the second and third years of a student's time at AMS. Of course this goal cannot always be reached, and changing family or School circumstances can make it inappropriate or unfeasible to continue a grant. Families must apply for aid each year in order to verify financial need. As circumstances change, so do decisions regarding aid; some families who qualify one year may not qualify the next, while others who have previously paid full tuition may qualify for aid. It is important to note that *we cannot guarantee that families will receive aid at the same level each year*, since individual grant amounts depend on the total number and financial need of families applying each year and on the funds available.

What if I can afford to send only one of my children to AMS?

Apply for tuition aid. Tuition aid is based on the total AMS tuition that a family expects to need to pay and the total amount the family can afford to spend on education. Many families who would not qualify for a grant when paying one tuition, or who would only qualify for a small one, do qualify for a larger grant when paying for two.

Do you ask for information from non-custodial parents?

Yes; when parents are separated or divorced, we request information from both custodial and non-custodial parents. Each year the financial need of AMS families is far greater than the School's ability to provide tuition aid. Therefore, we ask that families look to all other potential income sources prior to asking the School for assistance. Divorce agreements that limit a parent's legal obligation to pay tuition are not binding to the School and do not prevent a parent from paying tuition. Asking for two financial aid applications when parents are divorced or separated may help give the Finance Committee a clearer view of a family's financial picture. If unusual circumstances suggest that a non-custodial parent should not be involved in the process, the custodial parent should contact the School to work out special arrangements.

If more than one adult provides regular financial support for your child and the adults file their taxes separately, then a separate Parent Financial Statement form and a copy of income taxes must be submitted from each contributing adult.

Where does the money come from?

All tuition aid funds come from the School or contributions to the School. AMS has a modest endowment and devotes the income from it to scholarships; we also solicit contributions to the Scholarship Fund from our alumni, parents, and former staff, and conduct various scholarship fund raising events annually such as the fall Auction. Finally, like most independent schools, we devote a percentage of our tuition revenue to the Scholarship Fund.

What if I have further questions?

For information about the financial aid process, questions about deposits, payments, and payment plans, please contact Irene Purser, Finance Coordinator, or Bridget O'Hara, Admissions Coordinator, at the School Office (828-675-4262).