

Ananda Living Wisdom School Tuition Policy

(to be read as a first step in determining tuition rates)

Background: Ananda Living Wisdom School is a non-profit corporation serving students from preschool through 12th grade. (Since preschool is optional schooling, it is operated strictly on a cash basis, and the policies in this document do not apply.) In order to freely implement our philosophy and purpose in having this school, we choose not to accept government funding that would then dictate how we operate. Specifically, we feel public schools make a huge mistake in attempting to divorce academic learning from moral and spiritual development. It is this all-around growth that we see as the foundation for children's success and happiness, not only in school, but for the rest of their lives.

Our Reality: Since we deal with the whole child and not just the intellect, we have found it necessary to keep class sizes down to 12 or fewer, so that teachers can adapt the curriculum to each student's strengths and needs. This low student-teacher ratio has a direct impact on the school's finances since there are fewer children per classroom to help pay for teacher salaries and other costs of running the school. Our teachers are very dedicated to the school's philosophy and are willing to serve at a salary that is 1/3 of what local public school teachers make. Raising even this much money though takes a lot of commitment and creativity since our school is not located in a prosperous area. An imposing challenge certainly, but throughout the 38 years of our school's existence we have found that if each family does their absolute best, we are able to make ends meet and offer a program worth far more than its dollar value.

Boarding High School: A further challenge at the high school level involves providing boarding for international students and others that come from a distance. We not only need to have sufficient funds to attract good house parents, but also must cover rent, utility and food costs. The point here is that we have less financial flexibility when it comes to boarding costs, no matter how good a fit the student is. That does not mean you should not apply as some students have scholarships available for one reason or another and some parents have something of value that can help the school in lieu of full tuition payments.

The Bottom Line: We feel our tuition rates are quite reasonable by comparative private school standards, and are deeply grateful to those who can pay the full amount. However, if the rates seem daunting, but you feel your family and child are a good match for the school, you should still apply, no matter how little you can afford. Being a good match means that we will be teaching the values that you wish your child to develop and that you already support at home. From 7th grade on up, the student also needs to feel that this is the right school. All of this is more important than whether you can afford our fees. This is why we want you to read this letter as the initial step in determining your tuition rate. We are committed to helping you find a workable solution to have your child in our school. Most parents pay in 10 monthly installments

Next Step: Once you have read this policy, please pick up the sheet of tuition rates from the school office. Then when you fill out the enrollment contract, you can decide whether you are able to pay the scheduled fees or need a Tuition Adjustment appointment.