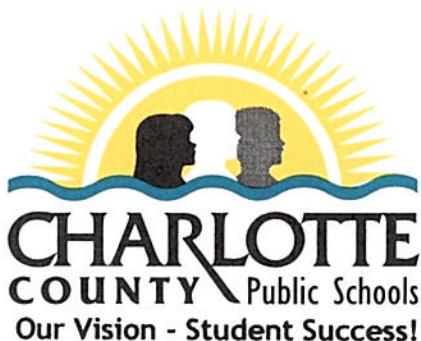


Douglas K. Whittaker, Ed.D.
Superintendent



School Board

Andrea Messina, Chairman
Ian Vincent, Vice-Chairman
Alleen Miller
Barbara Rendell
Lee Swift

May 21, 2012

Dear Parents,

Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, Charlotte County Public Schools will begin a *Pay to Participate* program for all athletic and cheerleading programs. Due to the recent budgetary cuts to public education we are forced to ask our community for financial support to maintain these athletic activity programs. We have already eliminated our middle school and high school freshman athletic programs due to the public education budget crisis. We are striving to maintain our current programs in the athletic and cheerleading venue with this cost sharing effort. Some Florida districts have previously instituted *Pay to Participate* programs and others, like Charlotte County Public Schools, are putting this in place for the 2012-2013 school year.

Each student/athlete participating in one activity will be required to pay \$100.00. A student/athlete participating in more than one program will be required to pay \$125.00. Families having more than one student/athlete attending high school, who wish to participate in athletics or cheerleading will be required to pay \$200.00, which will cover one or more activities for the entire family.

If a student/athlete cannot afford to pay the fee, a process has been established to assist this student with the payment. Any student needing financial assistance should contact his/her athletic director directly or through their coach.

It is regrettable that we are forced to institute this *Pay to Participate* program, but we remain hopeful that education will soon come back to the forefront as a financial priority to our governor and state legislators. In the meantime, we will continue to be frugal and creative to continue the level of athletic and cheerleading programs we are currently offering our youngsters.

For more information please refer to our website www.yourcharlotteschools.net or call your school's athletic director.

Thank you for cooperation and support of this vital *Pay to Participate* program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas K. Whittaker", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas K. Whittaker, Ed.D.
Superintendent