

Financial Handbook 2018-2019



Bishop Hamilton
Montessori School

"Where Mind and Spirit Go Hand in Hand"

Welcome to Bishop Hamilton Montessori School

Our goal is to keep you informed and allow you to participate in all aspects of your child's education. The BHMS Financial Handbook is designed to provide you with an overview of our financial policies and procedures. This is a useful resource that identifies much of the information you require and serves to define the financial relationship between the School and our parent community.

BHMS is a not-for profit independent school and as such, receives no educational funding from the Province of Ontario. In our continued efforts to maintain, enhance and broaden the scope of our programs and facilities, the School implements annual increases to fees. BHMS relies on tuition fees, including the ongoing support and generosity of our community through our fundraising campaigns.

We look forward to sharing an enriched and stimulating year with you and your child. I encourage you to read this Financial Handbook and do not hesitate to contact the Administration Team should you have any questions.

Renette Sasouni
School Director

Bishop Hamilton Montessori School

OUR MISSION

To offer a Christian-based Montessori education in a safe community where Infants to young adolescents are encouraged to reach their full developmental potential. BHMS is committed to the academic, spiritual, physical and social growth of each child, which is the foundation of our educational approach.

OUR VALUES

Values shape thoughts and actions; they help students explore what is morally important, socially significant and personally fulfilling. We recognize that strong, clear values are the foundation on which we build success.

The community of BHMS is comprised of students, staff, parents, the Board, alumni and friends of the school. It works together to integrate into daily life the school's values of excellence, respect, learning, faith, commitment and community, and dedication to personal growth. The community is brought together by a commitment to these values for the growth of each student.

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I. Fees Defined

To plan the operating budget, BHMS must establish fees and make contractual commitments well in advance of the academic year. Therefore, when a student is registered it is understood that a place is reserved for the entire school year and that there are penalties for withdrawal. These penalties are also outlined on the Fee Contract that parents enter into each year.

Annual Fee

The annual fees consist of tuition, activity, and capital fees. It may also include music and lunch program fees..

Tuition Fee

Tuition refers to the Program that the student is registered in. All fees are for the school year and do not include School holidays such as: Christmas Break, March Break (exception: Infant and Toddler programs include March Break), and summer vacation.

Initial Instalment – New Students

Non-Refundable \$1,000.00 per applying student

The initial instalment **applies towards tuition fees** and is due upon registration. This fee is non-refundable unless BHMS does not accept the application for admission.

Enrolment Fee

Non- Refundable \$100.00 per family for returning students
Non- Refundable \$200.00 for new students or late re-enrolments

The Enrolment Fee covers the costs of processing the enrolment.

Activity Fee

Non-Refundable

This fee directly supports your child's class activities and is used at the classroom Director's discretion to support internal and external class activities. Activity Fees by program are outlined below:

Toddler	\$100
Casa:	\$100
Elementary:	\$225
Junior High:	\$800 (rich program of activities, including extensive day and overnight field trips)

Capital Fee

Non-Refundable \$300.00 per student

Funds raised through the Capital Fee are used by BHMS to invest in the on-going and future costs of building repairs and renovations. This fee is applicable to all students enrolled in the school.

Music Fee – Senior Elementary & Junior High Students

Non-Refundable \$275.00

This fee goes directly to the cost of musical instrument rental and supplies. The fee is waived for students who have their own instrument.

Lunch Program

Refundable \$1,300 optional

BHMS provides an optional lunch program that is offered to all students. Lunches may be purchased on an occasional basis at a rate of \$8.00 per day.

Sibling Discounts

Sibling discounts are offered to families who have two or more children concurrently attending Bishop Hamilton Montessori School.

The school offers a 20% discount for the 2nd child, and a 25% discount for the 3rd or more. The discount will apply to the lowest tuition of the siblings and is applied against the core Montessori component of the day: Half Day Program for Toddler and Casa, School Day for Extended Day Casa, Elementary and Junior High students.

If a student is withdrawn for any reason, all sibling discounts and registration incentives provided to the family will be re-computed at the date of withdrawal. The incentives will apply only to that part of the school year when both siblings attended BHMS. Regular, non-discounted fees will apply to the remainder of the school year for the continuing student.

II. Schedule of Academic Program Fees

Tuition Fees 2018-2019

Program	Half Day 8:30 – 12:00	School Day 8:30 – 3:30	Extended School Day 8:00 – 4:00	All Day 7:30 – 5:30
	PD days Not Included	PD days Included	PD days Included	PD days Included
Infant: 3 – 18 months	N/A	N/A	\$16,275	\$19,290
Infant Tuition Includes 2 weeks March Break Camp				
Toddler: 18 months - 3 years	\$9,650	\$15,325	\$16,170	\$18,030
Toddler Tuition Includes 2 Weeks March Break Camp				
Casa: 3 years – 4 years	\$9,315	\$12,335	\$13,760	\$16,480
Extended Day Casa: 5 years – 6 years	N/A	\$12,335	\$13,760	\$16,480
Elementary: 6 years – 12 years	N/A	\$13,950	\$15,580	\$18,690
Junior High: 13 years – 14 years	N/A	\$14,955	\$14,955	\$14,955

Please contact administration should you require different school hours.

III. Tuition Payment Plans

Bishop Hamilton Montessori School offers two instalment options for the payment of fees which are summarized below.

Annual Instalment Plan

The fee for tuition is due in full at registration. BHMS offers a 3% discount for this option. The 3% discount applies if fees are paid by the end of February for the upcoming school year. The discount will be pro-rated for payments received after the end of February.

BHMS accepts payment of school fees by cash, cheque, money order, bank draft and pre-authorized withdrawal.

Monthly Instalment Plan

Equal Monthly Instalments: Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit, with the final instalment paid by January 30th of the academic year the enrolment pertains to.

Registration is not complete until payment is received, or Pre-Authorized withdrawal consent (page 2 of the enrolment contract), is received with accompanying "VOID" cheque.

Payment Methods

The School cannot accept payment for tuition by means of credit or debit card. Miscellaneous charges such as casual care or fundraising purchases, may be paid by credit card, cash, debit, or cheque.

IV. General

School Hours of Operation

School hours of operation are between 7:30 am and 5:30 pm.

Program Options

BHMS offers four core options for the length of the school day:

Program Options				
Program	Half Day	School Day	Extended School Day	All Day
Infant 3 – 18 months	N/A	N/A	8:00 – 4:00	7:30 – 5:30
Toddler: 18 months - 3 years	8:30 – 12:00	8:30 – 3:30	8:00 – 4:00	7:30 – 5:30
Casa: 3 years – 4 years	8:30 – 12:00	8:30 – 3:30	8:00 – 4:00	7:30 – 5:30
Extended Day Casa: 5 years – 6 years	N/A	8:30 – 3:30	8:00 – 4:00	7:30 – 5:30
Elementary: 6 years – 12 years	N/A	8:30 – 3:30	8:00 – 4:00	7:30 – 5:30
Junior High: 13 years – 14 years	N/A	8:30 – 3:30	8:00 – 4:00	7:30 – 5:30

The School may not be able to accommodate parent requests for additional hours partway through the school year. Please contact administration should you require different school hours.

Administration Fee

An Administration fee of \$100 will be charged for changes to school hours. This fee is waived if the request for change in hours is communicated no later than September 30th for returning students or within thirty (30), days from the start date for new students.

Casual Care

Casual care may be arranged pending staff availability for:

- \$25.00 per hour or part thereof for Nido (Infant), students
- \$20.00 per hour or part thereof for Toddler students
- \$15.00 per hour or part thereof for Casa and Elementary students

At least 24 hours notice is required. Payment must be made in advance of care.

Late Pick Up Fees

Costs for late pick-up, or after your contracted pick-up time, will be incurred at a rate of \$1.00 per minute with a minimum charge of \$10.

NSF Charges

A \$35.00 fee will apply to all returned cheques or automatic withdrawals for any reason not directly arising out of any action by BHMS.

Payment Obligations of Tuition Fees and Personal Charges

Tuition fees become due and payable as per the payment option selected. Charges billed to a parent's account are due upon receipt of invoice.

As places in the school are offered for the full duration of a school year, parents are responsible for payment of fees in full. Withdrawals prior to or during the school year are subject to BHMS withdrawal policies as contained in Section V titled Student Withdrawals.

In the event of student suspension, dismissal, withdrawal or absence from the School for any reason, parents or guardians shall still be liable for payment of the fees. The obligation to pay the annual fees for the entire academic year shall be unconditional, subject only to the stated cancellation and withdrawal policies.

Delinquent Accounts

- a) Interest, at the rate of 3 % per month, or part thereof will be charged on overdue accounts.
- b) Any student whose account has not been paid by the required date will not be permitted to attend the School and will not receive evaluations or transcripts. Parents or guardians shall remain liable for payment of the annual tuition fees.
- c) Requests to delay the deposit of a cheque or automatic withdrawal beyond the due date will attract a \$25.00 administration fee. Any such requests to delay a deposit must be received in writing, at least 3 school days before the deposit date.
- d) There will be a \$100.00 charge for any "stop payment".
- e) Bishop Hamilton Montessori School reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any student, for non-payment of the students account.

Forced School Closing

In the unfortunate event of a forced school closing, the School will communicate with students and parents concerning any school work that may need to be completed during the closing. In the event that the school needs to remain closed for a significant period, the school may extend the school year up to and including June 30th. Tuition fees are non-refundable in the event of a forced school closing.

Medical Requirements and Hospital Insurance

Under Ontario Law, all students are required to have the appropriate immunizations prior to entering the school. The Medical Officer of Health is required to enforce this regulation. By law, all students must satisfy this requirement. All students must have health insurance coverage provided by Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan, another provincial health insurance plan or the equivalent thereof. Students who do not have coverage must provide satisfactory evidence of alternative insurance.

Personal Property Insurance

BHMS cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to a student's personal property, whether at school, on field trips or "Going Outs". This includes items such as: clothing, lunch boxes, musical instruments, bicycles and laptops. Parents should ensure that students' personal belongings are insured while at school.

Personal Information Protection

BHMS is accountable for the personal information collected in the process of educating students. Accuracy, retention, safeguards and individual access are ensured as required by law.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Education Act and is used for the establishment and maintenance of the Ontario Student Record in accordance with the OSR Guideline (2000). Access to OSR Records may be obtained by contacting Administration.

Bursary Program

As a registered Christian non-profit Canadian charity, Bishop Hamilton Montessori School has a bursary program which serves to offer financial aid to families with financial need. The program allows BHMS to maintain a diversity of students and families in its community by providing financial assistance to those who would not otherwise, be able to attend BHMS. No more than 50% of the tuition of our core program will be covered by the subsidy.

Financial Need

Financial Need will be determined by Apple Financial Services, an external company that will assess the family's finances and recommend the amount of money the family can afford to pay for tuition.

Apple Financial Services has been providing bursary and financial assistance analysis to private schools across Canada since 1993. This organization provides an unbiased evaluation of the applicant's financial resources and ability to fund their children's private education.

Applying parents are required to pay an application fee to Apple Financial Services. To obtain additional information or to download an application, please go to www.applefinancialservices.ca.

The Application Process

1. Go to the Apple Financial Services website at www.applefinancialservices.ca
2. Create a parent account registration
3. After the email address provided is verified, a response will be sent with the subject line "Account Set Up"
4. Go into the online application
5. Complete the application; at the end of the process, requests will appear for the uploading of tax information such as T4s and current year's pay statements
6. Once the information is uploaded the payment section will appear and application fee will be required.

Bursary Committee

A bursary committee consisting of two non-parent members of the Board and the School Director review the recommendations made by Apple Financial Services and determine the final bursary amount.

V. Student Withdrawal

If it is necessary to withdraw a student, parents must give the school written notice. Student withdrawals are subject to a \$2,500 penalty.

In some cases a refund of fees will be necessary. The calculation of refunds is based on the last date on which the child attends school or the date of receipt of the written notice, whichever is later. The date of notice is the date on which the withdrawal request is received by the school in writing and signed by both parents. Refunds, if any, will be processed within thirty days of receipt of the written notice of withdrawal.

The \$2,500 withdrawal penalty will be waived for students enrolled for the upcoming school year **provided notice of withdrawal is communicated in writing to the school before July 1st**. In this instance, all fees are refundable **except the enrolment and capital fees**.

In the case of new students enrolled for the current or upcoming school year, all fees are refundable **except the \$1,000 initial instalment and the enrolment fee**. If however, notice of withdrawal is received within ten days of initial enrolment, the school will reimburse all funds except the \$200 enrolment fee.

Students who enrol after January 1st are expected to enrol their child for the following academic year. In these cases, the \$1,000 initial deposit is applied to the following academic year and is non-refundable.

The withdrawal procedure includes a meeting between the parents and the School Director to discuss matters relating to the withdrawal including the transitioning of the student to a different environment.

Bishop Hamilton Montessori School reserves the right to suspend, dismiss, or withdraw services for the following reasons:

- Outstanding fees - tuition or other
- If we determine a student is not benefiting from the environment and program we provide, or if the best interests of the school or classroom are being compromised by a student's ongoing enrolment.
- If the behaviour of a parent or guardian is not conducive to our school values and mission.

Termination, Cancellation or Repudiation of the Contract

In the event that either party wishes to cancel, repudiate or terminate the enrolment contract, other than as otherwise stated herein, then, it is understood and accepted that any refunds or reimbursements arising as a result of the termination, repudiation or cancellation of this contract shall only be made in accordance with our withdrawal policy and limited to the refundable amounts as contained within our Enrolment Contract and this Financial Handbook.

VI. Income Tax Information

Charitable Donations

BHMS issues charitable donation receipts as allowed by Revenue Canada for cash donations and goods in kind that are donated to the school.

Receipts are issued by the end of February.

Child Care Expenses

BHMS issues tax receipts, as allowed by Revenue Canada. These tax receipts include Childcare receipts for students in our Infant, Toddler, Casa, March Break and Summer Camps.

Receipts for child-care expenses for 2nd and 3rd year Casa, Elementary, and Junior High students are issued to parents for the portion of the tuition fees that relate to childcare including, but not limited to; recess, Before and After School Care, March Break and Summer Programs.

Childcare expense receipts are issued and distributed by the end of February.

Children's Art & Fitness Tax Credits

Receipts will be issued for the Children's Art and Children's Fitness Tax Credit, if applicable, for children enrolled in the Elementary Afterschool Program.

Tuition Fees

Elementary tuition fees are not deductible for income tax purposes. However, as a Christian school, a Charitable Donation receipt for a portion of the tuition fees for 2nd and 3rd year Casa, Elementary, and Junior High students may be issued.



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Since 1983

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