

Orillia Christian School Tuition Assistance Program

At Orillia Christian School we desire to have as many families experience Christian education as possible. To help achieve this goal we have established a tuition assistance program for families with a demonstrated financial need. The funds for this program come from donations. We are also able to access some bursaries through the Christian School Foundation. We encourage anyone who is not able to manage our tuition rates to apply for financial assistance. However, please take the time to read how this program works before completing the online application because there is a fee involved.

Families wishing to receive financial assistance for their tuition are required to complete a comprehensive online application called FAST (Financial Aid for School Tuition). This application was developed by ISM (Independent School Management Inc.). The FAST application enables us to safeguard your privacy while making fair assessments of each family's financial capacity.

FAST does not decide what amount your family is eligible to receive. Rather, FAST provides a financial analysis which includes a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute towards tuition. All information from FAST is kept confidential. Results are reviewed by the treasurer & bookkeeper and brought anonymously to the finance committee. The finance committee will make the final determination regarding the amounts to be awarded. These decisions are based on the Board's policies and the next year's budget. Once determinations are made, notices will be sent to the individual families.

The charge to apply is \$53.00 USD per family. Email bookkeeper@orilliachristianschool.com if you cannot afford this fee. The school is able to give out a couple of vouchers each year which allow you to complete the application free of charge. When you are prompted to enter credit card information, you simply enter the voucher number and use the current month and year as the expiry date.

The online FAST application is laid out clearly in sections, and every line of the application that asks for a number has an associated “help bubble” that explains the field in detail. There is also a downloadable paper worksheet to help organize the information that FAST requests. And FAST doesn’t sleep, either. A 24/7 live customer service helpline is provided to answer any questions you may have. Please do not call the school with specific questions about the application. The customer service at FAST is very helpful.

After you begin your FAST application, you may navigate in and out of the program. This allows you to partially complete an application and go back to it at another time. FAST provides parents ample space to clarify their unique situation on the application. Also, the FAST formula is adjusted to take into account your local cost of living.

The deadline for the first round of online applications is **April 15**. You will have until **May 15** to submit documents for verification. The online applications will be reviewed in May, after all tax documents have been verified. We will continue to process applications right through the summer, but the awards may be limited by the amount of available bursary that remains.

While no financial aid can be perfectly equitable (there are simply too many individual factors and extenuating circumstances) this process has been selected because we believe it serves our community very well. This program takes into account the wide variety of circumstances we find among our families. We are thankful for a process which allows expertise, efficiency and confidentiality as we seek to make Christian education accessible to all families.

To begin your application, click on the FAST logo or copy and paste the following URL:
<https://ismfast.com/FastPage.php?id=2d0751b58c2bf4fd08452694f4a0caa9>



Information you should have on hand to complete your FAST application:

Canadian Tax Forms

- Most recent federal forms
- Copies of all supporting tax schedules
- T-slips (such as T4, T4A, T3, T5)
- Business - T2125
- Fishing/Farming - T2121, T2042
- Rental Property - T776
- Corporation - Latest Financial Statements prepared by auditors
- Partnership - L122, Schedule 4 (part III), T5013 or T5013A
- Trusts - T1142 if applicable

Household information

- Year-end statement from your mortgage holder
- Bank statements
- Brokerage statements
- Insurance costs for home, life, auto and health
- Utility information
- Medical records & expenses
- Retirement account information