

CHESTERFIELD MONTESSORI SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2026-2027

SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

CMS is committed to providing an authentic Montessori program for children of diverse backgrounds. Acceptance of students is made independent from scholarship requirements. To ensure the long-term quality of the education we offer, we feel it is essential to maintain racial, social, and economic diversity.

Chesterfield Montessori School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs and any school-administered programs.

FUNDS

The Administration, together with the Board of Trustees, will identify a dollar amount from the Operating Fund to be dedicated annually to scholarships as part of the budget.

Additionally, any restricted contributions to CMS, earmarked for scholarships, will be added to the funds available for scholarship awards. At its discretion, the Scholarship Committee will award all or part of the available funds in a given school year.

Any amounts not awarded will be returned to the Operating Fund, except that any Scholarship Restricted Contributions not awarded will carry over to the next school year. Such contributions, together with any interest earned on them, will be made available for scholarship awards for the following school year.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The CMS Scholarship Committee is coordinated via the Head of School, Assistant Head of School & COO, and at least one member of the Chesterfield Montessori School Board of Trustees. The purpose of this Committee is to administer and approve the CMS Scholarship Program as well as allocate the available funds. Committee members sign confidentiality agreements to ensure that all applications are handled in confidence.

CRITERIA FOR AWARDS

Scholarship awards are based on a family's demonstrated financial need, number of children enrolled at CMS, commitment to the school and the availability of scholarship funding. An independent firm, FAST (Financial Aid for School Tuition) by Independent School Management, which specializes in the evaluation of scholarship applications, analyzes the financial criteria for each applicant. The FAST computation helps the Committee determine the amount of need for the scholarship for each family. This information, along with the other award criteria, is used to make an award recommendation.

Once an award is granted, the school reserves the right to withhold it (1) if the students fails to perform current schoolwork at an acceptable level to the school; (2) if the student's or parent's behavior or lack of cooperation is unacceptable to the school; (3) if tuition and/or fee payments are overdue; or (4) if the student leaves the school.

PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Families wishing to apply for a scholarship must do so annually by submitting the materials listed below **by February 25, 2026**. You can access the FAST application by clicking the link below:

<https://ismfast.com/FastPage.php?id=1f1f5752bf133d3cff7bbc3ebb8910dd>

- ❑ Complete the FAST application online and submit the required processing fee. Please enter current information. The application must include a letter from the family explaining:
 - The family's need for scholarship
 - The family's desire for an authentic Montessori education
 - What ways the family will be involved with the school (volunteer work, classroom observation and attending Parent Education evenings) and any other relevant information the Scholarship Committee should consider when reviewing your application
 - How much the family can afford to pay for tuition after making reasonable sacrifices for their children's education
- ❑ Provide FAST a copy of your most recent W-2 and/or 1099, most recent Income Tax Form 1040, Tax Form Schedule(s) A, B, and/or C as submitted to the IRS
- ❑ Email jennifer@chesterfieldmontessori.org to alert the school that the FAST application has been submitted

To be considered for the scholarship, students must have visited, applied and been admitted to the school.

Once we have received evaluation reports from FAST, applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. All decisions will be communicated to parents prior to their enrollment deadline. Awards granted are valid for the 2026-2027 academic school year, August 2026 through May 2027. If you have any questions concerning this process, please contact Jennifer Blasingame at (314) 469-7150.