

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM



ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

“We want to attract students and families from all backgrounds who are a right match for St. Margaret’s academically and philosophically, regardless of financial resources.”

— Marcus D. Hurlbut,
Headmaster

THE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

St. Margaret’s Episcopal School’s commitment to community, diversity and its Episcopal tradition are at the heart of the Financial Aid program. Nearly \$3 million in financial aid was awarded to new and continuing St. Margaret’s families for the 2009-2010 school year. The Board of Trustees is committed to providing significant financial aid funding each school year.

St. Margaret’s practices a need-blind admission process and a subsequent need-based financial aid process. No family should be discouraged from applying to St. Margaret’s because of tuition costs. Applicants for admission are first considered for their academic merits and personal qualities, regardless of financial resources. Once admitted, the Director of Admission & Financial Aid partners with families to identify demonstrated financial need and offer assistance to meet the costs of a St. Margaret’s education. Returning St. Margaret’s families are awarded financial aid based on demonstrated need as calculated each school year.

The amount of financial aid awarded to each family varies. St. Margaret’s Financial Aid program is intended to address the gap between a family’s reasonable contribution and the total cost of a St. Margaret’s education, including tuition, books, uniforms and other expenses, enabling families from all economic backgrounds to join and remain in the St. Margaret’s community.

Applying for financial aid is a sensitive and private matter. St. Margaret’s is committed to providing a process for families that is prudent, respectful and confidential.



HOW IS A FAMILY'S FINANCIAL NEED DETERMINED?

St. Margaret's makes thoughtful financial aid decisions based on a variety of factors including income, family living expenses, taxes, assets, investments and debts. We understand the sensitive nature of this information and handle these matters with compassion and respect. St. Margaret's uses a calculation developed by the School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS), a service of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). Once a family's estimated contribution is calculated, St. Margaret's applies a cost of living adjustment to account for the increased expense of living in Orange County. Finally, the gap between a family's contribution and the total cost of attendance is calculated and addressed.

WHO MAKES FINANCIAL AID DECISIONS?

The Financial Aid Committee is a small, confidential group of St. Margaret's employees chaired by the Director of Admission & Financial Aid. There are no parents or teachers on the committee. Financial aid discussions and decisions remain private with only a few select employees having access to this information. Beyond these individuals, no one (including teachers, staff, administrators, Trustees and parents) is privy to financial aid information.

HOW DOES ST. MARGARET'S FUND FINANCIAL AID?

Through private gifts and increased endowment, St. Margaret's has dramatically increased financial aid funding in recent years. Available financial assistance for current and new students has tripled since the 2005-2006 school year.



We take seriously our approach to financial aid and try to be realistic and considerate of what Orange County families are facing in this market and the current economic climate; even families earning six-figure incomes will often qualify for financial aid.

— Ryan Dablem,
Director of Admission & Financial Aid

FOUR SMES FAMILY SCENARIOS

SMES FAMILY A

One child in Grade 9

Gross income	\$115,000
Assets (investments, savings, home equity)	\$25,000
Total Cost of Attendance	\$22,455
Estimated Family Contribution	\$14,150
Demonstrated Need	\$8,305

Financial Aid Award \$8,305

SMES FAMILY B

Children in Grades 5 and 10

Gross income	\$182,000
Assets (investments, savings, home equity)	\$138,000
Total Cost of Attendance	\$41,455
Estimated Family Contribution	\$28,700
Demonstrated Need	\$12,755

Financial Aid Award \$12,755



TARTAN SCHOLARS

St. Margaret's Episcopal School's Tartan Scholars program awards full-tuition, four-year high school scholarships to low-income, high-achieving students of color based on merit and need. The Tartan Scholars program admits five new ninth grade students each year and covers all tuition and many associated school fees including transportation.

SMES FAMILY C

One child in Grade 7

Gross income	\$45,000
Assets (investments, savings, home equity)	\$.00
Total Cost of Attendance	\$20,880
Estimated Family Contribution	\$500
Demonstrated Need	\$20,380

Financial Aid Award \$20,380

SMES FAMILY D

Children in Preschool (3 full days) and Kindergarten

Gross income	\$205,000
Assets (investments, savings, home equity)	\$250,000
Total Cost of Attendance	\$31,257
Estimated Family Contribution	\$36,250
Demonstrated Need	\$.00

Financial Aid Award \$0

Note: St. Margaret's makes every effort to meet the full demonstrated need of families applying for financial aid by the priority deadlines.

St. Margaret's created the Tartan Scholars program with the support of an anonymous donor in 2003 to reach out to the community, provide opportunities to high-achieving, underserved students and serve the school's commitment to diversity. In its inception, the program admitted academically qualified students through A Better Chance, a national organization for identifying, recruiting and developing leaders among young people of color.

St. Margaret's will continue its relationship with A Better Chance and expand outreach in the local San Juan Capistrano community for future Tartan Scholars. Currently, there are 20 Tartan Scholars attending St. Margaret's Upper School.

For more information about the Tartan Scholars program, please contact: Ryan Dahlem, Director of Admission & Financial Aid, at ryan.dahlem@smes.org or 949.661.0108 ext. 251.

APPLICATION STEPS

- 1 Submit the SSS Parents' Financial Statement online at www.sss.nais.org.
- 2 Complete and print the Financial Aid Request Form (available at www.smes.org).
- 3 Make a copy of your signed 2009 Federal Tax Form 1040 including all W-2 and/or 1099 forms and schedules. It is imperative to complete your taxes early to meet financial aid priority deadlines.
- 4 Print and complete the PFS Cover Sheet (available at www.smes.org)
- 5 Send the PFS Cover Sheet, Financial Aid Request Form and your taxes to:
School and Student Services (SSS)
P.O. Box 449
Randolph, MA 02368-0449

PRIORITY DEADLINES

New Families: March 1

Returning Families: March 15

Priority will be given to Financial Aid applications received by the respective deadlines. Divorced or separated parents must each submit a Financial Aid application. The Financial Aid Committee will not review incomplete applications.

For questions regarding the Financial Aid program, please contact the Office of Admission & Financial Aid at 949.661.0108 ext. 248.

ABOUT ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Founded in 1979, St. Margaret's Episcopal School is situated on a picturesque twenty-acre campus in historic San Juan Capistrano, just three miles from the Pacific Ocean. St. Margaret's is a co-educational independent day school serving 1,200 students in Preschool through Grade 12. St. Margaret's mission is to educate the hearts and minds of young people for lives of learning, leadership and service. In 2009, St. Margaret's marked its 30th year as a vital member of the San Juan Capistrano community and educational landscape of Southern California.

St. Margaret's Episcopal School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, sexual orientation or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational, admission, financial aid, hiring and athletic policies or in other school-administered programs.





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