

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *Will my application for financial assistance affect my child's chances for admission?*

No. Admissions decisions are made without regard to a family's financial circumstances. Financial aid requests are reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee only after the admissions decisions have been made.

### *Will I qualify for assistance?*

Every family situation is reviewed carefully and an individual decision is made based on all available information. Therefore, it is very difficult to offer general guidelines by which you can determine your own eligibility. For example, although family income level is an important consideration, many other factors enter into the decision-making process including number of children in the family, number of children attending schools for which tuition is paid, other family dependents, assets (including real estate) and liabilities, unusual expenses and so on. The **personal letter** explaining your financial need plays an integral part in assessing your financial need beyond information provided in your application.

### *Are there ways in which my daughter can work at school to help meet some of her costs?*

A limited number of girls are hired to answer telephones on week nights after regular office hours.

### *What happens if I cannot meet the financial aid deadlines (i.e., tax return extensions)?*

There's no question that you are at a disadvantage if your file is not complete within the timeframe listed in this brochure. We start making grants for completed files on February 15<sup>th</sup>, the day all tax information is due, and we continue until funds run out. We do understand, however, that sometimes factors are beyond the family's control. In such cases, families are placed on the Financial Aid Wait List. During the early summer if funds are available and if the file has become complete, we are happy to make grants that take into account your calculated need and our remaining funds.

### *Do returning students need to reapply?*

Each year families must reapply for aid for the following year. Unless your situation has changed greatly, your financial aid grant will remain relatively the same each year.

### *If I do not apply for financial aid at the time of my child's application to Flintridge, would I be able to apply in subsequent years?*

Yes. However, you must demonstrate that your financial circumstances have changed considerably from when your child was first accepted.

### *Where does the money come from?*

Funding is from the Academy's operating budget, foundation grants, donors and endowment funds. It is our hope that in the years to come, as financial situations change, the parents and daughters who have benefited from our financial aid and scholarship program will in turn make their own contribution to these funds so that the school's tradition of outreach may continue.

## PHILOSOPHY

Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, in keeping with its philosophy, believes strongly that the education provided here enables a graduate to internalize the Gospel values of truth and love, become intelligent, well-prepared young women who, in recognizing their own dignity and giftedness, will reach out to others with a leadership style characterized by justice and integrity, care and compassion. The Admissions Committee makes decisions solely on the basis of an applicant's strength as demonstrated by a variety of criteria including school performance, standardized testing, co-curricular talents and interests, community service and character. They select applicants who can benefit from and add to the unique, diverse school community "on the hill." Flintridge has a long-standing goal to make an FSHA education accessible to students from diverse backgrounds with varied interests and talents, regardless of financial means. In order to accomplish this goal, Flintridge offers a financial aid program, tuition payment options, as well as information concerning loans from various financial institutions.

If you have further questions regarding financial aid, please contact Carmella Grahn, Director of Financial Aid, in the FSHA Business Office at (626) 685-8550, or by email at [businessoffice@fsha.org](mailto:businessoffice@fsha.org)

## FACTS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID 2007-2008

<b>Students Receiving Financial Aid</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Award Range</b>	<b>5% - 75%</b>
<b>Average Financial Aid Grant</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Merit Scholarships</b>	<b>\$46,500</b>
<b>Total Financial Aid for 2007-2008</b>	<b>\$585,000</b>

*Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students: Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin or sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on these bases in administration of its educational policies, financial aid programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.*

# FINANCING A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

**2008-2009**

TUITION  
TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS  
FINANCIAL AID  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
STUDENT LOANS



FLINTRIDGE SACRED HEART ACADEMY

*A College Preparatory Day and  
Boarding School*

440 St. Katherine Drive  
La Cañada Flintridge, California 91011  
(626) 685-8550

## TUITION AND FEES

Tuition for the school year 2007-2008 is \$17,150. For boarding students, the additional \$20,600 cost of room and board brings the total to \$37,750. Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy includes all mandatory fees applicable to all students in its tuition, such as retreat fees and registration fees, to minimize surprises and help parents better understand the total cost of their child's education. See the Tuition and Fee Schedule for other charges, which vary among students.

Tuition paid for each student covers approximately 85% of the true cost to educate. The shortfall between tuition paid and cost of education is partially made up by the Flintridge Fund contributions from parents, alumnae and friends, and by income from endowment funds.

Each year the Board of Directors deliberates at length before setting tuition levels for the following year. It is their goal to have an FSHA education be accessible to all students who can best benefit from the Academy's long tradition of strong, Catholic college preparatory education and yet also operate in a fiscally responsible manner with a balanced budget.

## TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

*Flintridge provides three tuition payment options.*

### OPTION 1

Full year's tuition due by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### OPTION 2

Sixty percent (60%) of tuition is due by July 5<sup>th</sup>, remaining 40% is due by December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### OPTION 3

Ten (10) monthly tuition installments due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month beginning July 5<sup>th</sup> and ending on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Payment option 2 and 3 are subject to the FACTS Tuition Management program and a one-time processing fee. Additional charges that will be applied to the first or subsequent billing include, but are not limited to, Tuition Refund Insurance, Freshman Orientation fees, Graduation fees and fees for optional courses.

*No other payment options are offered by the Academy.*

## FINANCIAL AID

Flintridge's financial aid program provides financial assistance to the families of qualified students who have demonstrated financial need. What does that mean? Flintridge believes that parents have an obligation to pay the educational expenses of their children. All FSHA families pay some tuition. Therefore, every family is expected to have pursued other financing avenues available to them before requesting a grant.

FSHA is a member of FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment (FACTS), which helps independent schools across the country determine the need of a family. In reviewing each application for aid, the Financial Aid Committee considers both the FACTS and all other additional information the family is asked to provide. See Financial Aid and Scholarship Application Procedures for more information.

## GUIDELINES

Of greatest priority is that all families who decide to pursue an application for financial aid adhere to all deadlines and requirements without exception. The Financial Aid Committee has a set budget of funds from which to grant awards. Families wishing to be considered should never assume there will be additional funds for late applicants after the Committee has met and made grant decisions.

- All information submitted is kept in the strictest confidence.
- Financial aid is awarded with priority given to returning students whose applications and required documentation are submitted in a timely manner.
- Tuition accounts for currently enrolled students must be in good standing with the Business Office to receive a financial aid award. All families are required to meet payment schedules under the terms of the enrollment agreement. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from Flintridge.
- Awards will not be considered unless complete financial information is received from both parents. In the case of parents separated, divorced or never married, both parents are required to fully complete the financial aid application. It is expected that both parents and appropriate stepparents contribute to the cost of the student's tuition and fees regardless of legal agreements. The Financial Aid Committee does not feel bound by the assertion that one parent disclaims responsibility for educational expenses.
- Families must reapply for financial aid every year. Receipt of an award for one year does not guarantee receipt of an award for every year forward. If continuing need is demonstrated, Flintridge prioritizes returning families when making financial awards.
- In the event of a positive change in financial circumstances, families receiving aid must notify the Business Office for the purpose of recalculation.
- Flintridge reserves the right to withdraw financial aid at any time during the school year should discrepancies be discovered in the information provided.
- Students are asked to help out at the school and answer phones on weekends and after regular office hours several times during the year. Parents are expected to be active members of the school community.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 14, 2008** – Financial Aid Application due to FACTS. Personal Letter and Form 4506 due to FSHA Business Office

**February 15, 2008** – Tax Information due to FACTS

**March 7, 2008** – Financial Aid and Scholarship decisions mailed to new students

**March 21, 2008** – Financial Aid and Scholarship decisions mailed to returning students

## LATE APPLICATIONS

Please do not jeopardize the consideration of your family's application for financial aid by filing late. All late applications will only be considered after all timely applications have been reviewed and then only if there are funds remaining. Please note that the majority of financial aid resources are distributed at the time of registration in March. If funds are not remaining, qualifying late applicants will be placed on a wait list provided a complete application and required documentation have been received.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Merit Scholarships** are academic awards available to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students regardless of their financial need. These scholarships are awarded to approximately three to six incoming freshmen that demonstrate outstanding and consistent achievement in the areas of academics, entrance exam results, co-curricular activities, service to the school and community and academic references. Merit scholarships are renewable each year based on the student's continued satisfactory grades, effort and conduct.

Applicants seeking a Merit Scholarship must take the HSPT Entrance Exam designated "for Merit Scholarship eligibility." This test will be conducted at FSHA on **December 8, 2007**. All students who take the HSPT are automatically eligible to receive the Merit Scholarship; no further action is required. Recipients of the Merit Scholarship will be notified in their acceptance letter. The Merit Scholarship Award ranges from \$2,000 - \$8,000.

**Alumnae Scholarships** are awarded to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who have strong academic records in addition to having a relative who is an FSHA alumna. Recipients are chosen based on the alumna's participation in the Academy since graduation; the applicant's grades and activities, and a personal letter of application. Alumnae scholarships vary in amount and are renewable to students who maintain a 3.0 grade point average or above.

## STUDENT LOANS

While financial aid awards are based on Flintridge's assessment of family need, you may wish to explore other payment options through an outside organization. Several organizations offer various options specifically designed to meet tuition financing needs. While FSHA does not endorse any particular organization or plan, below are some organizations you may want to contact.

### **prepGATE Loan Program**

c/o The Education Resources Institute  
P.O. Box 838110  
Boston, MA 02283-8110  
Fax: 888-329-8374  
Phone: 888-353-GATE  
[www.prepgate.com](http://www.prepgate.com)

### **Achiever Loan**

Key Education Resources  
P.O. Box 55569  
Boston, MA 02205-5569  
Fax: 617-426-3089  
Phone: 800-Key-Lend  
[www.key.com/achieverloan](http://www.key.com/achieverloan)