



# The North Fork School

## Tuition and Fees

### 2017-2018

## Tuition

Please Note: When you decide to send your child to a private school, you are agreeing to pay for your portion of the expenses of making that opportunity available to the community for the entire school year. Although NFS billings are divided into September and December payments, this is merely for the convenience of families' financial planning; it *does not indicate* first semester/second semester charges.

Tuition does not simply cover an hourly rate for teachers, as if we were teaching swimming or gymnastics. The yearly expenses of the school must be covered, whether or not students finish the year. This is also true for students who join classes late in the year: a simple pro-ration based on monthly division of the fees is not adequate to cover our costs. Please read & sign the agreement on your Family Registration Form to indicate that you understand our billing policy.

Tuition and fees should be made payable to **The North Fork School**.

<b>Writing Workshop:</b> (all-inclusive – no other fees)	DEPOSIT	\$850.00
***fewer than 4 students, add \$500.00/student	Balance due 9/1/17	<u>\$1350.00</u>
	Total WW fees/tuition	\$2200.00

### ALL OTHER CLASSES:

**registration deposit -- \$850.00**

**per family** (not per student) **school fee -- \$1500.00**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Programs:** \$4800.00

**First (single) HS class (English, Math, or History):** \$2800.00

**Additional HS class (or math) added to another NFS class:** \$1800.00

**ONE STUDENT ONLY** in a class – add \$2000 to above amounts.

One-half of tuition payment is due on **September 15, 2017**

The balance of tuition is due on **December 15, 2017**

There will be no refunds or credits for any reason after September 15, 2017

Monthly payment plans and other financial allowances are available for families who can demonstrate true financial need. If you require this consideration, you must inform Marie of your planned payment schedule or needs by September 1, 2017. *Families who do not file a payment plan or who do not call to inform Marie about unexpected events that affect payments should expect a finance charge on unpaid balances after 12/15/17.*

If a course is canceled due to lack of minimum enrollment or due to changes in the public school schedules that cannot be adjusted to include NFS, **all deposits and fees** will be returned in full. If a student changes his mind or drops a course before September 15, 2017, the **nonrefundable application deposit (\$850.00)** will be forfeited.

A school fee is assessed *per family* involved in the NFS program. This fee covers rent, utilities (power, phone, sewer, water), insurance, licensing, plowing, and other costs associated with maintaining the NFS site as separate, unshared classroom space (a requirement of accreditation), as well as costs of on-site accreditation visits (including our next external accreditation review in (2020-2021).

### **A note on private school tuition:**

Private Day school tuitions in the United States vary from \$18,000 to \$44,000+ per year for full-time students. As fully-enrolled students at private schools take between six and eight classes during the school year, the actual cost of tuition ranges from 2,250 to \$7,333 per class taken per year. The lower tuition amount represents that of parochial schools, which are heavily subsidized by their local parishes or diocese. Even private religious schools in McCall receive free or subsidized rent from their churches to help keep tuition costs low. Sometimes, private schools with large endowments offer significant scholarship opportunities to students; in every case, private school tuitions cover only half of the actual cost of educating students. The balance of funding comes from annual fundraising through parent, alumni and donor networks.

Private schools as well as public schools in high-income neighborhoods often have a fundraising expectation for their families: knowing a family's annual income allows these schools to "request" a certain donation above the annual tuition or tax assessment each year. The North Fork School is not a 501c3 tax entity; this means that the school is not run by a Board of directors; it cannot do fundraising activities to offset tuition costs; it does not have an endowment to provide scholarships; it does not offer the benefits, retirement, and salary packages to teachers that other private (and public) schools can offer. The benefit to NFS parents in this situation is that there will be no fundraising calls to NFS families.

Most NFS students are dually-enrolled in the MDSD schools, which receive full state funding for each NFS student. None of those state dollars come to the North Fork School; all tax dollars go toward making MDSD programs run as well as possible.

In view of these typical private school costs, NFS tuition and fees, although they seem to be expensive if this is a family's first experience with private school payments, are actually quite low. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Year programs, each of which consists of two for-credit classes, are only \$3150 per class; adding math to one of these programs results in a total of \$2700 per class. High School English, Math, or History costs \$2633-\$4300 per NFS class, depending on the number of classes taken in one year.

### **Why is there a separate school fee in addition to tuition?**

While tuition pays teachers and the expenses of running our programs, the separate school fee funds the NFS infrastructure: building and insurance costs, fees for accreditation (which requires the use of the site ONLY for school, and for no other purposes), maintenance, utilities, etc. This fee is a *per-family* fee, allowing families with multiple children a discount as they fund more than one year of tuition at a time.

### **How is the deposit applied to future billing?**

The application deposit of \$850.00 does not apply to any part of tuition or to the *per-family* school fee, outlined above. The deposit and the *per-family* school fee are due in September.

### **Are scholarships available for NFS classes?**

The North Fork School has never turned away a student who is motivated to work hard, but whose family cannot pay the full tuition. At the same time, almost every family would like to receive some sort of financial aid. The North Fork School offers a scholarship for middle school students entering the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Year program as well as math classes – the amount of offered aid from the Grote Scholarship Fund follows that student through his/her entire NFS career, as long as his/her need remains the same.

Families who can prove true financial need do have options, including payment plans (each plan must be requested and in place before the September billing), a work-exchange for partial tuition credit, or a personal assessment of financial status that can result in reduced tuition. Families who request reduced tuition must understand that, since the NFS is *not* run by a non-profit board that could fundraise to offset such costs, any financial aid is a direct gift from NFS teachers, who agree to take a reduction in their student-based fee to help a student who is academically motivated.

There are no aid programs for private schools in general that I know of – basically, teachers agree to accept less money for students who can't afford to pay. This is a stretch for teachers – we offer help usually if there is a trade available, or if a student is REALLY motivated, and a parent is REALLY poor. The North Fork School also counts families who make monthly payments as receiving aid – the school is basically personally financing families' abilities to pay over time, without charging interest or other fees. This is, from a business perspective, also "financial aid." The number of families who receive actual discounts is very small; all have extenuating circumstances.

Most parents would like help with paying tuition. This is also true at the college level – when parents must fill out detailed financial forms to see if they qualify for financial aid. This is a great process to do right now to see what your own income level may allow you to receive (this is pure financial aid, not merit scholarships, or other school funding that a student could potentially earn through high test scores & grades). It would be a great exercise for your family to do together – just to see where you "stand" as far as potential financial aid goes. Go to FAFSA <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> and fill out their forms to get some feedback now.

There have also been discussions about starting a foundation just to help NFS students pay for tuition – parents who get involved would not FUND such a project, but, with help looking into grants & funding from other places, would work together to set up a separate 501c3 foundation that could then aid NFS students. Even with such a foundation in place, families would have to be able to prove actual "need."

### **Why invest in a North Fork School education?**

Our most recent on-site review for accreditation took place in February 2015, as part of a new process, and a new accreditation cycle. The process always includes analyzing the results of stakeholder surveys as well as of statistics such as ISAT and SAT scores to show improvement. As you think about what to do for school next year, there are some really amazing trends that I think you should know.

First, although NFS students usually already score in the higher percentiles of ISAT scores in the MD school district, AND even though it is difficult to show very much improvement in those upper ranges, our students showed an overall improvement (by class) from Spring 2010 to Spring 2011 of:

+15 to +32 points in Reading;  
+9 to +26 points in Language  
+16 to +21 points in Math

While is usual for us to have these kinds of improvements from lower-level students who are just beginning to work at NFS, having overall class scores come up that much in one year reveals a LOT of learning. All of our current test data and results from current parent | student | alumni surveys are posted on the North Fork School website at [www.thenorthforkschool.com](http://www.thenorthforkschool.com) under the OPINIONS dropdown menu.

Second, I had a call in 2013 from a Boise parent who had a senior who, as a strong student athlete, was just beginning to receive offers of athletic scholarships from colleges. Unfortunately, her SAT scores were low, and her essay received a “7” (out of 12 possible points). This parent wanted to know if I knew of some way to help her child improve those scores, because the low scores were determining a lower financial aid award, per NCAA rules. I had to tell her that there is no “quick fix” for SAT writing scores. There is really no “quick fix” or “trick” for any SAT or ACT test score – such scores are the result of consistent, long-term effort and practice. That is what we do every day at NFS. To have scores affect a college financial aid award – even when that award is predicated on athletic achievement – comes as a shock to many students.

Third, a former NFS parent loves to relate how her son, a 2009 graduate of MDHS and NFS, received a year’s worth of college credit (at \$40,000+/year) for AP scores he received as a result of his NFS work. Some of the scores translated into credit for more than one entry-level course, allowing him to skip almost all of his freshman requirements, and to begin college as a sophomore. This parent was not only thrilled at the savings NFS allowed her son in his pursuit of a college education, but claims that NFS was the “best money [she] ever spent” as far as his gaining confidence and ability to work at a college level. He graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2014 with a job at Apple, and is currently working at Google, taking his success to the next level.

This kind of accomplishment is common among our graduates; when parents wonder whether they can “afford” NFS, I would like them to wonder instead, “how can we *not* afford it now?” Later, as I must tell many parents who come to me in their students’ junior or senior year, when it is finally obvious to them that their children are not going to be ready for college-level work, is often too late.

I am not pressuring any of you to sign up for NFS classes. Too often, I find that parents mull over these issues alone, without facts or statistics or open conversation to guide them or to help them decide what is best for their families. There are many ways to educate a child; we offer one option. We love what we do, and we hope that you choose to be part of the love this year. Whatever you decide, may 2016-2017 be a great year for you and your family.