

# Application for Admission

Mount Madonna School | 491 Summit Road | Mount Madonna, CA 95076 | (408) 847-2717 | (408) 847-5633 Fax

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Requested date of admission: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Applying for grade \_\_\_\_\_

*Applicant's Name* \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:**

*Father/Parent* \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Home ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Mother/Parent* \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Home ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*If separated or divorced, please list the home address of the other parent:*

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

In the case of a divorced or separated family, the applicant lives :

Equal time with both parents \_\_\_\_\_ Or the majority of the time with \_\_\_\_\_

Current School \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Director's/Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grades attended \_\_\_\_\_

Previous School \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Director's/Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grades attended \_\_\_\_\_

Previous School \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Director's/Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grades attended \_\_\_\_\_

Preschool/Kindergarten Students only: Number of days requested \_\_\_\_\_ Preference of Days \_\_\_\_\_

Has the applicant ever been dismissed, suspended, withdrawn, or subject to disciplinary action from any school? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? Please provide details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In order to assess your child's needs we need to know if s/he has ever had: Speech Therapy \_\_\_\_\_ Counseling \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Resource Services for: Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Testing for \_\_\_\_\_

**SIBLING(S)**

Name	Age	School
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**PARENT/GUARDIAN QUESTIONS:**

On a separate sheet of paper, parents please tell us:

1. Why do you want to enroll your child in Mount Madonna School?
2. What are your child's particular interests, aptitudes, and areas needing improvement?
3. In what ways would you be interested in participating and sharing your talents/resources to support Mount Madonna School?

*Parents of Applicants entering 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade:*

4. What is the title of a favorite book your child can read by him/herself?

**APPLICANT QUESTIONS:**

On a separate sheet of paper, applicants please tell us:

*Applicants entering 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade:*

1. What were the last two books you enjoyed reading by yourself?
2. What is your favorite subject to study at your current school and why is it your favorite?
3. What do you like to do when you are not at school?
4. What is something you are proud of about yourself?

*Applicants to Middle/High School:*

1. Please submit: a) the name of the last two books you have read,  
b) a recent, written assignment from your current school.
2. Please write an essay telling us what attracts you to MMS, what your current and future goals are and what things are personally important to you.
3. What do you like to do in your free time?

**ALL APPLICANTS PLEASE ENCLOSE:**

- A small recent photograph of the applicant.
- A \$100 non-refundable application fee payable to Mount Madonna School.
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Copy of Immunization Record
- Copies of the most recent Report Card, Evaluation or Developmental Report (required for grades 1-10).
- Copies of Standardized Testing information if available (required for grades 5-10).
- Please check if you would like a Financial Assistance information for the 20\_\_\_\_/20 \_\_\_\_ school year.

Mount Madonna School's open admission and financial aid policies do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual preference, ethnic origin, disability, marital status, religion, creed or similar factors. This policy applies to all areas of student concerns: admissions, athletics, educational policies, financial aid, and other school administered programs.

I hereby authorize Mount Madonna School to contact my child's current and previous schools for information regarding my child. All information received by the Admissions Office will be kept confidential by the Admissions Committee. MMS reserves the right to cancel any offer of admissions and/or contract should information be withheld or misleading.

Parent/ Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please submit your application to the attention of*

*Admissions at Mount Madonna School, 491 Summit Road, Mount Madonna, CA 95076*

# Application Process

## Preschool - 5th Grade

### *Admissions Criteria*

#### **Preschool Readiness**

Admission consideration is given to students who turn 3 years old by September 1st, are completely toilet trained and able to verbally express wants and needs. Admission is based on assessment of readiness from a personal interview session, class visit and discussion with the parents.

#### **Kindergarten Readiness**

For eligibility to our Kindergarten program, in addition to the preschool criteria above, students must be 5 years old by September 1st. Additional readiness criteria include the ability to concentrate and follow directions, cooperate with adults and other children, and demonstration of age-appropriate motor skills.

#### **Elementary Eligibility**

Entry to Elementary School is based on social, emotional and academic readiness. This includes student performance at or above grade level in all academic areas, satisfactory scores on standardized exams and a record of good conduct.

### *Overview of the Application Process*

1. Parents/guardians receive an application packet by calling the Admissions Office at 408-847-2717, x242. You may also download the application forms from our website at: [www.MountMadonnaSchool.org](http://www.MountMadonnaSchool.org).
2. Parents/guardians schedule a time to visit the school during a Campus Tour Day, Open House or at a time prearranged with the Admissions Office. Child(ren) are welcome to visit the campus at this time.
3. Parents/guardians submit the application & all related documents.
4. Parents/guardians make arrangements for the teacher confidential reports to be sent to Admissions.
5. School reviews the application, including the confidential reports. If the application meets basic admission criteria, Admissions invites the student to interview with faculty members and/or the Director of Admissions.
6. The school sends an offer of admission, an invitation to be put in a waitpool for a future opening, or a letter of regret.

### *Application Deadlines*

#### **December 12, 2016 – Early Admissions Deadline**

The early application period is made available for families with siblings for which they wish to apply for admission. Other families may also apply, if they are certain that Mount Madonna School is the right school for their child (i.e., families have toured the school and feel somewhat familiar with the program offered). Non-refundable enrollment fees for students admitted during this time will be required. It is not recommended that applications for preschool be submitted at this early date. Applications will be accepted only for those classes for which there are openings available.

#### **February 27, 2017 – Regular Admissions**

We will accept applications for all grades during this time. All application materials, including confidential reports and supporting documents must be submitted by this deadline. Interviews will be scheduled after this date. If applicable, please also submit financial assistance documents by this date.

Notification of acceptance will be mailed by March 17, 2017.

#### **March 24, 2017 – Late Admissions**

We will continue to accept and review applications for all grades for which we have openings. All application materials, including confidential reports and supporting documents must be submitted by this deadline. Interviews will be scheduled after this date. If applicable, please also submit financial aid documents by this date. Notification of acceptance will be mailed in April 2017.

#### **Rolling Admissions**

Applications received after the March 2017 deadline will be evaluated and admission offered on a space available basis after April 2017.

## *Application Process Checklist*

### **Schedule Tour(s)**

In order to fully appreciate and see our unique educational programs in action, we ask parents or guardians to first visit the campus and meet with a member of our admissions team. Families are given an opportunity to view the Lower and Upper Campus areas and learn about the mission and history of our school, parent participation, the overview of programs at all levels, transportation, assessments and the admissions process.

To arrange a tour, please call the Admissions Office at 408-847-2717 ext. 242 and ask to speak with Benná Dimig, Director of Admissions. When leaving a message, please include your name, the student's name and grade, a phone number and the best times in which to reach you.

### **Submit Application and Confidential Report Forms**

- Application Form – complete the form in its entirety (two-sided).
- Application Fee – submit a nonrefundable \$100 application fee to the address below. Please make checks payable to 'Mount Madonna School'.
- Recent photo of your child
- Confidential Report(s)
  - For Preschool, we request one confidential form (if the child has attended another early childhood program)
  - For Kindergarten, we request one confidential form to be completed by the child's current preschool teacher
  - For Elementary, we request two confidential reports, one to be completed by the child's current teacher and the other by another academic or extracurricular teacher who knows your child well

Please sign the form waiving the right to see this information. Give the teacher the form with a stamped and addressed envelope, to be mailed directly to:

Admissions Office  
Mount Madonna School  
491 Summit Road  
Mount Madonna, CA 95076

### **Submit Documents from Your Child's Current School**

- Copies of report card(s) from the current year, if applicable
- Recent standardized test reports, if applicable

**Schedule an Interview**, The Admissions Committee will review all applications upon receipt of the completed Application and Confidential Report Forms. If the applicant meets the admissions criteria, we will contact you to schedule an interview for your student. In addition, we may ask a student to join the class for a small group lesson (at the time of the interview or at a subsequent date).

## *Decision Letters and Wait Pools*

The Admissions Committee will review all applicant information. You will then receive written notification letting you know the committee's decision. If space is not available at the time you have applied and your student has met the admissions criteria, you may request that your application be kept active and you will be notified when space is available.

Thank you for your interest in Mount Madonna School.  
We look forward to meeting you and your child.

## Transportation (fees updated January 2017)

**Bus Fees** – Optional transportation is available for the ocean and inland sides of the mountain at an additional cost (fees are for the full school year):

### **Watsonville / Santa Cruz Side**

<u>Pickup Location</u>	<u>1-2 Days</u>	<u>3 Days</u>	<u>4-5 Days</u>
Holohan Road/Valley Catholic Church, Watsonville	\$1,280	\$1,770	\$1,980
Airport & Freedom Blvds. Safeway/VFW, Watsonville	\$1,280	\$1,770	\$1,980
Hansen's Feed/5-Mile House, Corralitos	\$1,280	\$1,770	\$1,980
Aptos Natural Foods/Aptos Library, Aptos	\$1,395	\$1,955	\$2,160
Sunnyside Produce/Michael's on Main, Soquel	\$1,395	\$1,955	\$2,160
Pacific Cultural Center (PCC), Santa Cruz	\$1,660	\$2,240	\$2,540

### **Gilroy / Morgan Hill Side**

<u>Pickup Location</u>	<u>1-2 Days</u>	<u>3 Days</u>	<u>4-5 Days</u>
Fortino Winery/Redwood Retreat	\$1,200	\$1,645	\$1,845
Church at Dewitt/Dunne – Morgan Hill	\$1,660	\$2,240	\$2,540

**One-Way** riders pay 2/3 the rate; Riders using different bus stops (AM/PM) pay 1/2 each rate.

**Occasional** rides must be pre-arranged with the Office and are \$7 per ride, max 8 rides per quarter, billed each semester.

All transportation offered on a space available basis. Priority will be given to more frequent riders.



## 2016-2017 Schedule of Fees (fees updated January 2017)

❖ **New Students**

Application Fee: non-refundable.....	\$100
Enrollment Fee: non-refundable	
Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary School (1-5).....	\$1,020
Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12) .....	\$1,235

❖ **Yearly Tuition**, including most activities and field trips

<p><b>Preschool</b></p> <p>5 days .....\$14,000</p> <p>4 days .....\$12,025</p> <p>3 days / 5 half-days .....\$9,785</p> <p><b>Kindergarten</b></p> <p>5 days .....\$14,000</p> <p>4 days .....\$12,025</p> <p>5 half-days.....\$9,785</p> <p><b>Elementary School</b></p> <p>Grades 1-2 .....\$14,000</p> <p>Grades 3-5 .....\$14,460</p>	<p><b>Middle and High School</b></p> <p>Grade 6-8 .....\$17,880</p> <p>Grade 9-10 .....\$18,745</p> <p>Grade 11-12 .....\$21,570</p> <p><b>Other Fees &amp; Deposits:</b></p> <p>Tuition Refund Plan (See <i>Payment Plans</i> below) . . . . . 2.1% of Tuition</p> <p>Textbook Deposit Grade 6-12; refundable . . . . . \$250</p>
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❖ **Payment Plans Available**

- 1) Full payment for the entire school year paid by April 5, 2017 directly to the School (a 1% discount will be applied if payment is received by check or in cash by the due date on the contract); Tuition Refund Plan (see below) at 2.1% of tuition is optional.
- 2) Two-payment option; pay 50% by April 5, 2017 and 50% by August 20, 2017, directly to the school. Tuition Refund Plan (see below) at 2.1% of tuition is optional as long as the final payment is received by the School before classes begin.
- 3) Monthly payments through the FACTS Management Company, generally April 2017 through March 2018. There will be a \$45 charge to set up the contract, payable to FACTS. Tuition Refund Plan (see below) at 2.1% of tuition is required.

❖ **Additional Financial Expectations**

As is the practice for most independent schools, MMS annually sets tuition at approximately 85-90% of what it actually costs to educate each student for that year. Tuition is intentionally established at this lower rate in order to make a MMS education more financially accessible to a greater number of families.

It is essential that each family help to make up the 10-15% gap between tuition charged and the actual cost through participating in school-endorsed fundraising drives carried out each year.

If you are able to participate in only one school fundraiser this year, please make the Annual Giving your top priority. Contributions are tax-deductible. Tuition can be expected to increase annually by 3% to 6%, depending on operating costs.

Students are enrolled for the entire academic year. In the event that a student withdraws from the School before September 1, 2017, 21% of the annual tuition and the nonrefundable deposit are due. After August 5, 2017 the entire annual tuition is due. See the Tuition Refund Plan for more details.

#### ❖ **Tuition Refund Plan Policy**

The Tuition Refund Plan is important for Mount Madonna School and its families. MMS requires full payment for the academic year and will make no adjustment of fees for absences, withdrawal or dismissal. Therefore, we are pleased to be able to help protect families' financial investment with the Tuition Refund Plan.

This Plan, offered by A.W.G. Dewar's, provides an allowance of tuition fees in the event of withdrawal of a student, for any reason, or dismissal by the School. The Tuition Refund Plan becomes effective on August 1, 2017 if a student is unable to attend school due to a covered medical reason. The non-medical coverage, which covers voluntary withdrawals and dismissals, becomes effective after the student attends 14 consecutive calendar days beginning with the student's first day in the academic year. The cost is 2.1% of the annual tuition fee for the 2017-18 school year. Parents who do not pay the total annual fees by August 5, 2017 must participate in the Tuition Refund Plan or present evidence of comparable insurance coverage. Participation is optional, but recommended, for those who pay the total annual fees by August 5, 2017. Because we do not give refunds for unused tuition, we recommend all parents participate in this Tuition Refund Plan.

#### ❖ **New Family and Sibling Incentive Program**

This incentive rewards referrals that result in newly enrolled students who join the school at any point during the school year. A referring family receives a one-time:

- \$1,000 tuition credit for each new family they refer who enrolls one or more students
- \$500 tuition credit for each new sibling within their own family enrolling for the 1st time

Credits: When a new student enrolls, the registration paperwork must indicate a referral. All incentive discounts will be credited to the referring family's account 30 days after the new student's start date. The recipient family must have a student enrolled at MMS to receive a credit.

#### ❖ **Financial Assistance**

Mount Madonna School is committed to maintaining economic diversity within our community of families. The Bernice Arnold Scholarship Endowment and other special donations are allocated for Financial Aid. Financial Aid grants are based on each family's economic needs and must be applied for each year using the NAIS School and Student Service for Financial Aid ([www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)). Approximately 25% of the student body receives financial assistance. If you are questioning whether you can afford Mount Madonna School, we encourage you to apply for financial assistance and speak with us about possible ways to make an MMS education affordable for your family. Families will be considered for financial assistance after they have been offered admission to the school – and are encouraged to complete the financial assistance application process by the admission deadline in order to expedite processing of the financial request.

Financial Assistance letters are sent to admitted students in March. If you apply for enrollment and are admitted later than March you can still apply for financial assistance. The Financial Assistance Committee continues to award aid as long as there are funds available. For assistance or answers to questions, please call 408-847-2717 and ask to speak with Eric Forbes (ext. 231), Jivanti Rutansky (ext. 273) or Supriya McDonald (ext. 241).



# Frequent Questions

## 1. What makes MMS so different from other schools?

- For more than 30 years we have made children and education our top priority. This translates into an outstanding program that has evolved and continues to grow.
- Students benefit from small class sizes, low student to teacher ratios, and a staff of exceptionally dedicated, professional educators.
- We are committed to educating the whole child to prepare her/him for a life of meaning and success. The core of the curriculum is academic excellence, creative self-expression and positive character development.
- We offer some unique programs, including an 11th and 12th grade travel program, *Values in World Thought*; observation of rites of passage at significant ages / grades; field trips, outdoor education and hiking; yoga; children’s Life Lab garden; school-wide recycling and composting; inclusive student governance, buddy programs.
- Our Upper Campus is powered by solar energy.

## 2. Is it too expensive?

No. The school is reasonably priced compared to other private schools, and the benefits far outweigh the costs.

- Mount Madonna School is an important investment: When young people develop a love of learning and genuine self-respect, they can make the most of college, career, and life experiences.
- There are many forms of financial assistance available. Over 1/3 of our families receive some form of tuition assistance.

## 3. Is the school accredited?

Yes. Mount Madonna School is fully accredited through both of the premier accrediting bodies for independent schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS).

## 4. Is it too far away?

No, it’s worth the commute. Transportation is available, and the location sets Mount Madonna School apart with its exquisite 355 acre mountaintop environment overlooking Monterey Bay.

- Transportation service is available from Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Watsonville, Corralitos, Aptos, Soquel and Santa Cruz.
- Many families carpool.
- The location contributes to a peaceful, natural and safe learning environment.

### **5. Does the school have a religious affiliation?**

No. Mount Madonna School is an independent, non-sectarian school. We believe in embracing all faiths and traditions. Just as we work to support intellectual, emotional, and physical development, we also encourage students to develop their own spiritual awareness. This is part of upholding and educating toward a culture of respect for oneself and others.

Mount Madonna School is hosted by Mount Madonna Center, a community founded on the principles of yoga and dedicated to non-harming, self-development and service to society. The values of the Center and the beauty of the natural environment provide a supportive and inspirational context in which our learning community thrives. Excellence in education is achieved most readily when high academic standards and enthusiasm for learning are both present in the school environment. We are dedicated to nurturing our students' natural curiosity and passion for learning.

### **6. Where do students go after graduating from MMS?**

The majority of our students are accepted to excellent four-year public and private colleges and universities, including the University of California schools, Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, MIT, among others. Some graduates choose to travel or work prior to pursuing higher education and their MMS education prepares them to navigate life's adventures with confidence.

### **7. What are the expectations for parents at the school?**

Parents are considered one of our most important resources in providing an exceptional learning community at Mount Madonna School. We know that when teachers, administrators and parents work together they greatly influence the success of children's education.

- Parents are expected to participate in curricular and extra-curricular activities such as performances, sporting events, field trips and class projects.
- Like most private schools, tuition covers about 85% of the actual cost of education and the additional 15% comes from our fundraising efforts. We count on parents taking an active role to "bridge the gap" between tuition charged and the cost of education at Mount Madonna School.
- Mount Madonna School is strongly committed to the values of respect, community and service. We expect all families to support these values and model them for all of the children.

## Directions to MMS

### From Highway 101:

Take Highway 152 west at Gilroy.

Go through Gilroy, remaining on Highway 152, and continue up the mountain approximately 10 miles.

At the top of the mountain, just past the 15 mph curve, turn right into Mount Madonna County Park (Pole Line Road).

Follow the yellow line through the park (2.2 miles). Do not pay the park entrance fee. When you come to the stop sign at the end of the park, continue straight ahead on Summit Road for 1.5 miles (Pole Line Road becomes Summit Road).

Mount Madonna School is on the left at 491 Summit Road.

### From Points North on Highway 1:

Take Highway 1 to the Airport Boulevard exit in Watsonville.

Turn left (cross the freeway) at the top of the off-ramp.

Go approximately 3 miles on Airport Boulevard (which will change its name to Holohan Road when it crosses Green Valley), and continue until you reach Highway 152. Turn left (East) onto Highway 152.

Just past the Mount Madonna Inn, at the top of the mountain, turn left into Mount Madonna County Park (Pole Line Road).

Follow the yellow line through the park (2.2 miles). Do not pay the park entrance fee.

When you come to the stop sign at the end of the park, continue straight ahead on Summit Road for 1.5 miles (Pole Line Road becomes Summit Road).

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### From Points South on Highway 1:

In Watsonville, take the Green Valley exit, and turn right on Green Valley.

Take Green Valley east to the intersection with Airport Boulevard (to the left) and Holohan Road (to the right).

Turn right onto Holohan Road and continue to Highway 152. Turn left (East) onto Highway 152. Just past the Mount Madonna Inn, at the top of the mountain, turn left into Mount Madonna County Park (Pole Line Road).

Follow the yellow line through the park. Do not pay the park entrance fee.

When you come to the stop sign at the end of the park, continue straight ahead on Summit Road for 1.5 miles (Pole Line Road becomes Summit Road).

Mount Madonna School is on the left at 491 Summit Road.



Cut

Welcome

## Welcome

Dear Prospective Family,

What kind of school do you want for your children and your family?

In today's busy world, many families are seeking a place where children will be supported in learning and growing and where they will be recognized for their unique gifts. Mount Madonna School is a community of learners. We support our students to become caring, self-aware and articulate critical thinkers, who are prepared to meet challenges with perseverance, creativity and integrity. We believe that a meaningful life is characterized by personal achievement and the ability to work effectively with others in service to society.

As you read through the enclosed materials, come to tour the campus, and meet our faculty and students, we hope you will begin to envision your place here at MMS.

When current parents tell us why they chose MMS, they often refer to the community, the natural environment and our graduates.

**Community:** Since its inception more than 30 years ago, MMS has grown and thrived through a web of meaningful relationships. Parents, students, faculty and staff work together to be deeply respectful and caring. We are a small school where every person is known, and every person counts.

**Environment:** Our mountaintop campus is 355 acres of meadow and woodland – parents describe it as a haven where children and families can slow down and appreciate the wonders of our natural world. While it is less convenient than a school down the street, this setting not only contributes to the safety and peace that are essential to the learning that occurs here, but it also provides opportunities for hands-on outdoor education.

**Graduates:** Many parents have said the qualities they see in our juniors, seniors and graduates convinced them to choose MMS. These young adults know and respect themselves and they care deeply about others and the larger world. Our graduates are committed to being successful in ways that are meaningful and sustainable – making lasting contributions in science, medicine, law, business, education and the arts. They are articulate, gracious, thoughtful and caring human beings.

It is difficult to choose a school. As you look at your options, which one calls to you? Where do you see your child truly flourishing? Where do you see your family being nourished and supported? We hope you will consider Mount Madonna School the right choice for your child and your family.

Warmly,



Mary Supriya McDonald, Head of School