

Shrewsbury Borough Board of Education

Brent MacConnell
Superintendent
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To: Parents/Guardians
From: Brent MacConnell, Superintendent
Re: Revised Pay to Play Costs
Date: October 29th, 2010

Parents/Guardians:

First of all I wish to thank you for your patience as we work through the first year of pay to Participate Activities in our School District.

When we implemented this process, we were trying to put the best process possible in place for all parties in an effort to minimize the additional work required for the Business Office to process the payments (which also had a support staff reduction in the 2010-2011 School District Budget) and make the payment process easier in general for the community.

Our student information system Genesis had recently brought online the Pay to Participate Module available through the parent portal. Shrewsbury served as the pilot district for this new module. As with any pilot program there are growing pains in order to work through all of the processes that have to be considered and implemented both technologically and procedurally. One of the processes that have been of concern to the Board and the Community was the transaction fees for processing payments online.

After doing our due diligence and researching other online payment systems, we have found that all of the systems actually charge pretty much the same processing fees (2.5% to 3.5% + .30 with additional fees for checks and insufficient funds). We also found out that a lot of the organizations include that processing fee in the cost of the activity so as not to draw attention to the fee associated with online processing.

The concerns of the Shrewsbury Board of Education and the Community regarding the cost of processing the online payments have been brought to the attention of the Genesis Team. They have agreed to attempt to renegotiate their contract with Amazon.com for a reduction in the processing fee next year.

In the meantime, the District Administration has negotiated with Genesis for a reduction in the processing fee from 3.5% + .30 to 1.5% + .30 for the 2010-2011 school year (they will be refunding the difference). All the fees that have been collected for both boys and girls soccer will be issued a credit of 2% of the fees that were charged. The credit will be charged back to the credit card that was originally used for processing.

For the sports teams that have not yet been processed, the cost of the sport will be recalculated to reflect and include a processing fee of 1.5% + .30. The revised costs will be reposted to the district's website once the costs have been recalculated. All payments must be made through the Parent Portal.

Sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell, Superintendent