A Message from Kentucky PTA President

November is the month when we express thanks for all of the good things in our lives. Many gather with family and friends, eat more food than we need, watch football games, and prepare for the next holiday. Far too many of the children in Kentucky will not be able to do these things this Thanksgiving. I urge you to remember that we must work together to help all of our students. Many will go to shelters, food banks or community centers.

We appreciate your willingness to serve in a leadership position on your school’s PTA/PTSA board. Thank you for the countless hours you volunteer and the sacrifices you make on behalf of the children and the families in your school and community.

Sincerely,

Heather Wampler

Kentucky PTA Advocacy Training

The annual Kentucky PTA Grassroots Advocacy Training was held at our state office in Frankfort on Friday, November 8th. Everyone was excited to learn more about being effective advocates. Attendees learned how to build an advocacy campaign from the Classroom to Capitol Hill. Guest speakers Abby Piper (Jefferson County Public Schools - Government &
Leadership Outreach

PTA Leadership Training Challenge

This month we challenge you to do the e-learning class of Planning Your PTA Year. Learn to keep volunteers motivated by putting an achievable plan together for the year - approximately 30 minutes.

Congratulations to the following individuals who did e-learning classes in September:

Penny Christian
Anna Elder
Teresa Forbes-Lopez
Sandra Flynn
Lindsey
Dana McCann
Rolanda Woolfork

Congratulations to all those who attended District Trainings:

15th District

Community Relations, Executive Administrator) and Bob Babbage (Managing Partner of Babbage Cofounder) shared their advocacy expertise with us. We were also able to visit the Capitol and have a tour. We can’t wait to work with our new advocates as we move into the Legislative session in January.

Proudfoot Award
Welcome our New PTA/PTSA formed in September: We are excited to welcome the following PTA/PTSA into our family.

TCMS PTSA, District 1

Did You Know?
That National PTA has an easy way for you to make your PTA logo. Here is link - https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/uploadedfiles/documents/customized-pta-logo.doc

Job Descriptions/Process
Every Month we will focus on a job description for each position or process that each PTA should have in their standing rules. Please feel free to use these to create, update, or consider making part of your standing rules.

President - Job Description

- Carry out duties as per bylaws.
- Help create a caring community of parent volunteers and ensure support to teachers.
- Confer with Principal and PTA Board regarding school community wants/needs, plans for the year, and progress toward goals.
- Oversee the work of other Board members and committee chairs in order that the objectives are promoted.
- Preside over all monthly meetings of the PTA General Membership, Board Of Managers, and the Executive Board.
- Maintain a relationship with members within the community, including, but not limited to PTA members, School Board members, Principal, and Superintendent.
- Must sign all contracts and oversee implementation of budget.
- Attend PTA district, state, and national meetings when possible.
- Make sure the PTA is compliant with District, State, and National.
- Promote, educate, and support the PTA mission.

Unity Day

The purpose of Unity Day is to celebrate the differences that make us unique and contribute to what unifies us. Unity Day is the Monday of Thanksgiving week and all PTAs/PTSAs are encouraged to work with their school and community to promote this special day. Celebrate cultural differences through art, music, and performances.

Idea for Unity Day:

Multi-Cultural Meal - Have a meal and invite each family to bring a tradition family food. Plan to teach a game or dance unique to each culture represented.

Multi-Cultural Panel Discussion - Give parents an opportunity to discuss their own school experiences and create a venue for parents and teachers to share with each other their views and expectations regarding education.

“We Are One” Poster - Create a “We Are One” poster using photos and construction paper. Have participants decorate the poster with photos of their friends or pictures of children of all races interacting together. Display the posters for all to see.

Linking Hands - Using construction paper, have children draw outlines of their hands. To make a long chain, have the children do this multiple times. Cut the hands out of paper and glue them together to make a chain. Let the children decorate the hands with markers, stickers, and glitter. Hang the hands around a room or along a hallway.

Unity Quilt - Students used squares of paper and wrote something unique about themselves. The squares were connected to make a quilt that was hung in the hallway with a banner, “Our School Has Unity Covered”. Watterson Elementary PTA

Membership

Listening to Your Community

Growing membership is an intentional and continuous effort to build positive, productive relationships, beginning with your PTA/PTSA Board
Don't Forget to File your Taxes!

It is that time of year again.....Filing Your PTA's/PTSA's Taxes. Taxes are DUE November 15th.

Do you know what 990 form you should be filing?

- **Form 990-N**
  - If your gross receipts (all funds which were deposited in the PTA's/PTSA's bank account(s) and all other funds received, even if immediately paid out, before any expenses are paid) are normally (“normally” is the average of the current and two prior years) $50,000 or less you must file a 990 N.
  - It must be filed electronically. [www.file990.org](http://www.file990.org)
  - Step by step guide on how to file a 990-N with File990. [How-to-File990.org_.pdf](http://www.file990.org)

- **Form 990-EZ**
  - For organizations with current year gross receipts of less than $200,000 and total year-end assets of less than $500,000.

- **Form 990**

If additional time is needed to prepare the Form 990, an automatic 3-month extension to file Form 990 may be requested using Form 8868.

More detailed information can be found in the KY PTA Leader’s Notebook, Financial Matters.

What do YOU need to send to the KY PTA office?  1) A copy of the e-mail receipt accepting the 990N. 2) A copy of the 990- EZ form completed and Schedule A & B (if required). 3) A copy of the extension form if you filed one.

Your PTA/PTSA will increase in membership if every aspect of your PTA/PTSA - every event, every communication, and every interaction - is viewed as a way to achieve strong, positive, two-way communication with your community. To do this effectively, you need to listen deeply to what families, teachers and community members want and need.

Since PTAs are for everyone, units should seek to understand and support the needs of a wide variety of members - from future parents to senior citizens. Imagine how strong your community could be if every parent, every community member and every business leader found a reason to get involved in PTA/PTSA!

Questions to Consider

Does your Board and membership reflect the diversity of families at your school (including race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, language preferences and cultural norms)?

How do families and staff think PTA/PTSA should support student success and well-being, or school improvements?

What limits families and school staff from supporting or volunteering with PTA/PTSA?

Ways to Learn More

On GREATSCHOOLS.org or your school district website, you can find the following information about your school:

- Racial/ethnic make-up
- Percentage of families receiving free/reduced-price lunch
- Percentage of English language learners
- Survey
- Listening sessions
- Invite feedback

When your PTA/PTSA has shifted gears or improved something because you listened, share that! It reinforces the message that feedback is important and new ideas are welcome.

For example:

- PTA/PTSA heard from our members ... and in response we will …
- Thanks to your suggestions ... we will …
- Our survey results showed … and as a result we are …

If you want more information on how to grow your membership go to [www.pta.org/local pta leader kit/Membership](http://www.pta.org/local pta leader kit/Membership). We have also attached a [sample of an Membership Survey](http://www.pta.org/local pta leader kit/Membership).
Reflections Look Within

With the Dance Choreography topic: Students must be the choreographer, they can also be the performer, or you could be one of the performers. If you are going to use music in the background, you must cite it in the entry form. Reflections is a great program for your child to express their self through art work. We encourage children to do some sort of artwork to express how beauty is through a child’s eyes.

If you are not in District’s 14, 15, & 16 please have your Reflections artwork to the Kentucky State PTA Office by December 15th 2019. For District’s 14, 15, & 16 please check with your local District’s to see when your artwork is due by please double check.

KY PTA Executive Board

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Announcing National PTA’s New Podcast for Parents

It’s #PTABackToSchool Week, our official kickoff for the exciting school year ahead! As part of our celebrations, we are thrilled to introduce Notes from the Backpack: A PTA Podcast for busy parents (like you!) who have a lot to keep up with at home and throughout the school year.

Just search for “Notes from the Backpack” on your favorite podcast app. Don’t forget to leave us a review if you love it! Listen now!

Today is all about giving you, our PTA Parents, everything you need to help your child succeed! Below are a few more highlights just for you-check out our special back-to-school webpage for parents and don’t forget to use #PTABackToSchool in all of your posts this week.

PTA Store

How do you let the world know you’re part of the PTA? ShopPTA.com sells official PTA and PTSA logo merchandise, apparel, membership items, awards, gifts and more. All products are offered through each
School Report Card Designed to Drive Change Through Knowledge

The annual release of public school assessment data always provides parents, educators and education stakeholders with an objective measure of the academic progress being made by students and schools. There were some bright spots in Kentucky this year. We saw schools identified as some of the state’s lowest performing last year shed that designation this year.

Even more impressive, with a new Commissioner’s List, we are honoring 20 schools across Kentucky that demonstrated extraordinary levels of student growth at the elementary and middle school levels, and schools that did extraordinarily well with transition readiness at the high school level. These gains and achievements come only as the result of strong leadership and strategic investment of time and resources in key areas.

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider these people my heroes.” - Fred Rogers