



**summit schools**  
brilliant beginnings, bright futures

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Who attends Summit Schools?** Summit is an educational environment with rich diversity. We have a history of families from countries outside the US who attend Summit, including families speaking languages other than English in the home. Currently, our students travel from 8 different school districts to attend Summit each day and come to us with all types of gifts and talents. At Summit we value all types of learners and work closely with each student as an individual.

**If my child can attend our local public school for free, why should I consider paying tuition for an independent education for my child?** Students at Summit grow in an environment that values each learner as a unique individual. Students at Summit are supported as they come to learn how they learn best. Students are taught the skills of self-advocacy, and as a result, are able to find and express their student voice. A core belief at Summit is that the best educational investment a parent can make is one that ensures a lifelong love of learning. That all starts with a strong early education program.

Students transferring to Summit love the small class sizes that allow them to find their own unique learning style and to participate in the community more fully.

**Where do Summit students go after 8<sup>th</sup> grade? How does Summit prepare them for this transition?** Summit students, upon completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, have integrated well into both public and private schools. Summit students adapt well in larger environments as they have already experienced what a community of learners looks like and have developed leadership skills as well as a sense of urgency.

Summit students are tracked with core curriculum standards while also provided opportunities to achieve beyond levels of proficiency. At Summit, students find their voice and they are encouraged to use it.

**How does Summit educate children to be responsible community members?** Summit students work and play in an environment practicing the Summit Code which promotes kindness to others and mutual respect. It is more than a platitude, but a way of living intentionally every day. Students are taught the importance of philanthropy and community service, often completing fundraising and community-based projects in the same school year. Summit curriculum strives to develop not only the IQ of the child, but also the EQ (emotional quotient) of the child to assure students to become better members of their community, not only now, but throughout their lifetime.

**“I’m worried that our child won’t have friends in the neighborhood if he attends Summit.” What has been the experience of other Summit parents?** Summit students have the benefit of their built-in neighborhood friendship network along with the addition of their diverse school community made up of students from eight different school districts. Additionally, many Summit students participate in a variety of activities available in the community at large (club sports, music lessons/groups, church activities and the like).

**What do I need to provide in terms of medical records for my child to enroll at Summit?** Before the first day of school, we require a copy of their most current immunization form signed by a doctor or nurse and a medical information form giving Summit authority to have your child treated by a medical professional if an accident occurs and you cannot be reached. If your child is in PreK, we require a form signed by a doctor indicating your child is in good health and able to participate in all classroom activities. Kindergarten students are required to have a form on file signed by their dentist indicating that they have received an initial dental exam.

**My child needs to take medication during the school day. Can I send it to school in a plastic bag and have them take it when they eat lunch?** Medication (prescription and over-the-counter) needs to be sent to school in the original container. A parent must bring it to the main office and fill out a Permission to Administer Medication form. There can be no exceptions to this policy. When the medication is no longer needed at school, a parent must drop by the office to pick up the medication. It cannot be sent home in a **student's backpack.**

**I have a meeting before and/or after school. Can my child attend Extended Day?** Extended Day is open to all Summit students who are 4 years old and older if the student(s) have pre-registered for Extended Day and if space is available that day. Email or call our Office Manager and they will check on availability.

**I will be out of town and my child is being picked up after school by their grandparents. Is there any other information I need to provide to the office?** Email or call **your child's teacher** and the Office Manager with contact information for the person picking up your child. Please have the individual(s) come to the front office to sign your child out before leaving if they are going to pick up your child before 3:30.

**I forgot to send a cold lunch with my child today. Can they get a hot lunch - just this once?** There are only enough meals to provide lunch to the students who have ordered them in advance. You will be expected to bring a lunch to school for your child before their scheduled lunch time. Miss Rachel shops for groceries on Sunday before the week to have supplies to prepare lunch for the exact number of orders received.

**It's very cold out today and my child has a runny nose and a cough. Can they stay inside when their class goes outside for recess and/or PE?** All students will go outside with their classmates as long as the wind chill is above 0°. If they are too ill to go out with the class, they should stay home from school. Summit does not have staff to supervise students who can't be included in their classroom's activities. If your child has a note from a physician stating they can attend school but cannot be outside, we can make arrangements for that.

**I signed a contract, but now my job is changing and my family must move...am I still obligated to pay tuition at Summit?** Summit requires 30 days notice when your family is relocating 45 minutes driving distance away or more. Once you provide us proof of your forwarding address and record of enrollment **from your child's new school**, your contract will be voided and you will only be required to pay tuition through the end of your child(ren)'s last month at Summit.

**What is covered by the Activity Fee? Are the fees the same for each grade level/pod?** The amount of the activity fee varies from pod to pod based on the different opportunities of each level. These activities

include monthly field trips, YALE programming, Health & Wellness activities, roller skating, theatrical programs, snow shoeing, Pod 3 Flexible Fridays, college visit learning opportunities, fishing, community outreach, etc.

**Is there a required volunteer commitment to send my child to Summit?** Volunteerism is so important to our school's mission, and also keeping our tuition reasonable for our Summit families. We have been humbled by all those who have stepped up to help us throughout the years. The needs of Summit vary each year, and it is with the effort of Summit families that we are able to meet the needs of our school and our students.

In this spirit, we do have a Volunteer Co-op for middle school families (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders). We ask that each middle school family volunteer 25 hours for the year. At the end of each trimester, our Bookkeeper will total your volunteer hours for that trimester, and if necessary, bill your account the difference of 1/3 of the \$500 minus your hours of volunteering. We can only give credit for volunteer time you report to Summit. There is a Volunteer Log at the Front Office for tracking volunteer hours.

Below is only a beginning list of volunteer opportunities for your family. We will be posting more throughout the year as needs arise:

Deep cleaning the school (2-3 times/year)

Raking or weeding

Preparing book orders for teachers

Volunteering for classroom parties

Open House volunteer

Back to School preparation

Painting inside and/or outside

Walking in parades

Driving on field trips

Spreading mulch on the playground

Representing Summit at community events

Celebrate Summit Committee

**Is financial aid available to help offset tuition costs?** Summit has a long understanding that maintaining a diverse community is as much a matter of educational excellence as it is a matter of social and civic responsibility. Our commitment to diversity – including socioeconomic diversity – represents idealism about the kind of learning community we want Summit students to experience, and realism about the kind of world in which Summit graduates live.

We believe Summit students deserve small class sizes, state-of-the-art technology, great teachers, and an expansive curriculum. While this type of program is not inexpensive, a portion of our budget is earmarked for financial aid in order to allow parents of all economic backgrounds to give their children the very best educational foundation. Another funding source for financial aid is through the Eastern Iowa School Tuition Organization (STO).