

RYAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY FEES (ECA FEES)
2016-17

At Ryan Elementary School, we like for our students to have the opportunity to enrich their academic experience through extracurricular activities such as field trips, on-site presentations, and enrichment projects.

Some important facts about Extracurricular Activity Fees include:

- In order to use tax credit monies to fund extracurricular activities, Ryan Elementary is mandated by the State of Arizona to charge a fee for enrolled students to participate in extracurricular activities for which tax credit funds are used.
- The fees are assigned to students based on their grade level.
- The fees are determined by grade level based on the activities they plan to participate in for a given school year.
- The fees are assigned through the Infinite Campus system which will allow you to view the fees assigned as well as pay the fee through your parent portal.
- A fee may also be assigned for additional activities such as choir club, science club, running club, just to name a few. There may be fees assigned for participation in these activities as well.

As a married couple you are able to donate tax credit of up to \$400, and as a single person you may donate up to \$200. Although you are only required to pay the amount assigned to your student(s), please keep in mind that the cost of the activities far exceeds the fee assigned and therefore any additional donations are welcomed and appreciated. If you choose, you may make a lump sum donation at the beginning of the year which can be allocated to pay for other fees assigned throughout the year such as running club or science club to name a few. The minimum ECA fee requirements will be available for payment on your parent portal in the near future. Payment of the ECA fee is required **prior** to your student attending field trips and we therefore encourage you to make your payment as soon as you are notified that it has been assigned.

All ECA fees paid on the parent portal are tax credit eligible and by making a donation in excess of the required fee you can: 1) Allow your child to participate in some very exciting educational opportunities; and 2) Receive a dollar for dollar return on your state income tax return next April.

Donations are accepted online through the district website at <http://www.cusd80.com/page/1131>.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. **Do we have to pay the ECA fee?** Yes, if you wish for your child to participate in field trips, on-site presentations, enrichment activities, clubs, etc. for which tax credit monies are used to fund, an assigned ECA fee is required to be paid.
2. **How do I pay the fee?** All ECA fee payments can be made online through your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. There is a fee tab which will list the assigned fees and there is a payment tab on which you can pay the fees via credit card or electronic check.
3. **Can I send cash in with my child?** We have been instructed by the District office not to accept cash payment for ECA fees. If you have an extenuating circumstance that requires cash payment, please contact the front office at 480-224-3200.
4. **When do I have to make a payment by?** All payments are required prior to the first scheduled field trip/on-site presentation for your student. Please make your payment at your earliest convenience. You will receive an email letting you know that ECA fees have been assigned on the parent portal.
5. **How do I get a receipt for tax purposes?** When a payment is made on the parent portal, it will prompt you to input an email address to which you would like a receipt sent. The receipt for tax purposes will be automatically generated to the email address you input and can be saved for your tax preparation.
6. **How are the amounts of the fees determined?** Each grade level plans for the extracurricular activities in which they will participate and the fee is determined based on the number and extent of activities a particular grade level is involved in. Club ECA fees are determined based on the needs of the club.
7. **Are the ECA Fees tax credit eligible?** Yes. All fees paid through the parent portal for ECA fees are tax credit eligible. These fees paid as well as any additional donations up to the donation limits can be claimed as tax credit for a dollar for dollar return on your AZ state income tax forms.
8. **What are the tax credit donation limits?** A couple filing "married filing jointly" can donate up to \$400 in a tax year. A couple filing "married filing separate" or an individual filing as "single" can donate up to \$200 in a tax year.
9. **Can an optional donation I made last year count as an ECA fee payment this year?** No. ECA fees assigned each school year must be paid within the school year assigned. If you made an excess donation last school year, it cannot be reallocated towards an assigned fee this school year.
10. **What happens to unused tax credit donated for my child?** Unused tax credit balances are rolled forward to the next grade level for the following school year. (i.e. Funds collected for third graders this year will be available next year for those students as fourth graders.) The donations follow the students for which the donations were made on behalf of.
11. **Why is there a convenience fee for online payment?** Infinite Campus is currently the District's best solution to automatically track extracurricular activity fees at an individual level. Moving to Infinite Campus provides parents with the convenience of making debit, credit or e-check payments. The \$2 convenience fee is not creating a profit for the District or taking money away from the students, but rather allows the District to provide a convenient payment system for parents and staff. While the District will be absorbing the majority of the processing costs, the \$2 fee will help offset part of these costs.
12. **What if I pay my fees now and then an additional fee is assigned later in the year? Will another convenience fee be assessed?** Yes. Each payment that is made on the parent portal will include a \$2 convenience fee. We encourage you to make payment for all of your child(ren)'s fees at one time to avoid having to pay additional convenience fees. Also, if you are able to make a lump sum optional donation in addition to the fees assigned, we will be happy to reallocate from that optional donation to any fees assigned later in the school year to help you avoid having to pay an additional convenience fee. For example, if you make an additional donation of \$50 at the beginning of the year while paying your grade level fee that is assigned, and then your child chooses to join running club, we can manually reallocate funds from the optional donation previously paid to cover the new fee assignment for running club.