



July 24, 2024

Dear Parents,

OUR School strives to provide outstanding childcare at an affordable rate, while also paying our teachers and staff a fair and livable wage and properly maintaining our classrooms, buildings, and grounds. Since 2017, tuition has been increased every other year at rates of about 2% to 5%. These limited increases have been possible due to the availability of alternative funding sources, such as grants and donations. Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of our control, grant funds have dried up significantly over the last few years. In addition, inflation has lead to meaningful increases of OUR School's operational costs.

In hopes that grants would pick up and inflation would level off, the Board of Directors increased tuition by only 5% in September 2023. But even after making significant cuts to expenses, the school has continued to operate at a deficit at the expense of our modest reserves. With the financial stability of OUR School at stake, the Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to raise tuition again this year. This increase is necessary for OUR School to operate within budget going forward and to slowly rebuild its reserves back to pre-COVID levels. Importantly, even with this meaningful tuition increase, OUR School will continue to be among the more affordable child care centers in our area.

Effective **September 1, 2024**, the tuition rates for OUR School will be as follows:

| New Rates     | Infant          | Toddler         | Preschool       |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Daily Rate    | \$83.00         | \$75.00         | \$70.00         |
| 5 days a week | \$1729.17/month | \$1562.50/month | \$1458.33/month |
| 3 days a week | \$1037.50/month | \$937.50/month  | \$875.00/month  |
| 2 days a week | \$691.67/month  | \$625.00/month  | \$583.33/month  |

As fellow parents, each member of the board appreciates the impact tuition increases can have on the family budget. We are always looking for grant and fundraising opportunities and will offer tuition assistance as it becomes available. Our newly revived Parent Advisory Committee ("PAC") is focused on planning fundraising events to benefit the school. In addition, tuition assistance is available through Colorado's Universal Preschool Program ("UPK") for our four-year olds and

## OUR School

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the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (“CCCAP”) for our lower income families. If you have questions, concerns, or would like information regarding potential tuition assistance, please contact our Executive Director at 970-947-0636 or [ourschoolgws@gmail.com](mailto:ourschoolgws@gmail.com).

As a courtesy, families who elect not to continue at OUR School due to this tuition increase will be granted a two-month grace period to continue paying current tuition rates. Such families must notify the Executive Director of their intention to leave the school by **August 31, 2024**, and their spot(s) will be given to families on our long waitlist beginning on November 1, 2024. Families planning to leave OUR School for other reasons prior to November 2024 should be sure to notify our Executive Director so that they may also continue paying current rates through September and October.

We are excited to share that we have several promising candidates for the Executive Director position on deck to start interviews this week. You will continue to hear from us with updates as the hiring process unfolds.

We look forward to working alongside OUR School’s teachers, staff, and families to continue meeting our collective mission to provide a play based early childhood experience where children are active facilitators in their own learning.

Sincerely,  
Our School Board of Directors

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