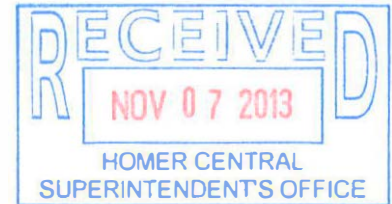


Joseph E. O'Hara, Executive Director

October 29, 2013

Board of Education
Homer Senior High School
80 South West St.
Homer, NY 13421



Re: Cost of School Supplies for Parents

To Whom It May Concern:

As the start of the school year comes to a close, we are writing to express our concern with the extensive list of school supplies that each child is expected to bring to his/her class on the first day of school and the cost burden this poses to parents.

At the beginning of the school year, each teacher, in both elementary school and high school, provides the student with a list of supplies they are expected to purchase in order to have the necessary tools for each class. These lists are very unique depending on the teacher. We have discovered that these lists can be very extensive and are therefore, very costly to parents.

We understand that because of budget restrictions, teachers must many times rely on the parents to provide the classroom with necessary supplies. We also greatly appreciate that many teachers use their own resources to purchase items for the classroom as well. However, as a low-income parent trying to do what is best for their child, this list can be a source of immense stress. On top of trying to make ends meet and the expense each parent faces when buying clothing for the upcoming school year, parents are now worried about providing school supplies for each of their children. One parent came to one of our representatives very distressed because she had no idea how she was going to afford buying her child a \$100.00 calculator that he was expected to have for his high school mathematics class.

Every parent wants their child to have a successful academic year, be proud of their accomplishments and enjoy being in class. Getting off to a good academic start is important and sets the groundwork for the rest of the year. No parent wants their child to be the only child that arrives on the first day of school without the proper school supplies.

We ask that you review this school supply list issue and encourage teachers to really analyze this list for what is essential and what is extra in order to pare this list down to something that is manageable and fair to each student.

We greatly admire and appreciate the job of the teacher and know the importance of their role in each of our child's lives.

Very truly yours,

PEACE Inc., Neighborhood Advisory Committee Members

Rosie Reed, Navarino Food Pantry

Debbie Brown, Spafford Food Pantry

Cheryl Paccia, St. Leo's/St Patrick's Food Pantry

Gloria Yenny, Lafayette Food Pantry

Jacque McConnaghey, Skaneateles Food Pantry

Arvilla Pease, Meadows Apartments

Sue Donato, Committee Member

Barbara Lock, Committee Member

Catherine Goodwin, Committee Member

BK/cjg

cc: Elementary School PTO President

High School PTO President