



*Hard to believe, but we are already gearing up to welcome new applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Current families are already being asked about students they'd like to add, and Open Enrolment begins December 1 - just two short weeks away.*

*CCS finds itself in an interesting position in terms of enrollment: we're at about 95% capacity. That's right - "mostly full" with a few openings here and there. And this won't be the first time. Our Admissions Coordinator has had to retain a pool of interested families who were unable to be placed last year; so far, many are still interested in waiting for an opening.*

*Each year at this time, we must also set budgets and announce program fees so families (and the school) can prepare. And that's why we're sharing this letter with you - so you know what has been decided and why.*

*To the point, earlier this week, the Board approved a 3% increase to program fees of grades Pre-K through 11 for the 2023-2024 school year.*

#### [CCS 2023-2024 Program Fees](#)

*The increase reflects a commitment on the part of the CSCE to keep CCS affordable while partially addressing the impact of inflation on essential operating costs. To be clear, actual inflation is more than twice this amount, but we believe we can effectively continue to provide our level of services and programming at these rates.*

*Over the past 5 years, the CSCE has worked to harmonize the budget so that it consistently provides for all of our operating needs - including the ongoing repairs of our existing facilities and replacement of furnishings and equipment. In order to "get there", we had to make a few leaps in fee values. We also had one year with a "zero percent" increase during the pandemic. So, from the outside, it may look a little erratic or inconsistent, but there were important strategies in play that would ensure our future financial stability.*

*In this new budget environment, then, on a go-forward basis, we can look to modestly increase fees annually to adjust for inflation - more in line with 2% - 3%. Families can then anticipate measured and consistent changes from year to year.*

*Two other quick changes to the admission and fee program: first, the Family Max is being raised to \$12,500. If you don't know, the FAM MAX is a long-standing practice of discounting program fees for*

families with multiple students enrolled. The program sets a limit as to the maximum amount any family would have to pay. It has been raised periodically as fees increase. It should be noted here that financial assistance is available to qualifying families - including those who may be near but do not qualify for the new FAM MAX limit.

Secondly, we have increased the renewal deposit amount to 10% of a family's upcoming program fee total. This step has been taken in an attempt to reduce the number of families who fail to notify us of their withdrawal in a timely manner. The previous value didn't seem to be a deterrent to people holding a space and then withdrawing as late as September. These delays in notification jeopardize our ability to effectively fill classes, secure staffing, and forecast financial impact accurately.

And to jump in the way of the next question - no, these shifts aren't to pay for the new building. On the contrary, it is an increased emphasis on fundraising that will help us achieve our building and improvement goals. The easiest way to understand this is: program fees should cover all our operating expenses, and fundraising should help us take our school to the next level of program enhancement and facility expansion.

To help us in this audacious goal, we are hiring a director of development - someone whose skill and experience will help develop a fundraising program for us that is reliable, effective, and transformative. Our vision for fundraising goes well beyond meeting annual needs. It envisions community support that funds new buildings and renovations, equips us with new equipment and furnishings, expands our program options and student experiences, funds greater professional development, and faithfully provides additional funds for financial assistance.

I know it's a lot to put into one letter, but that's the insider scoop for now. We will be talking more about these decisions and our long term financial goals and strategies at the November 22 Society meeting. So, I hope to see you there.

Should you have comments or questions, feel free to contact me via email.

Many thanks.

Blessings,



**Ken DeWyn**

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