

## **Financial Aid Information 2019-20**

An independent school education is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child and your family. We recognize the financial commitment and sacrifices involved in choosing an independent school education and appreciate the thoughtful consideration given to this decision. The end result of a St. Paul Christian Academy education is a child who is academically prepared for their next-level school, ready to thrive, and lead with a passion for Christ.

No family should assume that a St. Paul education is out of reach solely for financial reasons. We strongly encourage you to complete the financial aid application process to determine your need.

With over \$400,000 allotted to the financial aid program and almost 20% of our current student body receiving some form of *need-based* financial aid, St. Paul is fortunate to have an effective financial aid program making a St. Paul education available to many. Financial aid covers tuition only and not the extra costs associated with attending school at St. Paul. These extra costs may include books, consumable classroom supplies, lunch, and class trips.

***Please be mindful that need based means that all family sacrifices have been made prior to the request for aid. It is important for families to look at the discretionary spending listed below, as well as other costs not listed, as sacrifices to be considered - expensive automobiles, club memberships, summer camps, vacations, excessive cable packages, cell phones for children, etc.***

St. Paul uses School and Student Services (SSS) to process financial aid applications. SSS is a service of the National Association of Independent Schools. Based on the financial information you provide to them, SSS gives us an estimated amount your family can contribute to tuition. This helps us make fair and objective financial aid decisions. St. Paul awards financial aid within the confines of Board policy. Students who qualify and are receiving financial aid for

the first time may receive up to 60% of tuition. Current students who qualify and are receiving financial aid may receive up to 75% of tuition.

## **Considerations When Awarding Financial Aid**

### **Delinquent Accounts**

Financial aid will not be awarded to any student whose present account balance is delinquent.

If the account balance becomes delinquent after the financial aid award has been made, the school reserves the right to withdraw the award if the account is more than 30 days past due.

### **Both Parents Income To Be Considered**

We ask that both parents disclose their finances completely to SSS including the provision of the supporting tax documents. In the case of divorced parents, we request that both parents work to contribute toward tuition.

### **Unemployed Parent**

If one spouse or partner is unemployed and is not disabled and does not have extenuating circumstances, one half of the St. Paul Christian Academy tuition will be added to the income of the family for the calculation of need. The assumption of the financial aid committee will be that that parent has the opportunity to work at least part-time and contribute to independent school tuition.

### **Student in Good Standing**

Students must academically and behaviorally be in good standing in order to be considered for financial aid. In addition, parents must be supportive of the school's mission to be considered. If financial aid is awarded, the student must remain in good standing and the parental support of the mission must continue. St. Paul reserves the right to withdraw any financial aid award if these criteria are not being met.

## How to Apply

To begin your financial aid application for the 2019-20 school year, please follow the steps below:

Beginning October 2, 2018, you will be able to apply for financial aid for the 2019-20 school year through the SSS Family Portal at [sss.nais.org](http://sss.nais.org).

***Our school code is 6864.***

**You will be given a password that will allow you to return to your Parents Financial Statement (PFS) at a later date. Please save your password.**

St. Paul requires you to upload your 2018 1040 tax form. When you complete your PFS, you will be given instructions on how to upload your documents. **Please note:** No financial aid will be released until the required documents are received by SSS.

Your documents will be handled with the utmost level of security and confidentiality. To read more about SSS's document security, go to [sss.nais.org](http://sss.nais.org).

For answers to questions or to get helpful tips about the financial aid application process, a new set of FAQs has been designed for families by SSS and is available on their website. If you have any questions, call (800) 344-8328 (Mon - Fri: 9 AM - 8 PM EST; Sat: 9 AM - 4 PM EST)

You may also want to attend an SSS webinar for parents. By joining one of these webinars, you will gain valuable tips and information on how to complete your PFS accurately.

### ***Required Documents***

All documents and supporting materials should be uploaded directly to SSS.

- A copy of the PFS
- A copy of the 2018 1040 with all filed schedules and attachments  
Business owners must also include a Business/Farm Statement.

### ***Financial Aid Application Deadline***

- January 31, 2019

### ***Tax Documents Deadline***

- February 28, 2019

Consideration and availability of funds cannot be guaranteed for any family whose tax documents are received after February 28, 2019. If you cannot submit your tax documents by this date, please notify Kay Strom at [kstrom@stpaulchristian.org](mailto:kstrom@stpaulchristian.org).

### ***Award Notification***

All award notifications are made in March, 2019.