



LUTHERAN High School

Nurturing Academic Excellence
Encouraging Growth in Christ

Tuition Assistance and the *Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund* Frequently Asked Questions

This document is designed to help all Lutheran High School families understand a critical component of our vision and commitment to help families through the offering of tuition assistance. Please read this document carefully.

** Indicates a change that applies to this school year.

Why does Lutheran High School offer tuition assistance?

One of Lutheran High School's core values is to assist families as much as possible financially to attend LHS. The student body currently includes a broad range of economic diversity and the desire is to maintain that diversity into the future. The entire Lutheran High School community has supported the financial needs of students for 57 years, and LHS plans to continue to build and grow a community of givers that support families in need to attend LHS.

How many students receive tuition assistance?

Approximately 40% of Lutheran High School students are receiving financial assistance for the 2011-2012 school year (not including discounts for association membership or church worker discounts). These families have gone through the financial aid process described below.

What is the financial aid process?

Families desiring tuition assistance submit an application to FAIR (Financial Aid Independent Review) either online or through the mail. FAIR assesses a families' financial ability to pay tuition and then sends a report to LHS. The Executive Director (along with the Principal and Director of Admissions) then uses a pre-determined rubric to grant tuition assistance for the school year.

What is FAIR?

FAIR is an independent, third-party company that helps Lutheran High School in our assessment and evaluation of a family's financial need from an objective standpoint. FAIR does not make any decisions on behalf of Lutheran High School, nor does it supply any funding to LHS.

Are admission decisions and tuition assistance requests dependent in any way?

Generally, tuition assistance is given after a student has applied and been accepted as a student at Lutheran High School. A family desiring to know an amount prior to acceptance may apply through FAIR to gain an idea of how much assistance might be granted.

Does tuition assistance have to be paid back?

No. The amount awarded in tuition assistance simply reduces the total amount of tuition due. However, it is the desire that families that receive tuition assistance would strongly participate in other areas of non-tuition revenue to LHS (Scrip cards, King Soopers cards, annual auction, etc.) and volunteer their time at Lutheran High School events. Furthermore, we desire that the students who receive tuition angel assistance now graduate and someday become the tuition angel donors of the future.

Can a student earn a scholarship?

At the present time, Lutheran High School does not award merit-based scholarships other than the valedictorian and salutatorian awards granted to freshmen from Lutheran elementary schools.

Will a student's athletic or arts ability influence whether tuition assistance is awarded or influence the amount awarded?

Lutheran High School awards tuition assistance based on financial need only. It does not award scholarships for skills and abilities. Scholarships for athletic and arts ability is prohibited by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA).

Does Lutheran High School offer "full rides" to students?

No.

Does tuition assistance cover fees?

No. All families must pay the full enrollment and materials fee.

Are tuition assistance awards confidential?

Yes. The letter received by a family with an award amount also contains instructions on keeping that amount confidential in conversation with other LHS families. Lutheran High School also keeps those amounts confidential. FAIR reports are kept in a secure file and not shared with anyone.

Does a Lutheran High School family have to go through the same process every year?

Yes. Family situations and household income change from year to year. Since the amount of tuition assistance given is a reflection of financial need, it makes sense to have each family apply every year.

If a family receives tuition assistance in one school year, can they count on the same amount the next school year?

Tuition assistance granted the previous school year is a part of the financial aid rubric. However, tuition assistance given can vary depending on a given year's budget and the financial status of the school.

Do both parents from a split or blended family need to apply to FAIR?

Yes. All those with parenting responsibility for a student must submit their information to FAIR.

Where does the money for tuition assistance come from?

This may be the most misunderstood concept of financial assistance. No magical pot of money exists for tuition assistance. The money awarded to students and families is an expense line in the yearly budget. *The Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Program* is then designed to raise the money needed to turn that line item into a completely funded expense. *The Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Program* is the ongoing annual appeal for LHS.

** We desire 100% of Lutheran High School families to participate in the *Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Program*, even those who are receiving tuition assistance. 100% of LHS faculty and staff contribute to the program. The goal is to raise \$300,000 for the 2011-2012 school year.

** We desire even families who are receiving tuition assistance to make a donation to the *Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund*. Lutheran High School is a family that supports each other in all avenues of operation.

Is money donated to the *Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund* tax deductible?

Yes, all contributions are tax deductible, even contributions made by families who are receiving tuition assistance. (Disclaimer: Your tax officials have final say, of course, as to what is tax deductible.)

What happens if we do not meet the targeted goal for the *Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund*?

Simply put, raising less than our targeted goal is not an option. That money is needed to meet immediate budgetary needs. If we are short of the mark, cuts will need to be made during the school year to stay on budget or a deficit will drag into the next school year. This will result in less money being awarded in tuition assistance the following school year and/or a more drastic raise in tuition.

What happens if we exceed the targeted goal for the *Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund*?

Money in excess of the targeted goal would be carried forward to the next school year unless overall budget operating expense was higher than anticipated.

Can donations be made to areas other than the *Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund*?

As with any non-profit organization or private school, donors can certainly specify how their contributions should be used. The Colorado Lutheran High School Association / Lutheran High School will not say "no" to a specified donation unless it does not support the vision and mission of the organization. For example, if a donor desires to make a contribution for instruments for the band program, he/she certainly can do that and it will be accepted.

However, the primary focus of giving to LHS should be the Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund. We desire that donor-restricted donations be "over-and-above" giving to the Ron Brandhorst Tuition Angel Fund. Please contact the Executive Director to find out how donations can serve the mission and ministry best.

Is Lutheran High School outside of the norm for how it handles tuition assistance?

No. Similar structures are in place at most Christian/Catholic high schools nation-wide. In a perfect world, everyone would be able to afford full tuition and fundraising and development could take a back seat to mission and ministry. Unfortunately, with the current state of the economy and the rising cost of education, that is not the case anywhere.

The \$300,000 in funding needed in 2011-2012 for 240 students is not outlandish when compared to what is asked at other Christian and Catholic high schools in the Denver metro area. Our community of supporters, alumni, families, and staff TOGETHER can reach this goal. Mass appeals, phone-a-thons, and face-to-face asks are all used to generate those needed funds.

Along with a donation, what can a family do to help LHS reach its goal?

The Executive Director and the Director of Development are willing to share the vision of Lutheran High School with anyone - anywhere - anytime. If you know of a potential donor who could get excited about a ministry that God uses to transform lives, we want to know who they are!

Please contact us:

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All annual giving programs and non-tuition revenue for the
Colorado Lutheran High School Association / Lutheran High School
can be tracked at www.GrowingInHIM.org

