



October 28, 2019

Dear Newcomb and Helen Fort Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome each of you to the 2019-2020 School Year. It is our responsibility to talk with you about our organization, provide you opportunities to become a volunteer, and very importantly, encourage you to get involved in your child's school utilizing minimal time that best suits your daily routine. Since this may be the first time for some at Middle School, for many of you, it is important for us to explain what the PTO is all about.

What is the PTO, its Role, and Your Involvement?

Our PTO is an organization that strives to enhance your child's educational experience. We work alongside the principal to help or continue to bridge the gap between parents, teachers, and students. Our primary goal is to encourage parents to assist with various school activities/functions/services, provide Financial assistance where needs are identified within the school, foster a community atmosphere, and support the mission and vision of the school and school district. What is the role of the PTO? That role is to help transform our school from a pile of bricks with books into a community where the kids know that they are not alone. How we effectively accomplish this goal? What you work on this year, what you work on next year, how you make PTMS a better place-is up to you. There is no better cause! Being a parent/guardian to sign up to volunteer, it just means you support our PTO group and believe in what we are doing.

PTO Programs & Fundraising

Our primary objective as a PTO is to provide our schools with funds, programs, resources, and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child. To meet this important objective, and afford services that are no longer covered by our school budget, we must fundraise. However, it may not be our favorite responsibility, it is a necessary one. Our school community must raise funds in order to provide our children with certain activities, music and dance social events, hands-on, interactive experiences and presentations that we have had in the past. There are several new groundbreaking events for this coming school year for students and parents/guardians. Our PTO will promote all of the programs we sponsor and support. Support builds Culture!

From September - December 2019:

PTO will hold monthly pretzel and snack sales, monthly initiatives to increase awareness of certain preventions and/or support campaigns, Glow Dance for both schools, Fall Book Fair, Thanksgiving Luncheon, and Winter Wonderland in Education Silent Auction Gala (December), and other free student and family events. Additionally, the PTO will be hosting classroom contest such as Penny Wars, not to miss bi-monthly roundtable discussion for parents/guardians that target "Real Life" matters that your children may face on a daily basis, and much more. For every event that you attend, you will automatically earn a ticket for special drawing for a phenomenal gift at the Winter Wonderland in Education Silent Auction Gala.

Become a Volunteer...Why YOU should get involved!

As you can see, we are a busy group. This is where you can come in! We need your help, and so do your children. Over 500 independent studies on parent involvement show that when parents get involved in their children's education grades go up, test scores improve, children are more likely to attend better schools after high school, they have fewer discipline problems and they are less likely to use drugs and alcohol. Get involved TODAY!

Please look for our PTO volunteer sheet at any upcoming PTO meetings, or in the main office to indicate what events/activities interest you, and we will contact you to discuss it further. Stop by to see all of our volunteer opportunities!

Efforts to Go Green

We are starting an effort this year to reduce our paper usage. This will help our environment AND reduce our office expenses. Rather than send home flyers all the time, we are working to be able to send emails and post information on our website. Please help us by sending us your email address. If you already receive our emails, then you do not need to do anything. If you are new to our schools, or have not received our emails, please email us at ptmspto@pemb.org and your name will be added to our distribution list. If you do not have access to email, we will continue to send home flyer. Please give us your child's name and teacher when you join the PTO, and any PTO information will go home with your child. By November, you will see contact information for our PTO board, a fall calendar of events, volunteer opportunities, parenting resources, and other useful information. Check it out!

In Conclusion

Our parent group is certainly not just about having bake sales! (Even though we love those too) We are about men and women working together toward a common goal. That goal, simply stated, is creating a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where teachers, administrators, and support staff can do their best work – and so can our children. We look forward to meeting you.

On behalf of the PTMSPTO, we would once again like to extend a warm welcome and best wishes for a successful school year! Please contact any of us with questions or comments.

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With Thanks and

Appreciation!

THE PTMSPTO