



Financially Accessible Waldorf Education
from Preschool through Eighth Grade

ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

*“The healthy social life is found
when in the mirror of each human soul
the whole community finds reflection
and when in the community
the virtue of each one is living.”*

- Rudolf Steiner

Swallowtail School's Commitment

Swallowtail School is committed to providing and maintaining a school population that is made up of families who support the values of Waldorf education, regardless of their income level. Through the Accessible to All (ATA) tuition adjustment program, the acceptance of a child into the school does not depend on the financial resources of the child's family.

Family Responsibility Policy

To participate in the tuition adjustment program, you are expected to hold Waldorf Education high on your list of financial priorities. All families must contribute to the financial well being of the school.

What does “Accessible to All” mean?

Accessible to All (ATA) was founded by Bob Monsen and Mary Roscoe of the Waldorf School of the Peninsula in Los Altos, California. Schools work with this model based on the ideal that a Waldorf Education should be accessible to all families who truly value it, whatever their economic status.

The Art of Waldorf Education

Waldorf education is based on an understanding of human development. The first seven years of life are when children learn by imitation, not only of our actions but also our thoughts and feelings, thus a healthy environment is essential. From the ages of seven to fourteen a respect for authority and an environment worthy of reverence will give children the capacity to truly comprehend equality in the rights realm. From fourteen to the age of twenty-one, students learn out of a sense of love and respect. The teachers and community must therefore demonstrate a love for humanity, enabling students in adulthood, to comprehend brotherhood and sisterhood in the economic realm.

What makes Accessible to All unique to Waldorf school communities?

The tuition adjustment process is not just an economic activity. The underlying pulse of ATA is that there is a conscious placing of what is needed for the well being of the whole school community ahead of self-interest.

How and when should my family apply for tuition adjustment?

When you apply for enrollment or re-enrollment for your child. There are additional forms within our enrollment packets to for you to fill out and return to the school office in a sealed envelope.

The Enrollment and Admissions Process:

Each inquiry and enrollment packet includes information about the tuition guidelines and tuition adjustment program. A family that can not meet the tuition guideline completes a tuition adjustment application and submits it with a copy of their pay stubs and latest tax return in a sealed envelope.

How are tuition adjustments determined?

If a family is unable to meet the school's tuition guidelines, the family completes a tuition adjustment application and meets with two members of the tuition committee. During the conversation, the group closely reviews both the school's budget and the family's budget. Neither the family nor the school come to the conversation with a predetermined tuition amount, and neither maintains a comfortable position in the process as each will stretch to meet the needs of the other. The final step in this meeting is to arrive, by consensus, at a tuition amount.

***"What each individual really needs can only be known by himself;
what he should contribute he can determine
through his insight into the situation as a whole."
- Rudolf Steiner***

What is the Tuition Adjustment Conversation?

During the conversation with a family, two trained tuition committee members portray a full picture of the school, including the school's mission, vision and economic life, values, and ideals. The school's biography, current strengths and weaknesses, and future plans also contribute to this picture. The family then has the opportunity to share their budget and circumstances. This often includes present needs, future hopes and values. These conversations are grounded in Steiner's vision of economic relationships as providing the possibility of true understanding and respect between human beings. The conversations are seen as a rare and valuable opportunity for individuals of the school to meet and come to know each other's hopes, dreams, needs and resources.

What records must be provided with the application?

Along with the Tuition Adjustment Application and the Family Income and Expense Worksheet, please provide photocopies of the following (these items will be returned to you):

- ✓ Most recent W2 statements for all members of the household,
- ✓ Most recent federal tax forms,
- ✓ Most recent corporate tax return, if applicable,
- ✓ Official paperwork regarding all other sources of income such as Social Security, welfare, food stamps, unemployment, child support, Worker Compensation, etc.,
- ✓ 1099 statements for the current or previous year.

How does the school store this financial information?

All tuition adjustment applications, pay stubs and tax returns are returned in a sealed envelope to the school director. The director opens and processes all applications. The director selects one other trained "conversationalists" and passes the information to this person, in a sealed envelope. If there are any copies made all copies will be returned to the family after consensus has been reached. The family is then free to dispose of the financial information in the manner they deem most appropriate. The school will keep one copy of the Family Income and Expense Worksheet and the Amended Tuition Contract. These documents that the school keeps will be stored in a secure locked cabinet, only accessible to the school director.

When does the family know their contribution to tuition amount?

The family and the committee will reach a consensus the day of the conversation. The family will sign an amended tuition contract and begin to receive invoices upon the agreed amount.

- Adjusted tuition covers tuition only.
- Material fees, late fees, aftercare services, or other expenses are not included. The family is expected to pay for tuition on time and keep their account to date.

- All families on adjusted tuition will pay tuition over a 12 month period or closest to, depending on when a family enrolls.
- If a family's financial picture changes, the family can meet again briefly with the same tuition committee members and the contract and tuition amount is adjusted to reflect those changes.

Who is on the Tuition Adjustment Committee?

These members are dedicated to work in a healthy relationship with the school and to understand the social and spiritual ideals of Waldorf education. Members represent the interest of the school community as a whole, especially the teachers and students and children, while holding and appreciating the needs of each individual family. The members of the committee understand the school's long-range plan and vision and are able to articulate the school's needs; by doing this, they encourage each family to contribute the most it possibly can to support the school.

Swallowtail School Mission

Working out of the teachings of Rudolf Steiner, the traditions of Waldorf schools, progressive and environmental education, we educate a child's heart, intellect and physical being. Through this artistic and experiential approach to education our students grow into socially responsible individual's who serve the greater community. Our students are confident, successful and motivated. They have the capacity to work with life's challenges and the needs of fellow human beings with creative intelligence.



Founded 1995

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