

CRACKING FINANCIAL AID MYTHS

Now in my thirteenth year as the Finance Officer of Loudonville Christian School and overseer of financial aid, I've discovered there seems to be quite a bit of mystery surrounding the topic of financial aid. My hope is that the information below will answer many of your questions.

There are many assumptions made about financial aid:

- "There are people in more need."
- "I won't qualify."
- "Everyone will know about my finances."
- "It won't be enough."

IT IS TIME TO CRACK THESE MYTHS!

What is financial aid at LCS?

Financial Aid at LCS is not a loan or grant that needs to be repaid. Financial Aid funds are built into the LCS budget and are awarded based on the amount of financial aid available, number of families applying, and the family's demonstrated need.

Will I qualify for financial aid?

Parents often ask me if it is worth even applying for financial aid. The main thing I would want you to understand is if there is any question about your family's ability to pay tuition then apply for financial aid. While there is no guarantee of the outcome, I encourage you to walk through the process. I have been amazed and humbled to see the Hand of God move in providing for our families.

Are there different financial aid funds for which I can apply?

It is our objective to make tuition affordable for any family desiring a Christian education at LCS. Once you apply for financial aid through <u>FACTS Management</u>, you may also apply for the <u>Mike Davis</u> <u>Memorial Fund for Tuition Assistance</u>. This fund is more discretionary so we ask that a letter be written to better understand your particular situation. The <u>Daniel Fund</u> is another fund designated specifically for members of Loudonville Community Church.

How much financial aid will I receive?

We use FACTS Management to collect and verify financial aid applications. FACTS evaluates your income and expenses and determines your calculated need. Awards are based on the number of families applying for aid, amount of aid available and your calculated need. Average financial aid awards are 33% of the calculated need.

Will my financial information be kept confidential?

As the LCS Finance Officer, I alone have complete access to your financial details. Only essential information is given to the LCS Financial Aid Committee (Head of School, Business Administrator, and Finance Officer) in order to grant Financial Aid Awards. It is our commitment to not disclose any of your personal information in any manner whatsoever and to hold and maintain your information in strictest confidence.

Is there any other way to reduce the tuition?

- > There are also several discounts available:
 - Alumni Discount—25% (Gr.8 graduate through 1998/Gr.12 graduate beginning 1999)
 - Clergy Discount—25% (with Clergy Application on file)
 - LCC Member Discount—20% (Members of Loudonville Community Church)
 - Military 10% Discount (Active Military ID or DD214 on file)
 - Family Discount (2 children=5%, 3 children=10%, 4 children=15%, etc.)

Each LCS student is a cherished and valued part of our community. Each family has its own story. All are a treasured part of our school. If you feel your finances are an obstacle, let's sit down and look at the options available.

We understand that attending LCS requires a significant financial commitment on behalf of each of our families. Thank you for entrusting the *Treasures of the Heart*—your children—to us.

In the words of one of our dear LCS families:

"My humble words of gratitude could never express how tremendously blessed I feel to be a part of LCS. We chose LCS for our children, but it has become my family as well. Thank you for the love and compassion you shared with me when reviewing our financial crisis. You not only prayed for me (which releases such burden from my heart) but also helped me find hope in this next year. Thank you for such kindness.

And thank you for confirming that God does not want us to have a heart of fear, . . . but one of trust! He is in control. Amen! Psalm 56:3-4"

--Parent of Alumni & Current LCS Students

In Him,

Betsy Bersani Betsy Bersani Finance Officer