

Frequently-asked Questions

Where is the North Fork School located?

The North Fork School address is 812 Reedy Lane.

Going north on Davis (toward Ponderosa Park), turn right on Reedy Lane (the road to the McCall Golf Course Clubhouse). Number 812 is on the right, after Ponderosa Street. It is a brown house with a red roof & detached garage.

Why does the website never change?

Most class pages are updated once/week, except for the Writing Workshop page, which is updated twice/month. When you go regularly to an internet site, your computer saves the pages for you in its temporary memory, so that the page does not take so long to load each time you visit. It is necessary to “refresh” the page to access information that may have been uploaded since you last downloaded the site.

Why is there a separate school fee in addition to tuition?

The separate school fee allows NFS to keep costs lower for everyone, by prorating the site expense by the number of families enrolled each year. We could give out one “tuition” number that included all fees, but it would necessarily be estimated on the high side, to cover all of our unanticipated costs. The sliding scale enables families to save, especially when they are paying tuitions for multiple students..

Are scholarships available for NFS classes?

We are excited to announce a new scholarship offered to those who can demonstrate true financial need. Aimed at helping families who are committed to educational quality, but who simply could not afford the full cost of NFS tuition, the *Grote Scholarship* allows new students in the 1st and 2nd Year programs (6th & 7th graders) to apply for and receive help throughout their NFS years of study.

An application from the applying student, which includes a short letter requesting financial aid, and two years of his/her parents’ tax returns, will be reviewed by an independent committee to determine recipients, and the amount and number of such scholarships each year. *More information on this scholarship is available at:*
<https://www.thenorthforkschool.com/scholarships/>.

The North Fork School has never turned away a student who is motivated to work hard, but whose family cannot pay the full tuition. At the same time, almost every family would like to receive some sort of financial aid.

Families who do not qualify for financial aid do have options, including payment plans (each plan must be requested and in place before the September billing), a work-exchange for partial tuition credit, or a personal assessment of financial status that can result in reduced tuition. Families who request reduced tuition must understand that, since the NFS is *not* run by a non-profit board that could fundraise to offset such costs, any financial aid other than the new scholarship program is a direct gift from NFS teachers, who agree to take a reduction in their student-based fee to help a student who is academically motivated.

The North Fork School counts families who make monthly payments as receiving aid – the school is basically personally financing families’ abilities to pay over time, without charging interest or other fees. This is, from a business perspective, also “financial aid”. The number of families who receive actual discounts is very small; all have extenuating circumstances.

Most parents would like help for tuition. This is also true at the college level – when parents must fill out detailed financial forms to see if they qualify for financial aid. This is a great process to do right now to see what your own income level may allow you to receive (this is pure financial aid, not merit scholarships, or other school funding that a student could potentially earn through high test scores & grades). It would be a great exercise for your family to do together – just to see where you “stand” as far as potential financial aid goes. Go to FAFSA <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> and fill out their forms to get some feedback now.

A note on private school tuition:

Private Day school tuitions in the United States vary from \$18,000 to \$44,000 per year for full-time students. As fully-enrolled students take between six and eight classes during the school year, the actual cost of tuition ranges from 2,250 to \$7,333 per class taken per year. The lower tuition amount represents that of parochial schools, which are heavily subsidized by their local parishes or diocese. Even private religious schools in McCall receive free or subsidized rent from their churches to help keep tuition costs low. Sometimes, private schools with large endowments offer significant scholarship opportunities to students; in every case, private school tuitions cover only half of the actual cost of educating students. The balance of funding comes from annual fundraising through parent, alumni and donor networks.

The North Fork School is not a 501c3 tax entity; this means that the school is not run by a Board of directors; it cannot do fundraising activities to offset tuition costs; it does not have an endowment to provide scholarships; it does not offer the benefits, retirement, and salary packages to teachers that other private (and public) schools can offer. Additionally, most NFS students are dually-enrolled in the MDSD schools, which receive full state funding for each NFS student. None of those state dollars come to the North Fork School; all tax dollars go toward making MDSD programs run as well as possible.

In view of these typical private school costs, NFS tuition, although it seems to be expensive if this is a family’s first experience with private school payments, is actually quite low. The 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Year programs, each of which consists of two for-credit classes, are only \$2400 per class (at the higher rate for fewer students), while High School English, Math, or History is \$2133 -\$2800 per class, depending on the number of classes taken in one year.