

DMCS Needs-Based Tuition Assistance Overview

This year we will utilize the online service of ISM's Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST) to process applications. FAST will be the standard submission format for all applications.

FAST does not decide whether financial assistance will be given or how much to give; rather FAST provides a need-based financial aid analysis service which includes a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute toward tuition. All information from FAST is kept confidential. Results are reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee who makes recommendations to DMCS based on next year's budget. Upon approval by DMCS, financial assistance awards are then communicated to families.

As a reminder, you must reapply each year. To start the process, please do the following:

- Access Lion Campus.
- Under Resources, click on the Tuition Savings Resources tile.
- Click on the FAST link.
- Click 'Start Application' to begin.
- The application process is self-guided. You may navigate in and out of the program allowing you to partially complete an application and go back to it at another time. FAST has a 24/7/365 helpline available to you should you have any questions, which can be reached by calling 1-877-326-FAST (3278). Please do not call the school with questions.
- The charge for the application is \$48.00 and to be paid by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express) after all sections have been completed.
- After completing the online application, you will be required to upload your **2021 tax documents** (Federal taxes including all schedules, State taxes and W-2's) to FAST for verification purposes. Or, you may mail the documents to the following address:

Independent School Management
Attn: FAST Processing Center
2207 Concord Pike #417
Wilmington, DE 19803

Please submit a copy of your tax return with a physical signature (no electronic signatures).

- If your family is eligible for an award through the Heart of Iowa STO, please complete the STO application, physically sign, and upload to your FAST account.

The online application priority submission deadline for all applications is **April 1st, 2022**.

Your tax return must follow the submission of the online application and be submitted to FAST by **April 1st, 2022**, so be sure to make your tax appointment early!

