

ECS Holiday Marketplace—Frequently Asked Questions

This holiday season, the PCO is bringing a Holiday Marketplace to ECS for the first time. This page (front & back) explains what it is and how it works. If you have any questions, please contact marketplace@ecspco.org.

What is the Holiday Marketplace?

Brought to ECS by the Parent Community Organization, the Holiday Marketplace is an opportunity for students to shop for gifts for their loved ones during the first week of December. The Holiday Marketplace aims to provide a selection of fair trade, sustainable, affordable gifts.

Why fair trade?

Through fair trade, artisans and farmers in low-income communities are able to earn an honest living, to provide for their children and to be gainfully employed in a job that brings dignity and joy. Fair trade organizations cultivate partnerships with their suppliers and contribute to the development of communities through educational, nutritional, environmental, and health programs. Learn more at the World Fair Trade Organization: <http://www.wfto.com>

What kinds of products will be for sale?

Some of the products that will be available for children and adults are: necklaces, earrings, candle holders, finger puppets, coin purses, zipper pulls, handmade greeting cards, notepads, chocolate bars, coffee, make your own bracelet kits, field guide bags, wallets, ornaments, bookmarks, pins, baskets, instruments, handmade soap, and many more!

We are working with many interesting vendors and encourage you to learn more about their products and their fair trade involvement. You can find a list of vendors with links to their websites on the PCO website at www.ecspco.org.

Will there be a preview of the items for sale?

Yes, some of the items will be available to view (not for sale) at the PCO meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 pm in the ECS auditorium. You can also find information about our vendors and the types of products they sell on the PCO website at www.ecspco.org.

What prices should I expect?

The majority of the items will be priced between \$1.50 and \$5.00. Some items will be priced between \$5.00 and \$10.00. We attempted to find the most affordable items that meet the fair trade standards of paying fair wages to the people who produced these items.

The PCO's Marketplace committee has chosen not to mark up the prices of many of the items and instead provide them for sale as a service to the school community without taking a profit. Other items will return a small profit to the PCO, including several products that have been donated to our sale.

When will my child have an opportunity to shop?

The Marketplace will be open to students from Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 4. See the grade-level schedule on the reverse and be prepared to send money with your student on that day if they choose to shop.

Will there be a makeup day if my child is absent on their assigned day?

Yes, we will make arrangements for students who missed their shopping day to shop on Monday, December 7.

Can parents shop too?

Once all of the classes have a chance to shop, we will open the Marketplace to parents and staff. Scheduled times are Monday after school until 4:30, Tuesday evening during the Winter Concert and Friday afternoon/evening during the Gingerbread House event. More times may be added; check the school's website calendar.

How can I support this event besides shopping?

Volunteering: We need volunteers to help set up on Nov. 25 and staff the shop/assist students in making purchases Nov. 30-Dec. 11, during school and some evenings. If you can help, contact Ayanna Ramsey at marketplace@ecspco.org.

Donating Supplies: We need the following items: cloth table cloths, stamps, ink, stickers, old holiday cards and small wrapping paper scraps (will be used to make gift tags so they will be cut up and likely not returned), a Christmas tree that can be used to hang some of the ornaments that will be available for purchase, bins and baskets for display. If you have any of those items, please contact marketplace@ecspco.org.

Donating Your Change: All change we collect during the Marketplace will be used to purchase A Gift of Honeybees from Heifer International. This gift will be given to an impoverished family in another part of the world who will be able to earn income from the sale of honey, beeswax and pollen. For more information about this unique gift, go to www.heifer.org. You must indicate on your shopping list if you want your change to be donated.

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