

Financial Contribution Model for the Second Year at Polaris

Background

Our aim for the second year is fundamentally to make it possible for all families who want to come to the school to come. We see every family's financial contribution as one part in the sum that carries the whole school, not tuition for one specific child. Therefore, everyone's contribution is meaningful and is commensurate with each family's means. It is when we put everyone's financial contributions together that we come to a total that can support the school, together with fundraising initiatives. Every family that wants to come to Polaris is welcome at our school.

We do also want to create greater clarity around the cost of running the school, and help families see where they fit into our contribution model. To achieve this, we are introducing the following this year:

1. A financial contribution model that has three options, based on a family's financial means.
2. A set cost for each program offered, including sibling discounts, with the understanding that it must be reflective of current programming and our ability to grow and improve what we offer.
3. In person Meetings, we will hold a meeting with every family to place the families pledged contribution into the context of these options above and examine if any changes will be made before finalizing. This also gives families an opportunity to better understand the changes and go over any questions they may have.
4. Giving families who can afford it the option to make an additional donation, above the set program costs, toward a financial sponsorship fund.

Financial Contribution meetings

Contribution meetings are confidential and will be conducted with the utmost respect for every family. The aim is truly to help each family understand how they fit into the financial picture of the overall community. It is meant as a conversation between two parties who have the same aim of supporting the whole community, with the guidance of a model for financial contributions. Polaris will not review or seek proof of a family's financial situation, but work in trust with every family.

Details of Contribution Model

For the 2019/20 school year we require a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per child at the time of registration. For the reduced contribution option, we are also requiring a minimum pledged annual contribution of \$2000 (including deposit) per family, if attending three or more days per week. Our model for contributions is now divided into three categories to provide guidance and clarity to families. At the core is a firm commitment to treating every family with respect for their individual circumstance. We value every single member of our community. The three options under our affordable to all model are:

- Full-cost per child with reduced contribution for multiple children.
- Reduced contribution option based on family needs, available to all families.
- Reduced contribution option available to low income families.

We will present and discuss the details of each option in the contribution meeting, to avoid confusion, and to keep a central element of a human to human interaction in determining each family's contribution.

We truly hope that this represents a balance between our wish to honour our commitment to allow every child that wants to be at our school to be there, and the financial reality of running a beautiful school. We have done a lot of research and can assure you that we are a leader amongst Waldorf schools in making our school affordable to everyone.