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# FAQs regarding School Tuition & Fees

Several school programs have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Will we get a refund for fees already paid to KCS?

Yes. The school Accounting Office is working with all program coordinators to determine what portion of paid fees can be refunded immediately. Examples of programs expecting refunds include: Hot Lunch, Missions Mexico & Band trips, MS/HS Camps and Team Participant Fees.

### When and how will program refunds be processed?

Our goal is to process the majority of program refunds the week of March 30th - April 3rd. Refunds will be delayed for those programs where the refundable portion is not yet confirmed.

The fastest and most efficient manner for KCS to issue refunds is by EFT credit to the same family bank account used to collect monthly tuition by pre-authorized debit (PAD). This is our preferred refund method. Alternatively, we would send refund cheques out by regular mail. Any exception handling requests should be sent to the Accounting Office at <a href="mailto:accountspayable@kcschool.ca">accountspayable@kcschool.ca</a>.

## Do we still have to pay tuition for the balance of this 2019-20 school year?

Yes, full-tuition remains due for the balance of this 2019-20 school year. KCS remains committed to providing the instructional leadership, materials, and planning needed to extend our students' skills, learning competencies, and relationships, so they are well prepared for next year. As announced in previous communications, full school programming will continue until year-end, just offsite. All Kelowna Christian School staff remain committed to working full-time to meet the mission and vision of our school.

While KCS is not planning any changes to our tuition structure for April through June 2020, we are concerned that the COVID-19 crisis has impacted employment and family incomes in our community. Our commitment to you and our desire is that all of our families will remain part of Kelowna Christian School for the balance of the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. Surviving and thriving through this will require everyone's sacrifice and service to one another.

To that end, we are investigating every opportunity to reduce costs (without compromising the quality of education) with hopes to reallocate resources to a short-term COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Relief Fund. If there are members of our community who desire to help contribute to this fund, please reach out to Mike Campbell, Head of School (mike.campbell@kcschool.ca; 1-604-845-8074).

#### What if our family is challenged to pay the balance of tuition due?

KCS has always been and remains committed to partner with those families who are experiencing temporary financial hardship or for whom paying full tuition is beyond their financial means. We do everything we can to demonstrate flexibility with those families, who for legitimate reasons, are unable to fulfill their tuition payment obligations.

Recognizing that many families are significantly impacted by this pandemic, both the Federal (Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan) and Provincial (BC COVID-19 Support) governments have announced comprehensive financial relief programs for people and businesses. We encourage eligible individuals and families to take advantage of all available government support programs should the loss of family income prevent payment of KCS tuition.

If paying regular tuition remains a challenge after exhausting the Federal and Provincial relief programs, and you're unable to meet your tuition commitment over the next three months, then please contact Mike Hansum, Director of Finance & Operations at <a href="mailto:mike.hansum@kcschool.ca">mike.hansum@kcschool.ca</a> to discuss your unique, individual circumstances. Any families requesting tuition relief will be asked to complete a short, confidential <a href="mailto:COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Relief Fund application">COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Relief Fund application</a>.

#### Looking ahead is there Financial Aid available for 2020-2021 Tuition?

Yes. Our regular Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST) program remains in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. However, given that the filing due date for 2019 tax returns for individuals is being deferred, we have also extended the 2020-2021 FAST application deadline (and required supporting tax documents) to May 15th, 2020. Details about FAST can be found on our Admissions webpage.

Note: the FAST Program is now only taking applications for the 2020-2021 school year. If your family has need of tuition assistance for the remainder of this current 2019-2020 school year, then apply to the COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Relief Fund described above.

# STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

#### Contact:

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