



Accessible to All

Tuition Program

Here are some pointers to help you complete the Tuition Program application and make the Tuition Program conversation more productive and efficient.

Accessible to All (ATA) Tuition Program is based on the ideal that Waldorf education should be accessible to all families, no matter what their economic status may be. Through Spring Hill Waldorf School's Tuition Program, we ensure that the acceptance of a child into our school is not dependent on the financial resources of the child's family.

The ATA Program is one way we live out our philosophy that what we give individually strengthens the community and what we receive from the community strengthens us individually. This program makes a place for those families who cannot pay the full tuition, in a way that strengthens both the community and the families as well.

ATA Tuition Program is Voluntary

Spring Hill Waldorf School exists because of its community of families. Spring Hill has a commitment to nurture a relationship with each unique family in its community. Because of this, we ask that all families sit down with a team of conversationalists to share:

- the story of their relationship with SHWS and
- to hear the mission and guiding principles of the school.

During this meeting, the school will also share

- its budget and plan with every family.

A family's participation in the ATA Tuition Program is voluntary and if a family chooses to pay the full tuition, the conversation will be limited to this sharing of relationship and the family will NOT be required to disclose financial information.

Goals

ATA Tuition Program is a vital social and economic component to the overall well-being of Spring Hill Waldorf School. Please read the [document](#) created by the Institute for Social Renewal for more information about the history and mission behind the original program. The ATA Tuition Program at Spring Hill fulfills five goals:

1. To support our goal to make a Waldorf education possible for families who value it highly regardless of their ability to pay the full tuition
2. To support cultural and economic diversity
3. To foster an open and transparent dialogue between SHWS and it's community
4. To create social and economic renewal for SHWS
5. To ensure viability and stability for the future of SHWS

Guiding Principles

In administrating the ATA Program at SHWS, we have adopted the following Guiding Principles to direct our thoughts and actions.

- The purpose of the school is to educate as many children as possible who seek Waldorf education.
- We seek to balance the economic needs of the family with the economic needs of the school.
- SHWS's financial health and security is a priority and is reflected in the priorities of the families that apply for the ATA Tuition Program.
- SHWS's Tuition Program involves a commitment with all members of our community working together, in a fiscally responsible way, toward the educational and financial goals of our school.
- The final agreement is entered into honestly and with an understanding to build community and commitment. It is a way of honoring the school, the families and the spirit of truth as it manifests in each of us.

Tuition Program Steps

The process to apply for the ATA Tuition Program is straightforward:

- If a family is unable to pay the full tuition, the family completes a Tuition Program application.
- A meeting is set up with two members of our ATA Committee (Conversationalist Team).
- During this meeting the history and guiding principles of the school and the family's history and relationship to the school are shared; following this discussion, both the school's budget and the family's budget are reviewed in detail.
- Neither the family, nor the school determines the tuition amount, and neither maintains a comfortable position in this process - each stretches to meet the needs of the other.
- Occasionally more than one meeting is necessary to come to an agreement; the agreement of a tuition amount will be kept confidential by all parties. *Failure to maintain confidentiality may void the agreement between the family and the school.*
- The family agrees to notify the school as soon as possible if there is a mid-year change in financial circumstances, whether it is positive or negative.

Change in Circumstances

In the event a family's financial situation experiences a significant change, either beneficially or detrimentally, that materially impacts their agreement, the family agrees to notify the school as soon as possible. The family will be asked to fill out an application for review outlining the change in situation and may be asked to provide documentation.

- A change in circumstances should be relayed to the school as soon as possible.
- It is the family's responsibility to contact the school and complete an application for review.
- The request is reviewed by the Conversationalist Team and a meeting is scheduled as soon as all parties can meet.
- Any existing unpaid tuition is the responsibility of the family.
- If a new agreement is made, it will only be restated to the month in which the application was submitted.

This is a new and different way of looking at our tuition process. We are committed to creating a smooth and positive transition. Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to bring us your questions.

We look forward to our conversations!

2009 Conversationalists: Thomas Stout, Sara Biewen, Teresa Riley-Baecker, Tanja Birke, Trudy Henke, Kelly Waters, Scott Williams, Laura Fritzke, Michelle Van Santen, Andrew Morrow