

Elementary School Principal Letter to Parents

As you may be aware, changes to the existing practices regarding elementary school fees and supplies will be implemented for the 2009–2010 school year. The new guidelines are intended to achieve a balance that reduces the number of items families are asked to either pay for or to send to school, while preserving the broad array of instructional experiences our community expects and our students deserve.

Students will not be asked to pay for or provide textbooks, supplementary readers (such as anthologies, atlases, or workbooks), most materials of instruction, audiovisual aids, stationery items not commonly found in the home and required for the student to demonstrate mastery of course objectives, or building or office materials needed to operate schools.

Students may be asked to pay for materials of instruction that primarily fit into three categories as follows:

- Items eaten by the student as a part of the course (example: bread baking ingredients).
- Component parts of a product that will become student property (example: sculpting clay).
- Materials of instruction or items of personal use that become the property of the student (example: recorder).

Students are still expected to bring individual organizational tools and personal supplies from home. A list of those supplies for your student is enclosed with this letter. In addition, there are student fees which are not course-related but local school decisions made by the principal in collaboration with the school and parent leadership. These may include fees for class snacks, special grade-level assemblies, etc. I will discuss these decisions with our school and parent leadership this summer and will update you on this information as needed. There also may be fees related to field trips, but these will be shared each time there is a trip and not in advance as a school fee.

We are committed to providing all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, with full access to the instructional program. If you need assistance for any requested expense, or with providing the organizational tools and personal supplies, please contact your child's teacher, our counselor, our assistant principal, or me.

Parent donations of items that enhance the classroom experience are still welcomed, either as donations from individual parents or organized by class parents or by the PTA. A list of these items also is attached to this letter and clearly titled, *Voluntary Parent Donations*. They are not required donations and no student will be expected to provide these items, but if you care to contribute, it will be appreciated.