

MICDS

MARY INSTITUTE AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

AFFORDING MICDS

MICDS MISSION STATEMENT

More than ever our nation needs men and women who can meet the challenges of this world with confidence and embrace all its people with compassion. The next generation must include those who think critically and resolve to stand for what is good and right.

Our School cherishes academic rigor, encourages and praises meaningful individual achievement, and fosters virtue. Our independent education prepares young people for higher learning and for lives of purpose and service.



TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

We cultivate a learning environment in which all students, faculty, staff and parents are valued, affirmed and included as equal members of the community, embracing and celebrating race, color, religion, family structure, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition to celebrating the diversity among us at MICDS, we also prepare our students to become culturally competent as they learn to thrive in a diverse world. Foundational to that preparation involves self-awareness, embracing difference, critical thinking, personal responsibility and treating others with respect and dignity. In particular, we strive to impart compassion and empathy.

AN AFFORDABLE INVESTMENT

MICDS offers a substantial need-based tuition assistance program for families who are unable to cover the cost of tuition.

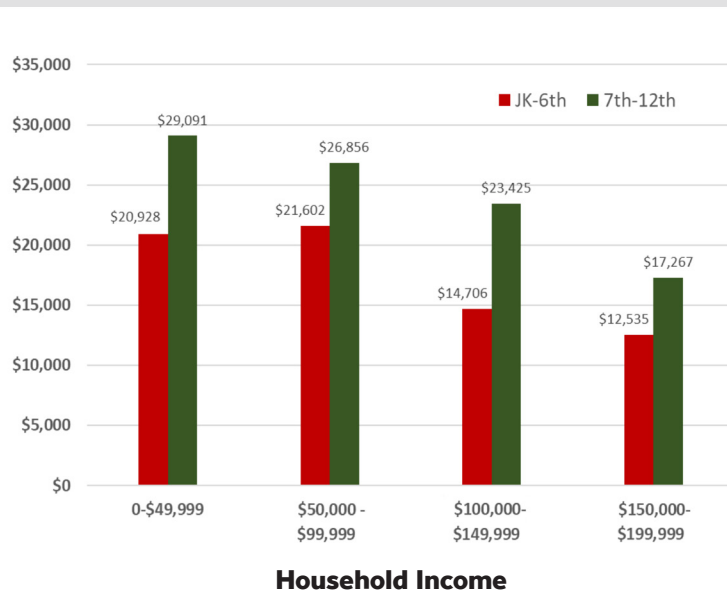
- A sum of \$6.29 million in need-based tuition assistance was granted to 26% of the student body for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Average Tuition Assistance Grants:

- Grades JK-4	\$14,100
- Grades 5 & 6	\$17,000
- Grades 7-12	\$21,600

IS MY FAMILY ELIGIBLE FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE?

- MICDS offers tuition assistance based on a family's financial need.
- Eligibility is based on many factors including family income, expenses, assets, educational debt, family size, and the number of children attending tuition charging schools.
- Most families earning under \$175,000 with two students in tuition charging schools will qualify for some assistance with tuition.

AVERAGE TUITION GRANT



HOW DO I APPLY?

- Beginning September 25, go to clarityschools.com and click "Sign In" to create your account.
- Start with household & applicant information. Select the school(s) to which you are applying.
- Sign and submit Form 4506c to give Clarity permission to pull your prior year tax returns.
- Complete your financial information including income, expenses, assets, and debts.
- The application fee is \$60 per household and covers all the Clarity schools to which you are applying.
- Schools may require additional documents in addition to last year's taxes.
- Check the "Documents Requests" panel on your portal to see what you need to upload.

WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE?

For 1st round consideration follow these submission deadlines:

New 9 th grade applications	12/18/23
JK Family Early Action Option	12/15/23
All other 1 st round applicants	01/31/24

For consideration after the 1st round decisions, tuition assistance applications are due at the same time as the admission application.

Only complete applications, those that include all required supporting tax documents, are considered.

WHEN WILL I LEARN OF THE OUTCOME?

Families are notified of their tuition assistance grant at the time of the admissions decision. The tuition grant is included on the student enrollment agreement.



HOW IS TUITION ASSISTANCE DETERMINED?

NEED-BASED ASSISTANCE

MICDS partners with Clarity to provide a secure online tuition assistance application process. Clarity collects, verifies, and analyzes a family's financial information to estimate their ability to contribute to educational expenses.

TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

The tuition assistance application captures your income, expenses, assets, and debts and is the cornerstone of the application. After verifying the content of your application with your submitted tax documents, Clarity applies a consistent methodology to analyze and estimate the amount you can contribute toward educational expenses. MICDS' tuition assistance committee then uses Clarity's calculation as a guide and considers any additional factors or supplemental information that is provided by the family.

ANNUAL RENEWAL

Because a family's financial situation can change from year to year, MICDS requires that all families reapply for tuition assistance on an annual basis. If a family's income, expenses, assets, debt and number of students in tuition charging schools remain relatively consistent so will the level of tuition assistance. The needs of our returning students are considered before those of new applicants.

ASSISTANCE BEYOND TUITION

Recipients of tuition assistance also receive assistance with many of the costs beyond tuition. This includes:

- Textbooks
- Required summer reading materials
- Extended day services (grades JK-6)
- AP Exams for enrolled courses (grades 9-12)
- Academic support when recommended by our support staff

Subject to request and availability, assistance is also available for global learning experiences and other co-curricular fees and equipment.

2023-2024 TUITION AND FEES

GRADE	TUITION
JK-4	\$24,250
5-6	\$28,750
7-12	\$33,250

TUITION PAYMENTS

A non-refundable deposit amounting to 10% of the tuition fee is due with the signed enrollment agreement. In August, 70% of the tuition balance is due with the remaining balance due by December 15.

For a small fee, a family may select a 10-pay plan in which tuition payments begin in July and are due on the 5th or 20th of each month. All payments must be made on schedule for a family's account to remain in good standing. Tuition account balances may not be carried from school year to school year.

INCLUDED WITH TUITION

Many of the extra costs associated with attending MICDS are included with tuition:

- Lunch and snacks at each division
- Technology fees, and a student tablet/laptop equipped with educational software for use in class and at home
- SAT and ACT preparation and optional after school study time for grades 7-12
- Parent Association dues
- Special programs like Summer Bridge and Pathfinders
- Summer strength and conditioning sessions
- On campus school academic activities (e.g. theater events, choir concerts, etc.)
- Day field trips and classroom supplies for grades JK – 4
- Supplemental student accident insurance

COSTS BEYOND TUITION:

Additional costs beyond tuition can range from \$500 to \$1,500 depending on the student's grade and interests. Some of the costs may include textbooks, AP exams fees, personal athletic equipment, musical instruments and athletic team dues.

DOES APPLYING FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE AFFECT THE ADMISSION DECISION?

No. The admission decision is a separate process from the tuition assistance process.

IS THIS A GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAM?

No. The MICDS tuition assistance is backed 100% by private funding.

WHO SEES THE INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION? IS IT CONFIDENTIAL?

The information is reviewed in detail by the MICDS Committee on Tuition Assistance. The School will endeavor to keep confidential all information related to individual applications and determinations. The Committee expects that families will maintain this confidentiality policy as well.

WHAT IF I OWN MY OWN BUSINESS OR HAVE PARTIAL OWNERSHIP OF A BUSINESS?

If you have ownership of 10% or more in a business, you will be required to provide Clarity a copy of your business tax return. If your ownership is less than 10%, you will be required to provide Clarity with a copy of forms K-1, 1120 and/or 1065.

ARE TUITION LOANS AVAILABLE?

No. The School does not offer loans. Some commercial loan companies offer loan assistance. Information about the *Your Tuition Solution* loan through Springstone Financial LLC is available in the Business Office or online at yourtuitionsolution.com.

WILL THE AMOUNT OF TUITION ASSISTANCE INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM YEAR TO YEAR?

Each year a family's tuition assistance is computed independently of the prior year. If a family's financial situation changes (positively or negatively) from the prior year, the amount of assistance will change accordingly. In general, a family can expect continuity in the tuition assistance pattern, unless the family's financial circumstances change in a significant way.

ARE THERE PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE?

The standard enrollment contract arrangement is for two payments of the net amount due MICDS; 70% in August and 30% in December. Alternatively, there is a 10-Pay Plan that allows monthly payments from July through April.

WHAT IF THE PARENTS ARE DIVORCED OR SEPARATED?

MICDS believes that all parents shoulder the responsibility to provide for their child's educational costs to the extent they are able. The Committee on Tuition Assistance considers the income and assets of both natural parents, if living, in determining eligibility for assistance. MICDS is not bound by the assertion that one parent has disclaimed, legally or otherwise, any responsibility for educational expenses. If either parent has remarried, the committee also considers the income and assets of the stepparents - always keeping in mind the obligation of the stepparent to his or her own natural children.

In view of this policy, it is necessary that both natural parents and their current spouses, if any, fill out a separate Clarity tuition assistance application. It is the responsibility of the parent signing the enrollment contract to ask the other parent to complete the Clarity application. If this information is not provided, the committee may not grant assistance.

Waiving the requirement to consider the non-contracting parent's Clarity application is considered only when the contracting parent presents documentation that the non-contracting parent has provided no support and has had no contact with the student or ex-spouse for at least two years. This documentation will be accepted from a teacher, coach, counselor or other unrelated third party satisfactory to the MICDS Committee on Tuition Assistance.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE A LEGAL AGREEMENT OR DIVORCE DECREE SPECIFYING TUITION RESPONSIBILITY?

MICDS is not bound by any legal agreements or court decisions on tuition payment responsibility.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A COUPLE IS LIVING TOGETHER BUT NOT MARRIED?

In situations where couples are living together but not married, we require financial information from both parties. If the child is from a former marriage of either party, forms will be required of the current family and non-custodial parent and spouse, if applicable.

WHAT IF CHILDREN ARE LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES?

The tuition assistance application must be completed by the legal custodian. If parents are still living and are claiming the child on their tax return, forms will be required as with any other family. If other family members have legal custody, forms will be required of the custodian, using their financial information.

DOES MICDS IMPUTE WAGES FOR A NONWORKING PARENT(S)?

Yes. MICDS imputes wages for parents of school age children who choose not to work, or are full-time students, or non-custodial stepparents who refuse to be included in the application process.

2023-24

Ciera Field, Associate Director of Admission - Tuition Assistance • 314-995-7405 • cfield@micds.org
Clarity, Family Support, 206-210-3752 • support@claritytuition.com

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