

District Activity Fee to take effect at the start of the school year

Each year, Farmington Public Schools spends approximately \$207,000 in the form of payments to staff and non-staff sponsors to manage extracurricular activities for students. As part of the budget reduction process that took place during the 2009-2010 school year, all non-athletic extracurricular activities were slated to be cut as a budget reduction.

During the budget reduction process, surveys conducted in the community supported the implementation of an “activity fee” to support extracurricular activities instead of eliminating them. As a result, Farmington Public Schools has implemented a \$35 annual fee, per student, in grades 5-12. There is no fee for students in grades K-4 as after school and before school participation opportunities are so limited.

Once the \$35 fee is paid, students can participate in an unlimited number of activities, during that same school year, without incurring any additional “activity fee.” This fee will apply to students participating in any activity that extends beyond the school day (before or after) regardless of whether or not a sponsor is being paid to oversee the activity. The only exception would be that it is not necessary to pay the fee to participate in an activity that is organized and executed exclusively by the PTA.

Students participating in activities may still incur other fees specific to the activity. For example, a student participating in the school musical may have to purchase a script and costume, in addition to paying the activity fee. Other examples of fees that students will be responsible include, but are not limited to, camp fees, admissions to events and transportation costs. The activity fee only is intended to cover the salary of the sponsor and other incidental labor costs such as custodial services.

Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will be exempt from having to pay the activity fee.

Parents of students who will participate in activities beyond the school day are encouraged to pay this fee, at the beginning of the school year, by visiting the web page for their child(ren)’s school, selecting “pay school” from the quick links, and adding “activity fee” to their shopping cart. Pay School will be prepared to begin accepting payments on August 31, 2010.

Each child who participates in an activity, within a family, will be required to pay the \$35 fee. There is no discount for multiple children and there is no family maximum.