

# Lower School Tuition Credit Plan

June 11, 2020

A number of families have shared the following:

“I Love Barrie, but Tuition may not be worth it if the campus is closed for much of the school year and I have to watch my young child all day while still having to do my job.”

## The Key Dilemmas

- **This challenge is real** – especially for families of our youngest students.
- **Barrie School's costs actually increase** during a pandemic (*medical equipment, professional development, additional learning materials, technology expenses, janitorial cleaning during the day etc.*)
- **Our faculty and staff have made a life-long commitment** to educating children – your children – and we need to support them just like we support our families.

**Stewarding Every dollar:** Your tuition goes directly to paying faculty and staff salaries, to investments in curricular innovation and classroom materials, and to maintaining our amazing campus.

**Keeping Costs Low:** We have strived to keep tuition increases in the **1-2% range** each year over the past three years.

## Generational Equity

- **Middle and high school families have experienced the lowest tuition increases** and have had out of pocket costs – like books and materials – absorbed by the school and not passed on in additional tuition.
- **Toddler, Primary, and Elementary families have experienced the greatest challenges** with distance learning because their children’s developmental stages make learning in front of a screen the most difficult.

## The Key Parameters

- Be clear that **distance learning will absolutely continue** (*and ideally get even better*) if our campus is closed for portions of next year.
- Design a system that is **fair, simple to explain, and straightforward to implement.**
- Build a refund structure that is **progressive** (*i.e. it helps families of the youngest children the most because the educational experience has been impacted the most.*)
- Balance the very real **childcare impact** on families alongside our **commitment to pay teachers.**

# Board Approved Tuition Refund Policy



**Description:** The refunds will be structured with a tiered % off per day when the campus is closed for COVID-19.

The largest refunds will go to the youngest students.

Division	Approximate Total Cost of Refunds	Refund % per day Campus is Closed	# of School Days discounted	# of Weeks Of School Year	% of School Year Covered
Toddler (Age 1 to Age 3)	\$150,000	50%	52	10.3	30%
Primary (Age 3 to Kindergarten)	\$170,000	40%	52	10.3	30%
Lower Elementary (1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade)	\$85,000	25%	52	10.3	30%
Upper Elementary (4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	\$35,000	20%	52	10.3	30%
Total Cost to the School =	<b>\$440,000</b>				

# How This Will Work



If regional officials close our campus for portions of next year, Faculty and staff will **still utilize Mondays to plan** for their classes, develop curriculum with colleagues, and meet as needed with families.

Regular classes will not be held on Mondays if the campus is closed. Just like this year.

The School will **not offer refunds if the school is closed for two weeks or less** over the entire year because of the comparatively low impact on families.

# How This Will Work



Credit toward refunds will **begin on on the 11<sup>th</sup> cumulative day** the campus has been closed due to COVID-19 (i.e. in the third week after a campus closure and we have transitioned to online learning.)

Tuition refunds will apply on a family's **net tuition after financial aid.**

This means that if a family is paying 80% of tuition (i.e. a 20% FA award), their refund will be the **same percentage as everyone else.**

Refunds will count as tuition credits **calculated each trimester.** Cash refunds will be given after a family has paid their full tuition obligation for the year.

# A Common Sense Approach to Snow Days



If the Barrie School campus is open and would otherwise hold regular classes when a snowstorm hits and Montgomery County Schools call a snow day....then:

- We follow the exact same established procedures as in past years.
- We will not hold virtual classes and students can enjoy the snow.
- Beginning on the third consecutive day of an extended closure due to snow, virtual classes will begin and continue until it is safe for people to drive to campus.
- A non-COVID-19 Snow Day will not count toward refunds.

However, if the Barrie School campus is closed due to COVID-19 and we are already immersed in Distance Learning....then:

- Virtual classes will continue as originally planned.  
(Sorry kids, not a day off)
- This type of day will count toward refunds.

- We are taking extraordinary efforts to support our families during this difficult time and – just as we shared at the last Town Hall – it is **crucial that families continue to pay their tuition on time** so we can pay our hardworking faculty and staff. This includes this month's June payment.
- **We have moved the withdrawal deadline** from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup> to give families more time to recover and our region more time to respond / plan for reopening.
- We will be **sharing all details from the Town Hall** to families next week. Please Reach out with additional questions.
- We will hold a number of **Virtual Orientations in August** to launch the school year