

February 8, 2010

Dear District 7 Families,

I have written to you several times over the last few months to inform you of some of the financial challenges our District will be facing in the coming year. These issues are primarily a result of the recession and the financial downturn that has had an impact on the funding of all public schools in the State of Illinois.

Last spring the Board of Education established a Finance Committee to examine these issues and consider ways to cut spending and raise additional revenue for our schools. In the fall, at each PTO meeting, the Finance Committee presented budget information to parents and answered questions. In early January, the Finance Committee held a community meeting to present their recommendations and receive feedback from parents. At the January Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the Finance Committee's recommendations to: increase registration fees, reduce the funding for the PTO's, and restructure the summer school program and fees.

The reverse side of this letter explains how the Summer School Program and fees have been restructured for 2010. Please review this information. We would like your feedback on the changes regarding the Summer School Program. Please complete the attached survey and return it by Friday, February 12th.

Even though we have made these changes, District 7 continues to have the lowest fees in the area and is **the only school in the County that provides free busing to all students**. The Board of Education believes these new fees are reasonable and will assist the District during these difficult economic times.

As our State sinks deeper into debt and falls further behind on their financial obligations to schools, I believe there will be additional issues that impact our district that we will have to face together. I will keep you informed as we move into the spring and begin to plan for the 2010/11 school year.

Thank you and as always do not hesitate to call or contact me (jcorbett@wdsd7.org) should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

John W. Corbett, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Fee Changes
Wood Dale School District 7
2010/11 School Year

School Fees:	K – 2	\$35
	3 rd – 5 th	\$40
	6 th – 8 th	\$65

Busing: Regular daily busing will remain free for all students

Activity Fee: An annual \$25 activity fee will be assessed to junior high students who are involved in before/after school activities. This fee would help cover the cost of staff, materials and early and late bus service.

An annual \$25 activity fee will be assessed to elementary students who take the early bus for band practice.

PTO Funding: The Board will be phasing out the funding of the PTO's. This will be accomplished by reducing PTO funding by 50% in 2010/11 and then eliminating the remaining 50% in 2011/12. The PTO's have been permitted to resume fundraising activities. Please support our PTO's by participating in their fundraisers.

Summer School Fees – See Attached.....

Wood Dale School District 7

Summer School 2010

The District 7 Summer School will be structured a little differently this year. We will continue to offer a program for students who are performing below grade level standards. We will also be combining the Enrichment and Gifted Programs to provide academic extension/enrichment activities for all students performing at or above grade level.

Academic Intervention Program - The Academic Intervention Program (formally NCLB) is for students who are performing below grade level standards. Students enrolled in the Academic Intervention Program will be recommended for this program by their teachers. Parents will be notified if their child will be recommended for the Academic Intervention Program. We believe it is critical that these students attend summer school. Therefore, we will be using Title I grant money to cover the cost of the instructional portion of this program.* **There will be NO CHARGE for students who are recommended to attend the Academic Intervention Program.** However, transportation for this program is not free. If parents would like their child to take the bus, the fee will be \$25.

*** NO TITLE I READING TUTORING WILL BE OFFERED THIS SUMMER.**

Academic Enrichment Program – The Academic Enrichment Program is for students who are meeting or exceeding grade level standards. This program is designed to help students maintain their basic math and reading skills, as well as participate in special academic projects that are designed to extend their learning beyond what is taught during the regular school year. **The fee for the Academic Enrichment Program is \$235 per student.** Transportation for this program is not included in the fee this year. If parents would like their child to take the bus, the fee will be an additional \$25.

Enrollment – In order to operate the Academic Enrichment classes we will need a minimum of 18 students in each group (we may be able to combine some grade levels). If we do not have enough students enrolled we may have to cancel the Academic Enrichment Program.

Payment – The Academic Enrichment Program is not mandatory and therefore **we regret that there will be no fee waivers or fee discounts provided for students enrolling in this program.** We realize that since the fees have increased it may be more of a challenge for some families to pay for summer school this year. To assist families, the district will provide a payment plan option this year. Families will be able to spread out the cost of the summer school fees over three payments between the months of April and June. More details will be provided in the summer school registration information next month.

Summer School Dates – This year summer school will be held for four weeks instead of five. We are also proposing a change in the dates the program will be held. Instead of beginning summer school immediately after the regular school year ends in June, we are recommending beginning summer school on July 12th and conclude on August 6th. This would provide students with some vacation time after the regular school year ends and they would receive summer school instruction closer to the start of the new school year. Our hope is that this calendar would allow our students to come back in the fall better prepared for daily academic instruction.

Please fill out the attached survey to let us know your opinion regarding these changes.

Wood Dale School District 7 - Summer School

Parent Survey

1. My child(ren) attended summer school last year. Yes No

2. I plan to send my child(ren) to summer school this year. Yes No

3. If you are not sending your child(ren) to summer school please circle the reason(s) below.

- I like my child(ren) to have the summer off from school.
- I send my child(ren) to other camp/recreation programs during the summer.
- Summer school is too expensive.
- Summer school conflicts with our family vacation.
- Summer school conflicts with parent work schedule.
- I am not happy with the summer school program.
- Summer School conflicts with my childcare needs.

Other: _____

4. If you plan on sending your child(ren) to summer school this year please circle the dates you would prefer us to hold the program.

June 14th – July 9th

July 12th – August 6th

5. Any additional comments you would like to make: _____

****Please Return Survey by Friday, February 12th****

