



## Our **Matched Tuition** Is Customized for Your Family

Dear Parents,

You want an engaging and effective education for your child, and we want to make sure that joining the Meridian community is affordable for your family. Since our founding, Meridian Academy has succeeded in our mission to serve an economically diverse community. We are located in the center of the amazing city of Boston, and our population is drawn from different neighborhoods and towns in the greater metropolitan area. Our students have a common interest in experiencing a powerful education with schoolmates from diverse backgrounds.

Meridian strives to make attendance financially possible for every admitted applicant. Our Matched Tuition plan is matched to your resources and makes our education accessible for you and your children. Every Meridian family benefits from our commitment to keeping our tuition as low as possible. Our top tuition is more than \$20,000 less than at many other local independent schools while providing a student-teacher ratio of 5 to 1. However, that cost is still more than most Boston families can afford, so half of our families have a tuition that is significantly less than the maximum.

### **How Is a Family's Matched Tuition Determined?**

Each family's tuition is based on their income and assets as reported through the Clarity portal, an independent organization used by many independent schools to determine how much a family is able to contribute toward their children's education. If a family determines that our top tuition is within their means, they can waive this process.

### **How Much Will Our Tuition Be?**

Each family's circumstances are distinctive, and your Matched Tuition will be based on many different factors. If a family opts to not submit a Clarity application, they will be asked to pay the top tuition for their child's grade. Here are three sample families (with only three factors) and their tuition:

<b>Annual Family Income</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Assets/Savings</b>	<b>Total Tuition</b>
\$42,000	1	\$1200	\$500
\$92,000	2	\$47,000	\$8,000
\$130,000	1	\$370,000	\$19,000

The top tuitions for 2023-2024 are:

Grades 6 and 7	\$36,700
Grades 8 and 9	\$37,325
Grades 10, 11, and 12	\$37,950

## Will Our Tuition Change Over the Years?

Unless a family's financial circumstances change considerably, Meridian will typically continue to offer a tuition that is similar to when a student is first admitted, adjusted only according to the growth in our top tuition. For example, if a family is paying 25% of tuition, they will continue to be offered a tuition that results in them paying approximately 25% of each year's top tuition. Families who cannot afford the top tuition for all of their child's years at Meridian should apply for Matched Tuition from their first year, even if they have savings that could cover that one year. Returning families submit their information to Clarity each year. If a family's finances do change, Meridian will adjust tuition accordingly either upward or downward (if our resources permit additional support).

## What Other Fees and Costs Are There?

Texts, books, extracurricular activities, yearbooks, a Meridian Academy sweatshirt, and field trips are included in tuition. A few opportunities are extra, such as overnight trips for our extracurricular Model United Nations delegation and the Spanish and French Language Trips abroad that a student takes in their sophomore or junior year. All students are required to have a laptop. [For families whose Matched Tuition is less than 25% of the top tuition, full assistance is available for these technology and travel expenses.](#) Meridian is committed to economic equity and access for all curricular and extra-curricular experiences. Support for college visits is also available.

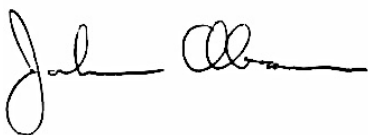
## How Is Meridian Able to Be So Affordable?

Meridian uses the resources of the Greater Boston area to enrich our students' learning and to lessen our costs. Most of our budget is dedicated to our wonderful faculty and maintaining small and personalized classes. Meridian devotes 37% of our budget to lowering tuition costs for our families. This commitment is around three times as much as the national average for independent schools.

If you are excited about Meridian and what it can offer your child and family, please apply. Our Matched Tuition model means that you will only be asked to pay what is within your means.

If you have any questions regarding Matched Tuition or completing your Clarity submissions, please contact us.


Regards,



Joshua Abrams  
Head of School

## A Quick Guide to filling out your Matched Tuition application through Clarity

The Clarity Application for Financial Aid is a streamlined and user-friendly way for families to securely share key information. Assisted by Clarity's software, we are able to make financial aid determinations based on our budget, policies, and mission. Most families are able to complete the Clarity Application in less than 30 minutes.

- ❑ You only need to complete one Clarity application per household. Your application will cover any number of schools using Clarity and any number of children in your household.
- ❑ While the Clarity application is designed to be easy enough to fill out in one sitting, you can save your work at any time and come back to it later. Be sure to always click the "Save and continue" button at the bottom of the page to save your work.
- ❑ Gathering documents and information, such as your most recent tax documents, can help you complete the application.
- ❑ Throughout the application you will see this symbol: . Hover your mouse or tap your finger on this symbol to see helpful tips and explanations.

### To get started

- ❑ Go to [app.clarityapp.com](http://app.clarityapp.com) to create your account.
- ❑ Start with household & applicant information. Select the school(s) to which you are applying.
- ❑ Sign and submit a Form 4506c to give Clarity permission to pull your prior year tax returns. This means you won't need to upload any documents yourself!
- ❑ Complete your financial information, including income, expenses, assets, and debts.
- ❑ The application fee is \$60 per household and covers all of the Clarity schools to which you are applying. Depending on your finances, this fee may be waived. If the fee represents a significant hurdle to your applying, please contact Meridian at [admissions@meridianacademy.org](mailto:admissions@meridianacademy.org) to request a waiver.

### Pro Tips

- ❑ To the best of your ability, enter accurate information on assets such as bank accounts, investment portfolios, home value, and balances on car and student loans, etc.
- ❑ Be sure to consider all of your monthly and annual expenses, and include any additional expenses (not already reported) in the "out of pocket expenses" section.
- ❑ Be sure to report all assets and outside sources that might be able to support your child's education. Many families, embracing the importance of education, ask for help from grandparents and other relatives who are dedicated to their child. This extended family support is essential to Meridian's success in serving a diverse community.
- ❑ We encourage you to use this guide along with Clarity's complete Family Application Guide as you complete your application. If you need more help, feel free to contact Clarity via email at: [support@claritytuition.com](mailto:support@claritytuition.com).
- ❑ All parents must submit their financial information, even if they are separated, divorced, or never married or have a non-custodial relationship with their child.

## Our Matched Tuition Policy

Meridian uses Clarity's recommendation as a starting point. Your Matched Tuition is affected by the following factors:

- Clarity's report and its estimate of your family's financial ability (your expected family contribution or EFC).
- The family's self-assessment of their ability to contribute to the tuition costs.
- Meridian Academy's available resources.
- The number of families qualifying for Matched Tuition for a given grade.
- The school's mission to serve a diverse and balanced student body.
- If all children in a family are in school and a parent is not working, we impute \$20,000 in salary for that parent, unless there is a documented and significant impediment to their employment.