

Cleveland Montessori

Tuition Assistance Programs

To be considered for tuition assistance at Cleveland Montessori, the following must be on file:

- *Returning Students – signed Enrollment Contract and accompanying registration fee.
- *New Students – Enrollment Application and accompanying application fee.
- *All students/families need a complete report from Smart Tuition and supporting documentation on file at the school.

Cleveland Montessori is a primarily tuition-funded school, and must receive the full tuition amount for each student. Even with multiple sources of the tuition assistance listed below, all families contribute some amount toward their child's tuition or fees.

All families wishing to apply for financial aid MUST complete a financial aid application (Smart Tuition Aid) form. These forms are available in the School office beginning mid-January or online at www.smarttuitionaid.com.

Completed forms are due to the School office (along with a check for the financial aid application fee) by mid-February so that they can be mailed as one group. A copy of ALL applications (whether submitted to the school or online) must be submitted to the school office with a copy of W-2's, tax returns, or other similar supporting documentation by mid-February. Families CANNOT be considered by the School's Scholarship Committee without a completed report from Smart Tuition and supporting documentation on file at the School.

Applications returned to the School after this date may NOT be received back from Smart Tuition in time for consideration from the Scholarship Committee.

Make a copy of your completed application before submitting it.

Be sure that the form is complete and accurate to avoid processing delays.

Be sure to submit copies of supporting documentation with your completed application.

Call the School to be sure that we have received your report from Smart Tuition.

The Scholarship Committee will review your Smart Tuition report and notify you in writing of your eligibility for assistance. Awards are generally made by the beginning of May. Currently, there are four different sources of tuition support/financial aid available to families...

1. Cleveland Montessori Scholarship Fund:

The School aggressively raises financial support through its annual *A Taste of Little Italy* fundraiser to create a scholarship fund to assist as many families with tuition as possible. All families seeking scholarship assistance must submit a new financial aid/Smart application each year. The School cannot guarantee applicants will receive the same or any assistance each year.

2. Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Voucher:

The Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring program offers aid for income-qualifying residents living within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District of kindergarten age or older. Voucher amounts are determined by family income per the CS&T office from a lottery process. Although applications are submitted by the School, the CS&T voucher program is completely independent of the Cleveland Montessori. Please call the voucher office directly at 216-787-5680 for more information. If you are awarded a voucher at the lower level (25% level), your family is responsible for the remaining program tuition costs. If you are awarded a voucher at the higher level (10%), State laws require that parents are not required to pay the tuition difference. However, the parent is responsible for any other fees and costs associated with enrollment at the school. Families receiving this higher-level voucher are required to apply for scholarship assistance through the Cleveland Montessori Scholarship Fund and/or Angels Unknown Sponsorship program. Families currently receiving a CS&T voucher will receive renewal information from CS&T directly. Families wishing to apply for a CS&T voucher can obtain applications from the School office. CS&T vouchers applications (new or renewal) are generally due by mid-April.

3. Ed Choice Scholarship Program

The Ed Choice Scholarship program is available to students who would be attending a school within their local district that is in academic watch – per the listing on the Ohio Department of Education website. Students who receive this scholarship and are in the lower income brackets (within 200% of poverty) are not required to pay the remaining tuition. However, the parent is responsible for any other fees and costs associated with enrollment at the school. Families receiving the Ed Choice Scholarship are required to apply for additional scholarship assistance through the school's scholarship fund or Angels Unknown Sponsorship Program. An extension of the Ed Choice Program is also available specifically to low income families in certain grade levels. Check the Ohio Department of Education website for details. Ed Choice applications (new or renewal) are generally due by mid-April.

4. Angels Unknown Sponsorship:

The Angels Unknown Sponsorship program is a *limited* source of support that has is secured by the School from private families or corporations. Interested parents must submit both a financial aid/Smart application and a 'Letter of Request' to the School, and will be placed on a waiting list. Sponsors are secured at varying levels of commitment.

Cleveland Montessori does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national nor ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Please call or write to the school (attn: Scholarship Committee, Chair) with any further questions.