



Tuition Assistance at Wingra School for the 2020 - 2021 School Year

Wingra School is committed to a tuition assistance program that ensures families of all economic means can afford a Wingra education. To fulfill this commitment, we offer needs-based tuition assistance to families who qualify. Funded by Wingra's Joyce Perkins Tuition Assistance Fund, awards range from partial to half of tuition and more than 20% of our students currently receive assistance.

Tuition assistance decisions are made independently of admissions decisions. Incoming families who plan to apply for tuition assistance must first apply for admission and pay the \$100 application fee. Wingra School is a welcoming community for all kinds of families, and does not discriminate against any person or persons on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, political persuasion, national or ethnic origin, or disability, in its admissions or tuition assistance policies.

In order to determine financial need uniformly, fairly, and confidentially, Wingra School uses the services of FAST (Financial Aid for School Tuition), a program of Independent School Management, to provide a need-based financial aid analysis of a family's ability to contribute to the cost of tuition. All families wishing to apply for tuition assistance at Wingra School for the 2020-2021 school year will need to take the following steps:

- Read and sign the Tuition Assistance Acknowledgement Form, and return it to Bonnie Schey, Business Manager at Wingra School, prior to doing the online application.
- Find the FAST link on Wingra School's website (www.wingraschool.org) - click on the Admissions tab and scroll to the bottom section titled Tuition Assistance. Fill out and submit an online application to FAST by March 15, 2020.
- Mail all required documents (unless you are able to use the scanning option) to FAST by March 15, 2020:
Independent School Management
Attn: FAST Processing
1316 North Union Street
Wilmington DE 19806-2594

The online 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. Online e-mail and a 24/7 helpline are provided at help@ismfast.com or 1-877-326-3278. Many questions can be answered by clicking on the electronic Parent User Guide on the FAST website or in the packet. The Parent User Guide explains the application process, including which documents to have on hand and a worksheet of the questions you will be asked. **Please do not call the school with questions about the online application.**

The charge for the application is \$45.00 and must be paid by credit card before submitting your online application. If you do not have a credit card, or cannot budget the fee, please call Wingra School for assistance. For two-family households, please read the "Special procedures for divorced or separated parents" on page 6 of the Parent User Guide on how to file a separate but linked application.

Your **online** application needs to be submitted by **March 15, 2020**. Applications received after this date will be considered based on the availability of funds. Copies of your 2019 tax returns and other required documents must be **mailed** (or scanned and emailed) following submission of the online application and be postmarked by **March 15, 2020**.

FAST provides Wingra School with a report, which includes a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute toward tuition. FAST does not decide whether financial assistance will be given or how much to give.

Deadline for submitting an application is March 15, 2020
Applications received after this date will be considered based on availability of funds.

For parents who are separated or divorced or have never been married, both parents must submit financial information for a separate but linked application. See the instructions in the Parent User Guide on the FAST website “Special procedures for divorced or separated parents.” There is only one fee for both applications and neither parent will be able to see the other’s financial information. Wingra School requires financial information from *all parenting adults* of each student applicant, i.e., both the custodial and non-custodial parents and any stepparents or unmarried partners who have parenting contact and responsibilities for the applicant.

Named after a former Wingra School Director, the **Joyce Perkins Tuition Assistance Fund** awarded a total of \$4,000 of tuition assistance in its inaugural year of 1987-1988. The amount awarded continues to grow each year. Money for the fund comes from fundraising events and donations. The Wingra community has worked hard and contributed generously over the years to continually increase the amount of aid available. Wingra School receives no other funding for tuition assistance.

All applications are reviewed on an individual basis and all financial information and decisions are kept confidential. On the basis of the FAST report – verified by parental tax returns, 2019 W-2s, and other data – and the money available in the **Joyce Perkins Tuition Assistance Fund** for tuition assistance, Wingra School determines tuition assistance amounts and makes offers to those families.

Families must reapply each year for tuition assistance. Once a family receives tuition assistance, Wingra strives to maintain that level of assistance in future years if a comparative need is demonstrated. As a family’s financial circumstances change, the level of assistance will change correspondingly.

Wingra School’s tuition assistance monies are not sufficient to meet 100% of the need of applicants and all families pay some tuition. Both FAST and Wingra School assume that parents have an obligation to finance their children’s education to the extent that they are able.

FAST cannot process incomplete applications. Missing information will need to be provided before the application is considered. Applications received after March 15, 2020 will be limited to remaining funds, if any. Note that the tuition assistance application deadline of March 15 is a month before the April 15 tax deadline, therefore requiring early completion of tax forms.

If you have questions about Wingra School’s tuition assistance program, please contact:

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