

# The Schaeffer Academy Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Program at Schaeffer Academy provides financial assistance to eligible families in the form of **partial need-based (cost share)** tuition payments for students enrolled at the Academy. The number and amount of individual scholarships awarded each year depends on scholarship money available because of the generosity of anonymous friends of Schaeffer Academy.

Scholarship Applications are available starting **April 15** (tax day!) each year for the subsequent school year. **The scholarship deadline is 12:00 Noon, Friday, April 28, 2017** for current Schaeffer families. The deadline is firm and scholarship applications after this date will not be considered with one exception. If you are a **new family** to Schaeffer Academy who applies after April 28 and is accepted for late enrollment, you are welcome to apply for a scholarship award, however, scholarship funds may be limited or not available.

## **The Scholarship Committee:**

This scholarship program is administered by the Scholarship Committee, which has been appointed by the Schaeffer Academy Board. All information contained in this scholarship application is confidential to the Committee and is disclosed **only** to those involved in the consideration and administration of the scholarship program. They are: the Scholarship Committee, Jill Wirth (Administrator/Registrar) and the business office manager.

**Please direct all questions and communications for the Scholarship Committee to Jill Wirth at [wirth.jill@schaefferacademy.org](mailto:wirth.jill@schaefferacademy.org) or (507) 286-1050, at 2700 Schaeffer Lane NE, Rochester, MN 55906.**

## **Eligible Applicants (Enrolled Students):**

Applicants should have exhibited dedication to Schaeffer Academy through a clear commitment to classical education, enthusiasm for the mission of the school and activities. Preference will be given to applicant families who demonstrate a strong involvement in Schaeffer Academy as well as a desire to keep their student(s) enrolled continuously at the Academy for the duration of their education. (**New families: see Friends of Schaeffer “New Family” Scholarship information below.**)

## **Financial Information and Need:**

Applicants must demonstrate a significant need for financial assistance to help with tuition payments. The income ceiling for receiving need-based scholarship is set each year based on the pool of applicants and the amount of scholarship funds available. The ratio of income to the number of students sent to Schaeffer Academy does factor in the calculation of need. Generally, scholarship awards do not exceed 50% of the annual cost of tuition per student and the *average* award range is \$500 to \$2,500 per student but can be more than that depending on your income, special circumstances, etc.

Applicants need to provide information about family income, expenses, and assets, similar to the information you provide on a college financial aid form. Supporting documentation including most recent year's federal income tax return, W'2s, and current paystubs, etc. is also required. **Only applications with complete information and all supporting documentation will be considered.** The Scholarship Committee may request and require additional documentation to support the application.

**Second Household:** If the student has custodial parents at different addresses, BOTH custodial parents need to complete a scholarship application and provide the required supporting documentation which may be submitted separately.

## **Scholarship Funds:**

Applicants may apply for the following programs:

### **Friends of Schaeffer Academy Scholarship (established in 1997)**

The generosity of multiple, anonymous donors fund the Schaeffer Academy “general” scholarship fund. The purpose is to provide tuition relief for families who are committed to a Schaeffer education but find it difficult to meet tuition costs.

Additional criteria:

1. Student applicant must have been enrolled continuously at Schaeffer Academy for at least one full school year and must be enrolled for the school year the scholarship consideration is requested.

#### Friends of Schaeffer Academy “New Family” Scholarship (established in 1998)

The generosity of multiple, anonymous donors also fund the Schaeffer Academy “New Family” scholarship fund. Its purpose is to encourage “new” families to the school who are also committed to a Schaeffer education but find it difficult to meet tuition costs as well as a desire to keep their student(s) enrolled continuously at the Academy for the duration of their education. This scholarship has no requirement for prior enrollment.

Applicants must have completed the application and admission process and the student accepted by the Academy to apply. Open Enrollment for admissions ends April 15, 2017 and aligns with the *opening* of the **Scholarship Program** the same day. Scholarship applications are still considered for new families who apply after the open enrollment and scholarship program deadlines; however, funds may be limited or not available.

A scholarship is rarely given to a new family with a sole *kindergarten* applicant for a half-day program. The family should always have sufficient income to support late start (half-day) kindergarten tuition or more, since the tuition significantly increases to a full-day cost the following year.

Part-time, temporary, foreign exchange and international students are not eligible for the scholarship program.

#### Emergency Scholarship

Funds may be available to families during the school year when financial circumstances change temporarily or a significant, unexpected situation arises that make it difficult to make tuition payments. Emergency scholarship applicants must also demonstrate a change in circumstance or condition that adversely influences the family’s present financial situation. Applicants must also provide the plan or steps they are taking to remedy the situation.

#### Awards

The Scholarship Committee will make all scholarship award decisions based on the information given in the application and supporting documentation. The Committee notifies all applicants by mail early July.

Tuition is paid over a 10 month period. The first payment of ten is the 10% tuition deposit payment (one month) is paid upfront upon acceptance or reenrollment. The remaining nine payments are due monthly September 1, 2017 through June 1, 2018 (*except February 1, 2018 when next year’s tuition deposit is due*). **Scholarship awards do not apply to the 10% tuition deposit paid by families upon acceptance or reenrollment.** The scholarship award is disbursed equally during the months of September 1 through June 1 (*except February 1, 2017 when next year’s tuition deposit is due*) with partial tuition payments applied to the family’s tuition account monthly.

Awards are subject to cancellation if the tuition account of the recipient family becomes delinquent and is not paid up within 30 days past due. If a scholarship recipient family withdraws its student(s) from Schaeffer Academy before the school year is over, the family will forfeit the remaining scholarship money.

#### Submitting Your Application

To maintain your confidentiality, return the scholarship application and supporting documentation by the **deadline, 12:00 Noon, Friday, April 28, 2017**, in a sealed envelope marked to **Attention: Jill Wirth, Administrator/Registrar.** Please retain this scholarship summary for your reference and information.

#### Award Notification:

You will receive notification of the scholarship decision in early July.