

REDWOOD DAY SCHOOL

Questions to Ask Schools about Financial Aid

School and Student Services by the National Association of Independent Schools (SSS by NAIS) suggests asking the following questions when you are considering applying for enrollment and financial aid at an independent school. The suggested questions are followed by Redwood Day School's answers.

- 1. What is the application deadline for financial aid consideration?**
 - a. New financial aid applications must be submitted by January 31, 2011. Current Redwood Day School families must submit an application by the first deadline of Dec. 1, 2011.
- 2. Are the admission and financial aid processes at this school combined or independent of one another?**
 - a. The two processes are independent. The Admissions Committee makes admissions recommendations without reviewing financial aid applications. Once admissions decisions are made, the Financial Aid Committee looks at the financial need of those being offered enrollment. If we are unable to meet a family's financial need we will place the student on a financial aid wait-pool and offer a space with funding if funds become available.
- 3. What types of financial assistance does the school offer? Does the school offer tuition payment plans or loan programs?**
 - a. Redwood Day School offers need-based financial aid grants. We do not offer loans or merit-based scholarships. There are three different payment plan options: one payment, two payment, or ten payment.
- 4. Do I need to submit an income tax return or other forms as part of the financial aid process?**
 - a. RDS requires the 2009 tax return with the initial financial aid application and the 2010 tax return must be submitted no later than April 15, 2011. Grants depend on the 2010 tax return accurately documenting projected 2010 income and assets.
- 5. Are there additional forms that I need to fill out if I own a business or farm?**
 - a. Yes, please submit the SSS Business/Farm Statement.
- 6. How are my financial status and my ability to pay evaluated if I am separated or divorced?**
 - a. We consider all guardians' ability to pay and require an application from each household. One household's financial information will never be shared with the other.
- 7. How much financial aid is available? What is the tuition?**
 - a. Approximately one quarter of RDS students receive financial aid. Grants range from \$1000 to 95% of tuition. The average grant is about \$10,500. 2010-2011 tuition is \$20,100 for the Lower School and \$21,500 for the Middle School. 2011-2012 tuition will be set by the Board of Trustees in January 2011.
- 8. Does the school require a minimum contribution from families, or can financial aid cover all school costs?**
 - a. Redwood Day School offers grants of up to 95% of tuition. Families are expected to pay a minimum of 5% of the annual tuition. Extended care and lunch costs are not included in financial aid grants.
- 9. If my child receives financial aid for one year, what is the school's policy for granting aid in the following years?**
 - a. Families must reapply for financial aid each year. Though we cannot guarantee the same financial aid grant from one year to the next, we make every attempt to keep financial aid grants consistent given no significant change in economic circumstances.
- 10. What costs, beyond tuition, might families expect?**
 - a. Tuition includes the cost of books, field trips, yearbooks, school photos, and outdoor education. Families are asked to participate in the Annual Fund each year to the extent that they are able. Tuition does not include lunch or extended care.

More questions?

Please contact Katrina Lappin at 510-534-0804 ext. 224