

NFHS Should Be More Specific In Listing Fees

Vocabulary.com, Parking Fees Pay For Additional Items Including Padlet, Microwaves, Club Supplies

Staff Editorial

Public schools are underfunded and always scramble to find sufficient money to cultivate an enriching learning environment for students. For example, Nation Ford is limited to charging each student a \$30 instructional fee, which is not nearly enough money to sustain an entire high school. To compensate, NFHS has become creative in acquiring adequate funding. At the start of the school year, students were required to pay fees to supplement “free” public education.

After investigating these fees, *The Talon* staff learned that in one case, students are charged more money than the listed item actually costs, and in another case, the fee pays for additional unlisted items. When it comes to fees, NFHS should attain full transparency.

When NFHS students enroll in school, they are required to pay three fees; the \$30 instructional fee, a \$7 publication fee and a \$10 Vocabulary.com fee.

However, according to the company Vocabulary.com, they bill the school only \$3.53 per student. Where is the additional \$6.47 per person going? According to Assistant Principal Debra Miller, the fee labeled ‘Vocabulary.com’ funds not only access to the vocabulary website, but also educational apps such as QUIA, Padlet, lynda.com, and “mis-

cellaneous classroom fees.”

One simple way for NFHS to clearly tell parents or guardians where their money is going is to rename the Vocabulary.com fee to accurately represent all the expenditures. After *The Talon* investigated the situation, administrators agreed during interviews to rename the fee to a more accurate label for the next fiscal year.

NFHS is also not fully transparent regarding what parking charges cover. Students have to pay \$50 to buy a parking pass (\$25 per semester), and seniors have the option to pay another \$25 if

they choose to purchase their own supplies and paint a specific parking spot.

While students likely would expect that parking fee money goes solely toward maintenance of the parking lot, the money also pays for equipment in the Commons such as microwaves, stipends for security personnel and supplies for student clubs.

School funding is of utmost importance; it pays for educational enrichment and school safety. However, parents, guardians and students have a right to know exactly where their money is going. The renaming the Vocabulary.com fee is an improvement, but the school must also provide an easily accessible public record of where parking money goes as well.

A newfound transparency should continue across all lines and cover any and every fee the school collects. -KC

Students are charged more money than the listed item actually costs.

Parents, guardians and students have a right to know exactly where their money is going.