

## **Tuition Assistance Program**

### **What Parents Need to Know about Hickory Christian Academy's Tuition Assistance Program**

Hickory Christian Academy makes classical, Christian education broadly available to students across our area. A diverse student body with families from all walks of life is a stated value of our Board of Directors. The Board has established the tuition assistance program to accomplish this goal by providing up to a 50% discount on tuition. To qualify students for the program, we utilize the online service of Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST) to process applications.

#### **Important Facts**

FAST does not decide whether financial assistance will be granted; rather, FAST provides a need-based financial aid analysis service which includes a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute toward tuition. All information from FAST is kept confidential. Results are reviewed by the business office and Head of School. Decisions are then made, based on the school's budget. Upon approval, financial aid offers are sent to families.

**You must apply for tuition assistance each year. You must have a completed re-enrollment or new student application with all fees paid to be considered for Tuition Assistance.**

- **Returning family deadline: April 1**
- **Decisions made by May 1**
  
- **New family deadline: June 15**
- **Decisions made by June 30**

You will be contacted by the school confirming we have received your information. If you do not hear from the school after submitting your application, please contact our school accountant Judith Walters, to make sure the information needed has been forwarded to us.

HCA applies consistent standards and policies across many families. However, each family's circumstances are unique and award amounts are based on individualized analyses. Therefore, we ask that parents keep all financial awards confidential to avoid any misperceptions within our school body.

**To start the process, please do the following:**

- Log onto the [FAST Website](#)
- Follow the instructions; the application process is self-guided. You may navigate in and out of the program allowing you to partially complete an application and go back to it at another time. An online email and 24/7 helpline is provided.
- The charge for the application is \$60.00 and is to be paid by credit or debit card at the end of the session. If you do not have the ability to pay by card, contact Judith Walters.

- After completing the online application, you will be required to submit copies of your current tax returns for both state and federal taxes with all schedules, W-2s, and last 4 paystubs. You will be provided instructions to scan and upload your documents. **If you are unable to upload them, please bring all necessary documents to the school accounting office to complete the upload process.**
- Please make your tax appointment early, so you do not miss our April 1 application deadline! All tax information, paystubs, etc. must be submitted to FAST prior to the April 1 deadline.

## **Opportunity Scholarship**

All North Carolina residents, regardless of income level, are eligible to apply for the North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship. This is a state funded voucher program that supplements private school tuition for those who choose not to attend the public schools to whom they are paying tax dollars. In other words, you get to use some of your own tax dollars for school choice. The Opportunity Scholarship will generally pay more than HCA's tuition assistance program funds. HCA families who receive the Opportunity Scholarship are not eligible to simultaneously receive school tuition assistance through the FAST program.

To apply or learn more about the Opportunity Scholarship, visit these links:

<https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/opportunity/>

[https://www.pefnc.org/osp\\_info](https://www.pefnc.org/osp_info)