



Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District

Office of the Superintendent

11 Oakmont Drive, Ashburnham, MA 01430

(978) 827-1434 (978) 827-5969 fax

Gary F. Mazzola, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Julie M. Suprenant
Director of Finance & Operations

September 1, 2016

Dear Parents & Guardians of Ash-West Students:

It has recently come to our attention that there are number of families that have not submitted payments for athletic fees and/or co-curricular clubs-activities (e.g. marching band, etc.). While fees are unavoidable and a necessity to keep our programs operating (e.g. coaching/director salaries, transportation to and from athletic events, tournament fees, insurances, uniforms, etc.), we must have **FULL PAYMENT by September 9, 2016.**

The school district policy here is not any different than any other policy in any other school district in that all payments must be paid in full in order to participate. In our handbooks, this policy is stated that the athletic and/or co-curricular payment **MUST** be made at the time of registration. **There is a mechanism online to satisfy any payments with a credit card.** We will also accept cash, check, or money order payments via mail or in person at our central office located at the rear of Oakmont Regional High School. Our athletic director, Eric Dawley, and our Music Director, Kris DeMoura, have also offered accept payments, if that is more convenient to you.

As many of you know, or have realized by now, upon my arrival I was faced with a budget shortfall of 1.2 million dollars. There were reductions made in staffing, athletics, music, and programming across the school district. Uncollected fees, such as what we are currently experiencing, contribute to a school budget's shortfall. As we begin to rebuild and refocus our budget based on our local, state, and federal proceeds and be able to offer our children the best possible and well-rounded educational experience, it is imperative that these fees are collected.

While submitting athletic and co-curricular fees is an adult issue, I am sensitive to the needs of your children. As a parent myself, I know too well the demands and costs to do what we want to do to provide the best for our children. However, we need to keep our school district solvent and moving forward and while we contribute up to 50% of all of these associated costs (\$250,000+) from our general fund, we need to collect all fees immediately. If no payment is submitted, we kindly ask that you do not send your child to practice beginning on Monday, September 12, 2016.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Mazzola
Gary F. Mazzola, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools