



Christ Lutheran Church and School

2022-2023 Tuition Q&A

Please find outlined below Christ Lutheran School's rationale for the significant, yet necessary, increase of about 8% in our tuition rates for both K-8 and preschool/TK.

- Our team of dedicated and qualified Christ Lutheran teachers serve sacrificially at pay levels well below our Pacific Southwest District guidelines. Our plan is to work strategically, gradually, and intentionally to bring our pay scale in alignment with District guidelines.
- In order to call experienced, highly-qualified educators who serve in our synodical Lutheran school systems throughout our state and nation, we need to afford them a salary that makes it possible for them to live and serve at Christ Lutheran, Rancho Palos Verdes.
- In order to hire highly-qualified educators and support staff trained outside our synodical teaching institutions for the school year 2022-2023, increases in our pay scale are needed so that we can be competitive in recruiting and securing personnel to meet our school ministry needs.
- Inflation is currently running about 7%, which is the highest it has been in many years. Inflation has significantly impacted school operational expenses, purchases of many school materials, in addition to raising the cost of maintaining the school facilities. Inflation is yet another reason why the tuition increase is necessary.
- Christ Lutheran has run deficits the last few years. The deficit was over \$100,000 just in the last year and a half. Although, by God's grace, that deficit has been taken care of and addressed by a loan CLCS took out, Christ Lutheran needs to work diligently to maintaining consistently a balanced budget. A tuition increase will be one of many strategic steps toward that goal.
- The tuition increase will allow Christ Lutheran to have a balanced budget for the next fiscal year.
- Christ Lutheran School seeks to enrich, expand, and improve the high-quality programs and educational experiences offered. Additional programs and resources need funding support through tuition, fundraisers, grants, and other third-source funding resources. We seek to expand the music program to include Grades K – 8 (Currently K-5), and establish a K-8 Art program taught by a part-time art teacher assisted by parent volunteers. We strategically plan to establish a Resource Program and Tutoring Network, and are already preparing to launch Christ Lutheran's Speech Therapy Pilot Program for Preschool through 2nd Grade through a licensed speech therapist partnering with us to offer her services presently as an independent contractor.

Our tuition discounts for sibling, church member, and military families have also been raised by 8%. To mitigate some of the challenges of this tuition increase, we are planning for a large increase to our financial aid budget for the fall. For those families that cannot afford the tuition increase, financial aid will be available for those that families that need assistance to be able to keep their children at Christ Lutheran School.

WASC Accredited

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What tuition discounts are available for K-8?

We raised our tuition discounts by the same 8% that tuition was increased.

We offer the following discounts for the fall:

- A sibling discount of \$1,240 for the second, third, or fourth children in a family.
- A church member discount of \$1,240 for a family that belongs to Christ Lutheran Church and is active in attending church and donating to the church.
- A military discount of \$1,240 for a family that includes an active-duty military member.
- An annual payment discount of \$120 per child for a family that pays the entire year's tuition in August.
- Your family can qualify for all of these discounts.

What are the payment options?

There are 3 payment options:

- Make a single payment of the total annual tuition by August 5, 2022.
- Make 10 monthly payments via SMART starting in August 2022.
- Make 11 monthly payments via SMART starting in July 2022.

How can a family qualify for financial aid?

We will increase our budget for financial aid by 25% for the fall. A family can apply for financial aid with FACTS. Talk to Michelle Dorling in the school office for details of how to apply. FACTS will evaluate financial information that a family provides to determine the need of the family. We award financial aid in the form of discounted tuition as each family needs.

Please do not apply for financial aid if you can afford the tuition increase so that we can help more of the families that truly cannot afford the increase.

How much is the registration fee for K-8?

The registration fee is \$400 for the first student of a family and \$350 for other students in that family.

Payment of the registration fee allows Christ Lutheran School to more accurately prepare for the school year by knowing how many students will be attending.

How does the scrip program work?

The scrip fee is \$400 per family, due before school starts or by acceptance, plus 2 weeks for new students entering after the start of the school year. The late scrip fee is \$450 per family. The scrip fee can be paid directly to the School Office or it may be added to your SMART account. To add the scrip fee to your SMART account, you must notify the School Office by the due date. If the family purchases scrip during the school year, any profit that Christ Lutheran receives from that purchase is accumulated in a record of that family's scrip fee credit. The accumulated scrip fee credit is used in the next school year to reduce the scrip fee due from the family. Some families purchase enough scrip to entirely eliminate the scrip fee that they owe for the next school year. For graduating students, the scrip fee credit may be used to offset some of the expense of the 8th grade field trip to Washington, D. C.

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What happens if a student withdraws from Christ Lutheran School?

There is a description of that on the back of the 2022-2023 Fee Schedule which you received.

For each month that a student attends CLS (for even a part of the month) the tuition is 10% of the yearly tuition. If the family has paid more tuition through an annual payment or through SMART payments, any excess will be refunded upon request (so that we know where to send the refund).

If a student withdraws can the registration fee and scrip fee be partially refunded?

No. These fees are not refundable.

Are there going to be more tuition increases in future years?

We cannot foresee the future. However, for quite a few years, the tuition increases have been modest due to our desire to hold the price of tuition down. Our attitude has not changed – we will continue to keep tuition as low as we can.

How does Christ Lutheran's tuition compare to other private schools in the area?

There are 18 other private schools in the area that we surveyed. Our tuition for the fall is lower than the tuition charged by 11 of the 18 schools for this current school year. Information on what all of those schools will charge for the fall is not yet fully available, but it is highly probable that their fees will likewise be raised. The median tuition of those schools is \$9,385. That means that half of the schools charge more tuition than \$9,385. Our tuition of \$8,950 is lower than that median tuition. The average tuition of those schools is \$12,417. Obviously, we are lower than that average tuition as well.

Is the church making money off of the school?

Our objective is to provide the lowest tuition possible for students, but also to exercise faithful Christian stewardship in balancing our budget. Christ Lutheran Church has a long history of supporting the school. Within the last few years, the church has paid for a new roof for the school, an upgrade to the computer lab, new SMART whiteboards for each classroom, new classroom furniture. These are just a few examples of the many ways Christ Lutheran Church supports its school. In addition, the church does not charge the school for use of the classrooms. Christ Lutheran School is a ministry of Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran School has lost money for the last 3 years, and these losses have been borne by Christ Lutheran Church. Recently, the pandemic caused a large drop in enrollment and at times limited class sizes, particularly in preschool. The church covered the school's losses with a loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and as a church has taken responsibility for the repayment of that loan.

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