

## **NSU University School Financial Aid Policies**

- NSU University School is committed to meeting the demonstrated financial need of families whose children are offered admission. Families who feel that they are unable to pay the total cost of tuition, and who follow the application guidelines and deadlines, will be considered. All financial information is held strictly confidential and is reviewed by a third-party service, FAST (Financial Aid for School Tuition).
- NSU University School's Financial Aid Committee determines need based on: 1) analysis of a family's available resources by FAST, 2) the funds available for financial aid, and 3) individual student qualities such as a solid academic record, strong character and involvement in school-based extracurricular activities.
- FAST does not decide whether funds will be given or how much to give; FAST provides a report of a family's available income and resources to NSU University School. The NSU University School Financial Aid Committee reviews each application and makes award decisions.
- Financial Aid awards are reserved for students in grades 6-12. Limited Financial Aid is available to Lower School students. New grade 12 students will be considered on an individual basis.
- Families must reapply for financial aid each year. If a family's financial circumstances remain the same, the school will make every effort to assist a family at the same aid level. At times, when a family's financial situation improves, the grant may be adjusted to reflect such change and to allow other families to receive assistance.
- Financial need is determined by a family's ability to meet educational expenses, not on a willingness to pay. The Financial Aid Committee will consider the assets of both natural parents, if living, before making any grant. If the non-custodial parent refuses to submit the necessary paperwork, the application may not be processed, or additional documentation may be requested. If a parent is not involved in the child's life or refuses to participate in the Financial Aid process, the school has the right to request verification of the family's financial support. In some cases, a stepparent's assets may be considered.
- All admission decisions are made without regard for financial need. Financial aid grants are not determined until after the student is accepted to the school, however, a family can submit an application for financial aid before an admission decision is rendered.
- Both parents' employment will be considered in the financial review. We realize that in some circumstances both parents may be unable to work outside the home. It is important to explain such circumstances on your financial aid application.

# NSU University School

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

- If you are unable to enroll your child based on the financial aid you receive, your enrollment deposit will be refunded so long as written notification of your decision is received by the school within 7 days of notification.
- All applications must be submitted no later than May 31.
- The Financial Aid Award Acceptance letter must be signed and returned to the school within 7 days of receipt or the award will be forfeited. Incomplete or late (after the deadline) applications will not be considered. Families who do not qualify for assistance will be notified by letter.
- Only completed applications, including past year tax returns with all schedules and W-2s, will be processed by FAST and considered by the NSU University School Financial Aid Committee. Completed applications are reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee on a "rolling basis" until all funds are depleted. Families that apply after the deadline risk not receiving aid for the upcoming school year.
- Financial aid is granted on a first-come, first-serve basis so adhering to deadlines and responding to school requests are critical. NSU University School reserves the right to request additional information or to withdraw financial assistance if discrepancies are discovered, or if a student fails to adhere to school policies. It is the family's responsibility to follow the application process and to contact FAST directly with any questions regarding the submission of financial documents. FAST is available 24/7 at 877-326-FAST.
- Families who wish to provide additional information or appeal a grant should do so in writing, via email. The Financial Aid Committee understands that there may be extenuating circumstances or recent changes in your financial status that require more explanation than the application provides. In fairness to all applicants, however, only written explanations or appeals will be considered.
- In order to consider a parent's appeal of the financial aid decision, a written explanation of financial circumstances must be submitted, in writing, including a statement of changes, if any, of financial circumstances that may have occurred after the financial application was completed and/or a detailed explanations of unusual expenses and/or debts not fully explained on the application.
- Please email Lynne Fazio or call (954) 262-4413 if you should have further questions.