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Mr. Tim Riff
Principal

Mr. Frank Vicari
Dean of Students

Dear Oriole Park Families,

As you know, the budget for Chicago Public Schools has been in a state of crisis for several years, with this past year being especially painful. We suffered a mid-year budget cut to our per-pupil funding, which has carried over into the 2017 budget. This cut amounts to a loss of about \$80 per student, over \$51,000 for the 2016-2017 school year. Additionally, CPS has changed how Special Education is funded. They have funded us at the level that we received last year, minus 4%, which amounts to another cut of about \$31,000. In spite of these challenges, we have minimized staff cuts and done all that we can to ensure that we continue to offer the same quality of educational program that you have come to expect and deserve. Our remaining challenge is that **100% of our budget must go to teacher and staff salaries**. As a result, **we rely on the Student Fee to pay for everything else that we need**. The student fee for 2016-2017 will be used to pay for:

- Intervention Specialists and recess staff
- Textbooks, novels, workbooks and other printed material
- Professional development for teachers and staff
- New technology, including Chromebooks, and to pay for our technology consultant to maintain all school technology
- Online programs, including Accelerated Reader, Study Island, Lexia, IXL, and ThinkCERCA
- Additional positions, as needed, including teachers, teacher assistants, and staff

As a result of these challenges, we unfortunately need to increase the student fee this year. We tried to make the increase as painless as possible while still providing much needed support to the school. Please help us by paying your student fee promptly, at the beginning of the school year. The student fee is as follows:

Number of Children	Student Fee
One	\$125
Two	\$250
Three	\$275
Four or More	\$325

We understand that this is an additional financial burden to you, but we are committed to do whatever it takes to continue to be the highest performing neighborhood public school in Chicago, and we are confident that, with your help, we will continue to do so.

Thank you, and we look forward to an amazing year.

Tim Riff

Q & A

When is the fee due? The student fee is due by the first day of school, September 6, 2016.

How can I pay? We can only accept cash, money order, or check.

What if I cannot afford the fee? Please contact Donna, in the main office, in order to discuss options.