



CORNING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COMMON FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS AND HELPFUL ANSWERS FROM RICHARD CORNFIELD AND THE CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1. WHAT IS THE ANNUAL OPERATING COST FOR CORNING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (CCA)?** Our 2011-2012 operating budget was \$911,306. This year 79% of our school operating cost will be covered by registration and tuition income. The remainder of income must come from fundraising, donation gifts to the school and other minor income. Our three major expenses are payroll for our teaching and support staff at 47%, administrative operating expenses of 14% for CCA and facility operation expenses at 7%. Our certified staff sincerely views their involvement as dedication to Christian education of our student body. They make a great financial sacrifice to this ministry.
- 2. WHAT IS THE ACTUAL COST OF A CCA EDUCATION?** Our annual tuition rate for the next year is typically published by February or March each year. Increases tend to range from 3-5%. The 2012-2013 tuition rates are \$4,055 for a primary K- 6 level student and \$4,351 for a 7-12 high school student. Parents should be aware that, at current levels, the actual CCA cost to educate your child is \$4,600 per student. Our goal is to implement an ongoing financial aid program that can assist parents with tuition needs. Currently, fundraising, registration, and tuition fees cover a major portion of the teaching & support staff salaries, facility operating cost, and books & teaching materials. Our intent is to begin using more of our fundraising income for financial aid to supplement tuition costs.
- 3. DOES CCA HELP THOSE FAMILIES WITH MORE THAN ONE CHILD ENROLLED?** Absolutely. Tuition for families with more than one student is reduced 15% for the second student, and 25% for the third and fourth student. We seek to remain competitive with other area private schools and encourage families with multiple students to participate in our financial aid program. The FACTS application process gives special consideration to multi-student families.
- 4. HOW MUCH AID WOULD I QUALIFY FOR?** We understand that your income is not the sum and essence of your current financial situation. Many variables may still be relevant (past job loss, extended family obligations, unusual medical expenses, real estate transactions, etc.) We do give consideration to those with multiple children in Christian schools and those in full-time ministry. Some may be going through a down time financially and will likely recover in a year or two. We strive to support families in these situations. Accordingly, we encourage everyone who feels a financial need to apply for possible financial aid. Our goal is to distribute all the monies available in any given year. We work in partnership with the FACTS organization to establish the best formula specifics that fit our school situation.
- 5. OK, BUT IS THERE ANY WAY TO PREDICT A RANGE OF WHAT I MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR?** This is the 3rd year in our formal financial aid process. Currently, the most aid a student can receive is 50% of a student's tuition. Last year we awarded \$7,700 in aid to 9 students with aid ranging from \$439 to \$957 per student. This information is not a guarantee of future award amounts. Each year will be different depending on the amount of money we have to award in aid, the number of students who apply for aid and the specific financial situation of each family that applies. Again, if you have a need we encourage you to apply.
- 6. I HAVE REVIEWED THE ONLINE AID APPLICATION PROCESS THROUGH FACTS, BUT HOW CAN WE COMMUNICATE OUR UNIQUE SITUATION THAT DOESN'T FIT IN BOXES AND NUMBERS?** We always welcome personalized explanations. Just send a letter or email directly to the attention of Michael Lindquist, Business Manager, and it will be included in the final consideration by the school. We understand every family has a unique situation.



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7. **HOW IS MY CONFIDENTIAL FAMILY INFORMATION HANDLED?** CCA cares deeply about respecting your privacy. FACTS, our outsource aid service, is a very reputable firm that provides the initial evaluation step. FACTS serves thousands of private schools and has an established confidential and reliable process. After FACTS finishes their evaluation of your application and tax forms, they send us a recommendation for an award.

Michael Lindquist our Business Manager, Richard Cornfield our CLC Administrator and the Board Financial Aid Subcommittee then review the FACTS recommendation and bring in any additional personalized information that you have sent CCA. Your family financial information or aid award amounts are maintained exclusively within this review group.

8. **WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY IN THE PROCESS?** It is very important each family complete their part in a timely process. Established expectations with deadlines are clearly explained and real. We must insist that parents take the responsibility to get all their required information in on time. If you miss a deadline, you are welcome to get your materials in for the next review cycle.
9. **IS IT IMPORTANT TO GET MY APPLICATION IN EARLY?** Yes. Even though we continue to add to the financial aid fund through additional fundraising events, we anticipate that funds will run out before the end of submitted applications. Earlier is always better.
10. **WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST IF WE STILL CAN'T AFFORD CCA AFTER RECEIVING AN AID AWARD?** Many families use a variety of sources to help fund their child's education. Extended family (grandparents, aunts, uncles) are often able and interested in helping. Some of our sponsoring churches have Christian education scholarship or support funds. Many parents don't realize that educational loans, often associated with funding college, are often available for high school as well. We also encourage families to explore potential new sources of income (spouse work, teenager summer job, etc.).
11. **IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND CCA REALLY WORTH IT?** Thousands of parents over many decades have answered that question with a resounded "YES!" God has entrusted all of us with financial resources. Some more, some less than others. We believe that there are very few things more important than our children's education. We only get one shot and Christian education has eternal significance. CCA is prepared to partner with you.
12. **WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?** Please contact one of the following:

- Michael Lindquist, Business Manager, 607-962-4220, x109 or lindquistm@christianlearningcenter.com
- Richard Cornfield, CLC Administrator, 607-962-4220, x101 or cornfieldr@christianlearningcenter.com.

Corning Christian Academy 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 the administration of its educational policies, admission policy, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.