

## **THE DUNHAM SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID POLICIES AND APPLICATION PROCESS 2011-2012**

An independent school education is a major investment, requiring planning and often sacrifice on the part of parents. To help parents take advantage of a Dunham education we offer need-based financial aid.

Need is evaluated by the Dunham Financial Aid Committee using the Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST) service as a guide. An analysis of parents' confidential financial statements and tax returns determine the amount that parents are deemed able to pay toward the child's education.

### FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

- Financial Aid is an outright grant used to offset the costs of a private school and does not have to be paid back. However, every family is required to pay something toward their child's education.
- Financial aid is not automatically renewable. Families must reapply annually.
- Dunham accepts students based on their qualifications without regard to financial status; decisions concerning admission and financial aid are made separately. You are encouraged to apply for financial aid if you feel you may qualify, and you are encouraged to apply early, as funds are limited. Current students receive first priority in the awarding of financial aid.
- While no distinction is made among students, each financial aid recipient is expected to maintain the highest standards for him/herself and to make a positive contribution to the Dunham community.
- Financial aid is intended as support for those families who, no matter what amount of sacrifice, would be unable to afford the tuition.
- Financial need is evaluated by FAST a service powered by Independent School Management. This service provides schools with information and guidelines for making financial aid awards fairly and equitably on the basis of need. By submitting a FAST application, you grant permission for a financial evaluation and calculation of your suggested parental contribution for education. FAST then forwards this computation to The Dunham School. The School may not grant the amount of financial aid which FAST has recommended.
- When FAST processes an application, several factors are considered. Among them are your income and assets, number of dependents, and the number of your children attending tuition-charging institutions. Allowances are made for living expenses, retirement, taxes, medical costs, and certain unusual expenses and debts.