

Dear GEMS Families,

For the 2024-25 school year, families will NOT buy individual school supplies for their students. Instead, families will pay a fee, and the PTO will source all necessary supplies in bulk for the entire school.

The PTO will then continue to manage the school supply inventory throughout the entire school year. This shift will support our environmental magnet focus while having several benefits for our community:

1. **Cost Savings:** We understand that the back-to-school season is costly for families. Bulk purchasing allows for cost savings, which we will pass on to families.
2. **Convenience:** Families will not have to shop for supplies. Students will not have to lug heavy backpacks full of supplies on the first day of school. Teachers will have access to supplies to restock the classroom as needed throughout the school year.
3. **Eco-Friendly Initiative:** Purchasing supplies in bulk will significantly reduce the amount of packaging waste.
4. **Reuse:** By managing the supply inventory, we will be able to reuse items from previous years further reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

This new approach will simplify the school supply process and foster a sense of community and shared responsibility among our families. We are excited about the positive impact this initiative will have for our school and the environment.

You can find detailed information regarding the supply fee on the flier included with this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us or the school.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making our school a better place for all.

Warm regards,

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