



GARDEN SCHOOL

Jackson Heights, New York

Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

Tuition Assistance

Garden School is an independent, not-for-profit institution whose operating expenses are covered solely through tuition, contributions, and our auxiliary programs. The school is committed to offering an excellent academic choice while remaining a realistic option for New York families. Consequently, our annual tuition remains one of the lowest among New York independent schools.

In addition to keeping tuition low, Garden offers two types of tuition assistance, need-based financial aid and the Merit Scholarship Program.

Applying for Financial Aid

(Please note: procedural changes have been made this year so please read carefully)

Garden School offers a limited amount of need-based financial aid to families who demonstrate need and submit all necessary paperwork completed and on time. All families must reapply for financial aid each year in order to demonstrate continued need.

To be considered for need-based financial aid, *new* families must have completed and submitted an Enrollment Application, including supporting paperwork and application fee. Families must also submit a complete Financial Aid Application, including all supporting documents. Families apply by downloading and completing the application available on our website on the *Admissions > Tuition and Financial Aid* page. Based on the financial information submitted, an award may be granted to offset the tuition.

The Financial Aid Committee will review both new and returning family financial aid applications on a semi-monthly basis beginning in February 2016. **Applications should be completed and returned to the Business Office by February 1, with a copy of your 2015 tax return and a completed IRS Form 4506** (see Tuition and Financial Aid page on school website) allowing Garden School to access an “official” copy of your return, for possible clarifications. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Families should file their 2015 taxes as soon as possible in order to have accurate and current information available. All applications and financial information will be kept confidential.

All **returning families** will receive their Enrollment Agreements in January. If you intend to apply for tuition assistance, it is not necessary for you to sign the full tuition Enrollment Agreement. However, financial aid decisions will be made on an ongoing basis beginning February 1st. Therefore, **if unable to apply by February 1, it is critically important that those returning families intending to reenroll and to apply or reapply for tuition assistance inform the school in writing of your intention by February 1 at the latest.**

Returning families seeking tuition assistance must return their completed applications by March 15th. The later your application is received, the less tuition assistance is available. Applicants will be notified on an ongoing basis by mail beginning February 2016 and a new enrollment agreement will be sent reflecting the amount of the award and the adjusted tuition. **Awards cannot be guaranteed on Enrollment Agreements that are returned after the “Return by” date or without a deposit.**

For **new families**, an enrollment agreement will be sent reflecting the amount of the award and the adjusted tuition. Families are required to sign and return one copy of the agreement by the “Return by” date along with the non-refundable \$1,000 deposit as stated on the Enrollment Agreement in order to retain their award. Only Enrollment Agreements accompanied by the deposit will be accepted.



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The Merit Scholarship Program

The Merit Scholarship Program was started over twenty years ago in order to attract high-performing and well-rounded students to the school.

Merit Scholarships are granted each year based on the results of the Merit Scholarship Exam, administered each December to interested students in grades 5-10. Families must register for this Exam and based on exam scores, potential candidates are invited to interview and school records are reviewed.

A Merit Scholarship, typically ranging from 25% to 100% of tuition, is awarded for a student's entire time at Garden. However, Merit Scholars must maintain specific academic and social criteria in order to maintain Merit Scholarship awards. In addition, a Merit Scholar in good standing can retake the Exam any year and only improve their award. They cannot lose or lower their award amount based on future Exam scores. Typically, the process of identifying Merit Scholars each year is completed by the middle of February once all interviews have been completed.

New and current families who are taking the Exam and who have not received a Merit Scholarship in the past may apply for need-based tuition assistance at any time. If a Scholarship is awarded and accepted, their tuition assistance application will no longer be considered. Typically, Merit Scholars are not also eligible for need-based financial assistance. If they are not awarded a Scholarship, then their tuition assistance applications will be considered. Families are encouraged not to wait for scholarship decisions and to apply for tuition assistance as soon as possible with up-to-date tax documents.

Current Garden students who have taken the Exam for the first time that year, will receive an Enrollment Agreement in January that will *not* reflect the possible Merit Scholarship Award. Those Garden students who are Merit Scholars and chose to retake the Exam will receive Enrollment Agreements that reflect their *current* scholarship award amount only. **Families must write to the school prior to the February 1 reenrollment deadline to let us know of their intention to wait until the exam results are finalized.** If they are awarded an additional scholarship, a new Enrollment Agreement will be issued and must be signed and returned by the due date in order to retain the award.

Successful Merit Scholars **new to Garden** will be sent an Enrollment Agreement that reflects their award amount and tuition balance. The signed Agreement must be signed and returned with the deposit when applicable by the due date on the Agreement in order to retain the scholarship.

More information can be found on the Garden School website and by emailing info@gardenschool.org.