

2023-24

# Continuous Enrollment

Nanaimo Christian School practices a <u>Continuous Enrollment</u> process to streamline the annual re-enrollment process, reduce paperwork, and make it more efficient and convenient for our loyal NCS families.

Previously the re-enrollment process had been an "Opt-IN" program. Annually we asked every family, "Are you coming back?" Since the large majority (on average over 94%) of NCS families return year after year, Continuous Enrollment flips it to an "Opt-OUT" process.

As long as you have signed a Continuous Enrollment Contract with Nanaimo Christian School, you will never have to worry about re-enrolling again. Our re-enrollment approach is "once enrolled, always enrolled".

#### How do you need to respond for the 2023-24 school year?

In order for Continuous Enrollment to start at NCS, you will need to complete the attached Continuous Enrollment contract. That's it! We will not need to contact you in September for tuition arrangements, or remind you to re-register next January.

If you still have questions about your enrollment, please contact Dawna Ferris, Admissions Coordinator.

# Parent Participation Fee

Parent participation is vital to the effective running of our school and all of its activities. This fee program is asking families to volunteer 20 hours or pay \$250.00 each year. The requirement is the same regardless of the number of children you have enrolled in the school. Volunteer hours can be completed by any adult family member who is willing to adhere to Nanaimo Christian Schools policies and complete a Criminal Record check. Understandably, some families may not be able to volunteer so we do provide an alternative option to donate to the Parent Participation Fund instead. If either option creates a hardship, please speak to the School's Administration.

A post dated cheque can be provided to the business office or the parent participation fee will be processed along with the final tuition payment for families who were not able to fulfill their 20 hours.

## New Family Capital Improvement Fee

This is a one time fee due upon enrollment, per new family, of \$1000. The purpose of this fee is to help maintain and improve the school campus. This fee also acknowledges that current and past school families have contributed and laid the foundation but that ongoing support from new families is still essential. Families who can not make this contribution will need to meet with the Accounting Office.

## Tuition for 2023-24

As a level 1 funded school in the Province of BC, Nanaimo Christian School receives 50% of the student grant given to the local public schools. As an example, if a School District 68 student receives \$8000, NCS would receive \$4000 for that student. The rest of the funding is made up through tuition. NCS has made a deliberate attempt to make Christian education affordable for families and offers a graduated tuition rate. As a level 1 school, our costs can not exceed the cost per student in our local school district which means we need to make sure that the combination of tuition and government grants are not higher than the amount the school district receives.

Each year, the Finance Committee and Board reviews the tuition to ensure that the school can function and operate successfully. This includes ensuring staff are compensated fairly, that students have access to programs and resources and that facilities are maintained and safe.

TUITION FOR 2023-24					
	1st child (oldest)	2nd child	3rd child	4th child	5th child
K-8	\$7,514	\$2,324	\$1,118	\$229	\$0
High School	\$7,890	\$2,657	\$1,157	\$238	\$0

As such, our tuition rates for 2023-24, show an increase of 4% and are as follows:

#### After Tax Cost

Every year, parents may receive two tax receipts from Nanaimo Christian School, both of which are used on your tax return to reduce the taxes payable to the government. One receipt incorporates any donations made over and above tuition payments, including those made to the capital campaign, Dare to Believe. The second receipt consists of the portion of the family's tuition relating to "religious" education after deducting the portion allocated to so-called "secular" education. This calculation is made in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency's guidelines and can vary from year to year depending on a number of factors. As an illustration, if a family with two children at NCS paid tuition of \$7500, and the "secular" cost of education was calculated to be \$500 per student, the family would receive a tuition donation receipt of \$6500 (\$7500 tuition minus \$500 per child). For BC residents, all donations in excess of \$200 attract a tax savings of 43.7%, so for a 2 kid family tuition payment of \$7500, the tax savings would be about \$2840, resulting in a net tuition cost to that family of \$4660. And here is a good idea, at least we think so. Would you consider donating a portion of your tax savings or refund? This would greatly help NCS in providing great education and facilities and as an extra bonus, you would generate a further refund the following spring. It's a cycle that keeps growing and growing.

## Guidelines

#### We Plan for Families to be With Nanaimo Christian School for the Entire School Year

Due to the nature of education, much of the planning required to run an effective school must be done on an annual basis. Significant financial commitments are made annually: teachers are hired, curriculum and capital assets are purchased, programs are developed and a host of other plans are created to function for the entire year. As such, by enrolling your child(ren) at Nanaimo Christian School you are committing to partner with the school for the entire year. For families entering the school mid-year, you are committing to partner with Nanaimo Christian School for the remainder of the school year.

#### **KEY FINANCIAL GUIDELINES:**

- A. Upon admittance to Nanaimo Christian School, students in good standing are continually enrolled, from year to year, until they graduate or leave the school. Continuous enrollment requires families to maintain up-to-date personal information with the school to ensure effective communication. The school will publish the upcoming school year's enrollment fee and tuition rates no later than March each year.
- B. When a student or family voluntarily withdraws mid-term within the current school year, for any reason, at least one full calendar month's written notice must be given to the school. Tuition for the entire current month, plus the next month will be charged to the family's account. For example: if a family withdraws on March 7th, tuition for both the months of March and April remains due to the school. A student or family who elects to dis-enroll for a subsequent school year, must provide written notice of withdrawal prior to July 15th to avoid collection of subsequent tuition fees.
- C. While students are continuously enrolled at Nanaimo Christian School, their placement status is not guaranteed until all financial obligations from the previous year are fulfilled. Families with an outstanding tuition account as at July 15th will cause their students' names to be placed into classroom waiting pools for the following year.
- D. Ongoing failure to maintain a current tuition account and the ability to meet the financial obligations of the chosen payment plan may result in the release of the student.
- E. When a student is suspended, expelled, or asked to withdraw for disciplinary reasons, all tuition and fees paid to Nanaimo Christian School are non-refundable.
- F. When a student leaves Nanaimo Christian School for any reason, all unpaid accounts remain due to the school, even after graduation.
- G. For families choosing to make a single Annual payment, either by cheque or credit card, the due date is September 1st. For families choosing the 12-month Pre-Authorized Payment method, 1/12th of the tuition and annual fees is due on the 20th day of each month (August through July). For families choosing the 10-month Pre-Authorized Payment method, 1/10th of the tuition and annual fees is due on the 20th day of each month (September through June).
- H. Accounts will be charged a Returned Item Fee of \$30.00 should any payment made by credit card, cheque and/or Pre-Authorized Payment be rejected by the family's financial institution for any reason (for examples: Non-Sufficient Funds, Account Closed, etc.).
- I. Inability to comply with any of the above Key Financial Guidelines must be communicated in advance to the school Business Office.

Nanaimo Christian School receives a portion of its operating budget from the Ministry of Education of BC. The remainder of our operating budget comes through tuition, fundraising and donations. Please see the current Tuition Agreement for the amount that would be applicable for your family and for payment options. We strive to include as many of our educational costs as possible in our tuition, but there may be additional cost for particular courses, athletics, fine arts, trips, technology devices, etc. These fees are not eligible for tax receipting. There is a \$100/family (non-refundable) application fee due at the time of application.

If your situation finds tuition to be a barrier to your family attending Nanaimo Christian School please contact Admissions for information about our Tuition Assistance program.