

# MARET

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES FOR MARET FAMILIES

### THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID

strives to foster a relationship of trust and forthrightness with any family requesting aid. Therefore, because of the very personal nature of the financial aid program, it is essential for all of us at Maret to respect these guidelines. A family's financial aid award may be impacted or revoked completely if they knowingly provide false information to the Financial Aid Committee or otherwise attempt to undermine Maret's Mission.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Director of Financial Aid Bobby Holt at [bholt@maret.org](mailto:bholt@maret.org) or 202.939.8814

**A**t Maret, we believe that the best education is achieved through a strong partnership between home and school. The Maret Financial Aid program is designed with this in mind to ensure an equitable experience for students from a range of financial circumstances. The following guidelines assist both families and the School in fulfilling this mission. Families seeking or receiving financial assistance at Maret:

1. Seek to apply for aid only after they have determined that their own resources are insufficient to cover school costs and have exhausted the potential resources and options available to them.
2. Are proactive in seeking information and answers to questions related to the financial aid process. All families, regardless of financial circumstances, should feel empowered to ask questions.
3. Are open and honest when completing financial aid applications and when providing any supporting documentation.
4. Adhere to school deadlines and documentation submission requirements.
5. Submit true and accurate tax-related documentation as required by Maret.
6. Are responsive to school requests for additional information to support their application.
7. Understand that the school is not always able to offer financial assistance, even if the family shows eligibility for it.
8. Use channels made available by the School for disputing or appealing a financial aid decision.
9. Are discreet about sharing financial aid outcomes with others.
10. Respect the privacy of other families who choose not to disclose their financial aid details or outcomes.
11. Work to the best of their ability to manage their financial resources to pay any determined family contribution in the timeline outlined by the School.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Families receiving financial aid at Maret are automatically eligible for a discounted rate for the After School program. Parents/guardians are emailed rates for their child(ren) before the school year begins. In order for the rate to be applied, the After School Contract must be submitted for each child in the program. After School is only offered to students in grades K-8.

## PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Information provided to the Financial Aid Committee either through the TADS application or other communication methods is kept secure. Access to TADS data is only available to the Director of Financial Aid. Details of a family's financial picture are only shared with other Maret faculty members or school leaders if and only if they are relevant and necessary to providing the best possible support for a student. For example, a student's status as a financial aid recipient would be shared with a Maret learning specialist in order to ensure that Maret is billed appropriately for services and to potentially negotiate a lower rate for the student's family. Families should contact the Director of Financial Aid if they have questions about this policy.

## SPECIAL AID: NON-TUITION EXPENSES

In addition to aid for tuition, need-based financial aid recipients are eligible for assistance towards recommended or required non-tuition expenses. This form of assistance is referred to as "Special Aid." The Special Aid budget is designed to offset the costs of the following items and services:

- Tutoring
- Textbooks
- SAT Prep
- Educational Testing
- Therapy
- Yearbooks
- AP tests
- ISW (Intensive Study Week) costs
- Sports uniforms
- A limited number of other items

As Maret's curricular and extracurricular programs evolve, so does the Special Aid budget. Families should always feel welcome to ask the Director of Financial Aid if they have questions about their eligibility for assistance to cover a particular cost.

The portion of the expense covered by Special Aid is based primarily on the student's financial aid grant for the current academic year. The following factors are also examined to determine the level of assistance towards a given non-tuition expense:

- Availability of funds (expenses already incurred as well as anticipated expenses)
- Nature and necessity of the particular Special Aid expense
- Other circumstances that affect the family's financial picture

In some cases expenses are covered at a percentage less than the student's tuition grant would dictate. In rare cases, expenses may not be covered at all. Communication will be sent via email ahead of major events that may require financial assistance. For example, information regarding textbook reimbursement is always sent to upper school parents when the textbook list is made available over the summer.

*A Maret student is only eligible for financial aid towards tutoring, educational testing, or therapy with the endorsement of a Maret learning specialist, division director, or the Director of Counseling. Parents should first contact their child's advisor if they have questions about academic or emotional support for their child.*