

Dear Studio Parents,

I have exciting news to share with you about school supplies for the 2015-2016 school year!

Next year you will not need to worry about purchasing school supplies, going to multiple stores, overpaying, or even lugging them to school. After working with the school's PTO, School Accountability Committee (SAC), Leadership Team, and support from the district, we have committed to a plan that will help acquire school supplies more efficiently and for much less money. All we are asking is that you give a \$50.00 school supplies donation for each child in your family. \$50.00 is almost half the cost of school supplies that some grade levels have paid for in the past. Please note, the donation will replace you buying any supplies for school during the 2015-2016 school year. We are excited to implement this new system and we hope you are too!

As you might recall, in the past we have asked you to purchase a long list of supplies and then haul them to school. Last year, we worked with an outside company to purchase the children's school supplies. Reflecting on these two methods, both had their challenges. Most notably, the unique nature of our school requires specific supplies to support teaching through the arts. As such, parents had to look for and obtain supplies from multiple stores, taking considerable time, effort and spending additional funds. The company we used last year substituted some of the supplies without notifying anyone, making it difficult for teachers and students. The school, therefore, had to spend additional money from the school's instructional budget to correct the substitution errors.

The school's Leadership Team and Office Staff joined forces to add up the cost of each grade level's supply list and found that they range in total price from \$65.00 to \$93.00. Last year, when we used the outside company, families spent an average of \$82.00 per student. The teaching staff discussed this situation at length and discovered that they could reduce these costs for our families by almost 40% simply by buying what they need in bulk from Office Depot and other vendors that we purchase from at The Studio School. This new system will also save our families from having to attend a separate event for parents to drop off school supplies, and instead use our time more wisely by sponsoring a more strategic and focused Back to School event in the fall.

It would be helpful to have the \$50 per student before the office closes on Friday, June 5, 2015, so we can begin purchasing supplies over the summer. However, the office will open again on Monday, August 3, 2015 and we would be happy to take your donation at that time. The \$50 per student supply donations are due no later than Monday, August 17, 2015.

If your family is experiencing an economic hardship, we do have some funds to support purchasing supplies through scholarships. If your family has a little extra and could sponsor another Studio child to help with acquiring their school supplies, we would all be very grateful for your generous donation.

Please remember this plan was created to support parents and families by decreasing costs and making this process easier. Our goal is to lower the prices for these valuable supplies, save you from the difficult school supply scavenger hunts, and make back to school more enjoyable for everyone.

If you have any questions, please call the main office at 720-972-3620. More information will come out this Friday.

Thank you for your partnership and support! This new system is endorsed by the School's PTO and SAC.

Sharla Kaczar, Principal

