FINANCIAL AID POLICIES & PROCEDURES
MISSION

FVS
Fountain Valley School of Colorado is dedicated to providing a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum in academics, athletics and the arts. Our community endeavors to foster a lifelong love of challenge and learning in an environment of diversity and mutual respect, and to prepare adolescents to become individuals who are open-minded, curious, courageous, self-reliant and compassionate.

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

FVS is all about people, relationships, and community. The financial aid office and staff honors that commitment. Each family is treated with respect and confidentiality. The goal of the FVS Financial Aid Office is to make this often confusing process as transparent and simple as possible.

The FVS Financial Aid Program has a two-fold purpose: to provide the School a well-qualified student body, & to provide deserving students with an opportunity for a high quality education, which might otherwise be unobtainable. FVS encourages families with limited financial resources to apply for assistance based upon the assumption that the primary obligation for financing a student’s education rests with the family. FVS expects that a family is willing to make what could be significant adjustments in the use of their discretionary income, as well as access ancillary resources that may be available through extended family, work, and/or local organizations.

FVS subscribes to The National Association of Independent Schools’ (NAIS) School and Student Services for Financial Aid program, which determines a family’s need and their expected family contribution (RFC) using nationally standardized criteria.
SUMMIT SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1930, students at Fountain Valley School of Colorado have discovered their own genius in Academics, Arts, and Athletics. Students who demonstrate excellence in these three areas are considered for the prestigious Summit Scholarship, a renewable merit scholarship that can be worth up to half annual tuition and combined with additional need-based financial aid for those who qualify. Last year, Fountain Valley School awarded tuition assistance to 41% of the student body. Students who wish to be considered for the Summit Scholarship should strive to excel in the following areas: Academic Excellence, Extracurricular Interests & Citizenship, and Extraordinary Character.

Selection Criteria Types of Scholarship:

Academic Excellence: Applicants should demonstrate outstanding academic achievement by earning a strong grade point average throughout a challenging middle school curriculum and posting standardized test scores commensurate with their ability. They will often rank within the top 10 percent of their class, maintain a cumulative grade point average at or above 3.5, and score in the top 15 percent of independent school norms on the SSAT.

Extracurricular Interest & Citizenship: By presenting an outstanding record of participation in activities such as school or club athletics, fine and performing arts, student government, civic activities or community service, applicants have the opportunity to display their potential to be outstanding campus leaders at Fountain Valley School of Colorado. Students must demonstrate maturity and a drive for success by stretching their potential in and outside the classroom.

Extraordinary Character: Recommendations from teachers, school administrators and community leaders should reflect an applicant’s strong character. Personal Interviews conducted during the admission process will also give the applicant an opportunity to reflect on his or her potential to live out the ideals reflected in the Fountain Valley School Honor Code.
SUMMIT SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED...

Fountain Valley offers three different levels of Summit Scholarships:

Pikes Peak Scholarship: 50 Percent of tuition.
Mt. Princeton Scholarship: 35 Percent of tuition.
Cheyenne Mountain Scholarship: 25 Percent of tuition.
Mount Manitou Scholarship: 15 Percent of Tuition.
POLICIES

Renewals - Need-based financial aid is not automatically renewable. Every financial aid award is made for one year only and will be reviewed annually. Each year and for each child, parents must submit the necessary forms to School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS). While significant changes in a family’s financial circumstances can impact the amount of annual aid awarded, the Financial Aid Committee’s goal is to maintain funding at proportionate levels over a student’s years of enrollment. FVS reserves the right to amend awards if new information comes to light after enrollment. Current FVS families who are not on financial aid and who have experienced unexpected financial difficulties may apply for financial assistance for the following school year.

Divided & Separated Families – When dealing with divorced or separated parents, the goal of the financial aid officer should be to get as much information as possible for both parties, as well as from the spouse of either or both.

Each situation is unique and should be handled on an individual basis. All forms will be sent to the custodial parent. The custodial parent will forward the forms to the non-custodial parent. This will avoid embarrassment for both the parent and the school. In subsequent years the non-custodial parent can request that the Financial Aid Officer send all forms directly to them. This should be handled on a case by case basis. The same documentation is required of both parents. When a non-custodial parent refuses to comply, the Financial Aid Committee should determine if the family should be considered for financial aid.

The following policies apply to divorced/ separate situations:

Non-custodial parents must furnish a PFS along with the form 1040, W2s & all supporting schedules in order for a financial aid application to be considered complete.

If the non-custodial parent refuses to submit the necessary information to the Financial Aid Office, the application for financial aid may not be processed.

If the custodial parent has not heard from the non-custodial parent for a period of time, forms may not be required. A letter of verification from a disinterested party (minister, attorney, etc.) will be required.
In cases of divorce, a copy of the divorce decree will be required. Fountain Valley School reserves the right to review aid applications on a case-by-case basis.

**Couples living together but not married** - In situations where couples are living together, but are not married, information from both parties is required. If the child is from a former marriage of either party, forms will be required of the current family and the non-custodial parent and their spouse.

**Children living with other relatives** - Children living with grandparents or other relatives will be reviewed on a case by case basis. If parents are still living and are claiming the child on their tax return, the parents must complete the financial aid forms, if other family members have legal custody, forms will be required of the custodian, using his/her financial information. We will need copies of proof custody.

**Stay at Home Mom/Dad** - When the mother or father does not work & there are no preschool children at home, the cost of one day tuition will be added to the income of the family.

Consideration will be made for a parent who is caring for a disabled child, parent, grandparent or a critically ill child, parent or grandparent.

Consideration will also be given for a parent that is homeschooling children.

**Parent(s) in school** - If either parent returns to school and is not working, the cost of one day tuition will be added to the income of the family.

**Need-based financial aid and international students** - As a general rule, Fountain Valley does not award need-based financial aid to international students.

**Additional information request** - Fountain Valley School reserves the right to request additional financial information from aid applicants at any time.

**Parents who own a business or a farm** - All parents who own a business/farm will be required to furnish a copy of their current business tax return. They will also be asked to furnish an SSS Business Farm Statement. In some cases we may request a cash flow statement, balance sheet, or any other information relevant to the business.

**Student Income** - Parents are required to furnish a copy of the student’s tax return, if applicable.
Form 4506T- All parents must sign a release to allow Fountain Valley School to obtain a copy of their tax return from the IRS (Form 4506T). This form is required even though copies of tax returns are furnished. It is not necessary for you to send a check for the processing fee.

PFS Adjustments- Computations based on the PFS will be adjusted to reflect figures shown on the tax forms. Funds will not be reserved for those whose PFS or tax forms are received after the deadlines.

Financial Aid Decisions- An application for financial aid is considered only after a student has been admitted to FVS.

FVS Financial Aid Waiting List- Admitted students who qualify for need-based financial aid outnumber those whom FVS can afford to support; therefore, some admitted students will be invited to accept waiting list status for financial aid.

Financial Aid and Early Notification- If your student has completed the admission application prior to the February first deadline and has received an admission decision from FVS, your family’s financial aid package will still not be released on March 11 with your enrollment contract.

Financial Aid and Spring/Summer Admission- Aid awards are made in the summer as, and if, funds become available.
PROCEDURES

To be eligible for consideration for financial aid, families must complete the Parents’ Financial Statement (PFS) and submit all supporting documents by March 1. The Financial Aid Office will communicate decisions about financial aid on March 11.

1. COMPLETE THE PARENTS’ FINANCIAL STATEMENT (PFS) ONLINE

Go to sss.nais.org/parents.
Click on the “Apply Now” button.
Our school code is 3244
Set up a PFS Online account using your e-mail address and a password. Submit and pay for the PFS ($35). This fee is nonrefundable.

2. SUBMIT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS to SSS

FVS requires that families submit to SSS by mail or online the following documents in addition to your completed Parents’ Financial Statement:

A signed copy of the IRS Form 4506T
2011 & 2012 IRS Form W2 and/or 1099 earning statements
2011 & 2012 IRS Form 1040 with all supporting schedules
2011 & 2012 Student tax returns – If applicable
2011 & 2012 Business Tax Returns – Only for parents who own a business &/or farm
2012 Business Farm Statement - Only for parents who own a business and/or farm

3. SUBMIT COPIES OF ALL 2011 TAX FORMS to FVS (No later than MARCH 1)

2012 IRS Form W2 and/or 1099 earning statements
2012 IRS Form 1040 with all supporting schedules
2012 Student tax returns – If applicable
2012 Business Tax Returns- Only for parents who own a business and/or a farm
SSS FORMS