

Extracurricular Activity Fee Information

Hermosa Montessori School is proud to be an “excelling” Tucson charter school. As a charter school Hermosa’s academic program is **free!** Prior to receiving a charter from the state of Arizona, HMS was open only to those who paid yearly tuition. Comparable programs in Arizona and around the country cost approximately \$10,000.00 or more per year for each student.

It is not easy to maintain the exceptional quality and numerous supplemental programs offered at Hermosa. Our entire budget for maintenance and operation, all aspects of school operation and development, teacher salaries, and many other aspects of school function are funded from only Arizona’s per pupil expenditure allotment -- one of the lowest of all the fifty states.

Non-charter, public district schools receive other sources of revenue including additional funds for land, buildings, fire alarm systems, etc -- funds for which HMS is just not eligible. Although I sometimes think it is impossible, Hermosa operates within our budget constraints (we do not have the option of a budget override) and houses students in beautiful buildings on a lovely 16-acre campus. Our students’ test scores are among the highest in the state, they enjoy their education, and Hermosa has waiting lists for all classes.

Luckily, there is a way for you to help Hermosa acquire much-needed funds for extracurricular activities, an important part of our program. The state of Arizona allows public schools like Hermosa to assess a fee for enrolled students to participate in extracurricular activities as defined in A.R.S. 43-1089.01 At Hermosa these fees support the following activities or supplies to support extracurricular activities:

- Plays
- Nature group
- Character Education Books
- Tucson Symphony performances, on and off campus
- Gardening
- On campus special events
- Art program- instructor and supplies
- Music program – instructor and supplies
- Computer lab resources
- Choir – instructor and supplies

- Field trips
- All buses and vans
- Admission to off campus events
- Cooperative sports and games -supplies and instructor
- Swimming pool maintenance and lifeguards
- Middle school tutorial
- ROPES course
- Artist in residence program musicians and artists

To participate in these exciting and enriching activities a fee of **\$400.00** is assessed per student, and these fees are deposited into a central fund which supports all extracurricular activities, supplies, and expenses. However, parents who pay this fee will receive a dollar for dollar credit when filing their Arizona taxes. **This means that the “fee” does not actually cost anything!** If you are experiencing financial difficulties and do not owe tax revenue to the state of Arizona, HMCS offers a “hardship policy” so that your child can participate in extracurricular activities without paying the fee. This policy also makes provisions for single head of household taxpayers.

Extracurricular activities are voluntary, and any students who do not participate are provided with regular classroom instructional activities. However, most students greatly enjoy these programs, and we feel they are of great educational value.

Hermosa encourages you to seek additional contributors to provide tax credit revenues to support our extracurricular program. Information for contributors is available on the website or in the school office.

Your fee must be paid by August 10, 2011 to ensure your child’s participation.