National PTA’s mission: to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

August 2020 Newsletter

Important Dates

August
15 Back to School Membership Payment Due
18 Reflections Zoom Training

KENTUCKY PTA 2020-2021 DEADLINE DATES

July 15, 2020
Financial Review Form – a review of the financial records MUST HAVE BEEN COMPLETED and be sent to the National PTA office no later than this date.

August 15, 2020
“Back to School” membership dues payment
Send dues to the local unit for the 2020-2021 school year.

August 18, 2020
Reflections Zoom Training

September 13, 2020
“Early Bird” membership dues payment
Send dues to the local unit for the 2020-2021 school year.

November 1, 2020
Kienzle School Award - local unit will submit nomination.

November 6, 2020
Advocacy Training, Kentucky PTA Office, Frankfort.

November 15, 2020
90% filing or Forms due to IRS – AND Forward receipt of IRS Filing to kypta@kentuckypta.org or the Best 2 pages of the 990 or 990-P.

December 15, 2020
Deadline to submit PTA Reflections Entries

A Note From Our Kentucky State PTA NTI Parent Ambassador

Happy August for all of my PTA friends and families. As your newly appointed NTI Parent Ambassador, I am so excited to be your Kentucky PTA President. While this is not the start that we all expected, it’s a great time to empower our families on how to advocate for their students. As we continue with our mission to support ALL children, please consider the following questions while your local units plan their year:

- How do we ensure our students that need service are receiving them?
- How do we ensure everyone still sees and feels the value of PTA/PTSA?
- How do we ensure everyone understands the importance of joining your local PTA/PTSA?
- How do we empower families to support their child’s success?

I am sure there are so many more questions to continue planning for our year just remember let’s be courageous, let’s continue to think out of the box so we can strive to ensure that EVERY child reaches their full potential. We can get through this together. If you need any ideas or supports please feel free to contact Kentucky PTA.

Thank you,
Kathy Smiley

A Message From Our Kentucky PTA President

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Thank you,
Kathy Smiley

MemberHub

Reminder State and National Dues must be paid thru MemberHub this year. If you do not have access to MemberHub please be sure that you have submitted your new officers list. You can find that on the Kentucky PTA website - www.kypta.org. I would strongly encourage everyone to check out the new Store options, as that will be the easiest
Ambassador I plan to share with you news to help you navigate through this season. As a mother of 3 children, a 6th grader, 3rd grader and kindergartner I understand the fears and anxiety you must have as this school year begins. But do not be dismayed because you are not alone, I also feel the same way. So today I plan to share with you the Top 4 things you will need to have a successful NTI year.

This list has only been tested at the Robinson household so I cannot guarantee the same success. So if you have your own top 4 list please share them with me and others via social media. To ensure when this is all over we have something we can all laugh at.

The Robinson TOP 4 Ways to Get Through NTI

1. Find a space to cry. The bathroom used to work when they were babies but now they just come in with me. so my new space is their room, if I go in there it usually means I will be yelling for them to clean it. They usually give me 30 minutes alone if to do nothing but to check my cleaning process.

2. Buy every box of crayons you can find. Just like socks, crayons seem to disappear into the cloud. And if they can’t find the perfect orange there will be a meltdown, and nobody has time for that.

3. If it takes you coffee to get going before you start at work, your kids need the same thing. So keep apple juice ready before asking them to open the computer.

4. If you don’t know it, ask for help. Thank goodness for teacher friends and even school secretaries like Virginia Johnson at Maupin for helping me understand 5th grade math.

I hope this list helps you in some way during the next 6 weeks of NTI.

Carla Robinson
15th District PTA Vice President
KY State PTA NTI Parent Ambassador

PTA/PTSA Leaders Tip:

Membership Tip*
Membership is all about building relationships through two-way communication. Why do you PTA? Your answer will get people excited and engaged.

New Year, New Membership Drive

Welcome back for the 20-21 school year. The school year is starting off very different from any other but together we can do this. PTA is needed more now than ever.

PTA is a membership association and without members we don’t exist. Members are who drive and sustain PTA. The more members we have, the louder and more influential our voice is at the city, district, county, state and federal levels. More members also mean additional revenue and more potential leaders/ volunteers to support the school, council, district, region, state and National levels. Retaining current members and growing membership should be a priority area of focus of every PTA at every level.

PTA’s role is more important than ever in connecting parents, teachers and administrators, and supporting critical school needs. We want every family in our schools to join PTA, because we can do more together than apart.

Our new membership campaign—Plug into PTA—is designed to engage and excite new members and existing members by making the work of the PTA more visible and highlighting the value and impact of PTA.

Use the tools found in this State Membership Toolkit. These tools were designed for state PTAs to use to create a membership plan to retain and/or grow PTA. Please adjust the tools, in any way, to fit the needs of your state. Integrate the new Membership Marketing Campaign resources in all your work.

We at Kentucky PTA look forward to helping each PTA/PTSA grow their membership and being an advocate for all students.

Spread the Word About Our New Membership Campaign
CDC Wants to Hear from You!

The CDC is conducting a survey to learn more about the needs of PTA parents, leaders and educators related to cleaning, disinfection and hand hygiene in schools. By participating in this 10-minute survey, http://npta.informz.net you will help CDC develop education materials and outreach tools to better support schools.

Catch Up with PTA!

Office Depot wants to hear from you! Participate in the Office Depot survey to help them determine the best ways to support students and schools in this Back to School season.

#Boot Camp
Ready for the new school year? Did you know PTA’s virtual Boot Camp is designed exclusively for Local PTA volunteers? Register for free.

Back to School
Check out the 2020 USA TODAY Back to School Magazine for great ideas and practical tips for this fall, whether your back-to-school is in person, remote or a mix of both!

STEM @ Home
STEM @ Home activities use common household items that you most likely already have at home. Check out opportunities to explore STEM learning at home.

Stay Hydrated!
We’ve partnered with Nestlé Waters to help kids choose water instead of sugary drinks to support their health. Get kids to drink more water with these fun activities and challenges.

2020 Reflections

From the KY Reflections Commissioner, Carolyn Wolfe

What if I told you that we, the PTA has a program that helps kids explore their thoughts, feeling and ideas? What if I told you that the same program can develop artistic literacy, increase confidence AND a love of learning? What if I told you that this program can easily be translated into a virtual event? Considering the socially distant life we are all living, especially our kids, we could use a program like that, RIGHT?! The PTA has had this exact program in place for over 50+ years and it reaches over 300,000 students nationwide. Of course, I am speaking about REFLECTIONS! Reflections is a program that students can do at home, in their own time. However, get your school administration involved! Your Art and Music instructors and your Guidance Counselors may be big supporters of this program and maybe able to help increase participation. They may even provide you with resources you may not have known were available.

How do you learn more? Easy! Visit: https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections

Register your school and download the tool kit. The tool kit will give you EVERYTHING. Using the same link you will also find promotional materials that you can customize for print, email, social media and even text messages.

To help you and answer any of your questions I will host a ZOOM meeting. This meeting is going to go over general stuff for the local and district level, creating a virtual game plan, what may happen at the state level this year if we are still social...

In a socially distanced world, PTAs are more important than ever in connecting parents, teachers and administrators, and supporting critical school needs. Yet joining PTA is not always seen as necessary or essential for parents of school-aged children. We want every family in our schools to join PTA, because we can do more together than apart. That’s why National PTA created a new membership campaign, PTA for Your Child. It’s designed to drive and motivate PTA membership—both new members and membership renewals. Check out National PTA website for more information on the NEW Membership Campaign. www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/membership-campaign

Families, Educators Must Remain Flexible and Good Examples if Schools are to Reopen

By Kevin Brown
Interim Commissioner of Education
I think one of the hardest things for those of us who are planning for the upcoming school year - parents and teachers alike - is the uncertainty of it all.

Superintendents and teachers are struggling to figure out how they will keep students learning whether or not buildings open. Parents are struggling with trying to figure out how their children will get to school, what they will do after school and even whether they will be taught at school or from home.

Staff at the Kentucky Department of Education have been working tirelessly over the past three months to release close to two dozen guidance documents to help education leaders decide how they will open the 2020-2021 school year. While this guidance provides best practices and ideas that should be considered when reopening schools, the most important thing to remember in these uncertain times is that we must remain flexible and ready to change our carefully made plans if the need arises.

While good planning is necessary for figuring out how to open buildings and keep students, staff and the community as safe as possible, we also must realize that those plans may need to change on short notice should COVID-19 infections continue to rise. While we all would like to know exactly what will happen when the school year opens, that’s just not the environment we are living in while we are waiting for a vaccine.

I also would ask all of you to model the good behavior that will help us reopen schools. Right now, face masks are the best option we have for keeping us from getting others sick if we are carrying the COVID-19 infection without knowing it, and new research is showing that those masks may even help keep us from getting sick if others infected with the virus are around us.

I know the issue of wearing a face mask has gone beyond being a matter of public health and entered the realm of the political. That is unfortunate because we all want our schools to reopen and our students and children to return to a more normal life. Face masks and social distancing, which can lower the rate of COVID-19 infections in our state, are the best tool we have right now to give us a fighting chance of keeping our schools open.

New episodes will be available on September 16th! Subscribe Here

All spending must be approved through budget@kypta.org until a General Membership meeting can be held and your 2020-2021 Budget is approved.

Do you want to join the KY PTA Leadership Outreach team? We are looking for district contacts for the following districts: 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 18, 19, 20.

What does the district contact do? They are the contact for the local units in that district to call for questions or help. They help with compliance issues and help get info to the local units. It is a

I also wanted to let you know about two important things that happened at the Kentucky Board of Education’s (KBE) special meeting July 10. First, the board named Brandenburg native Dr. Jason Glass as the Commonwealth’s next commissioner of education. The son of two retired Meade County educators, he has a strong background in many different aspects of education and has served as the chief state school officer in Iowa. He currently serves as superintendent of the Jeffco Public Schools in metro Denver.
Conversations between Dr. Glass and KDE staff already have begun to fill him in on what is happening in Kentucky’s education system. We as a department, and I personally when I return to Jefferson County Public Schools, look forward to working with the new commissioner. His depth and breadth of experience will serve Kentucky’s public school students well in the challenging times that lay ahead.

To learn more about Kentucky’s new education commissioner, please read this Kentucky Teacher story.

The KBE also passed a racial equity resolution that will be one of the north star documents that will guide the board’s work and our work here at KDE. The resolution is available on the KDE website. The resolution affirms the board’s commitment to racial equity in public schools by standing against all acts of racism and violence, and creating a better educational community for all students, and importantly, for Black students and other students of color.

State board members called on educators, schools and districts to commit to listening to those seeking to be heard and to ensure that young people of color feel valued and safe in school and the community. A challenge was issued to schools, districts, local boards of education, educational cooperatives, parents and families, and communities to join together to break down the barriers that stand between students of color and the equitable education they deserve.

This resolution is not window dressing. The board and we here at KDE are dedicated to ensuring that all of our students are served well. We cannot succeed as a state if a significant portion of our population is being left behind. In all of our decisions, both here in Frankfort and in every district across Kentucky, we must remember our commitment to seeking out and listening to members of all our minority populations.

As my time as interim education commissioner draws to a close, I want to thank all of you for your hard work on behalf of and dedication to Kentucky’s children. It has been an honor to serve you all.

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Bylaws Update

We would like all of our Kentucky PTA/PTSAs to take a look at their bylaws renewal date. If they are expired, we have some good news for you. Due to the State of Emergency because of COVID-19, the Kentucky PTA board extended all expired Bylaws until 12/31/2020. That gives everyone some time to get their renewals in for approval. Currently PTA/PTSAs are unable to hold virtual general membership meetings which are required for Bylaws renewal. This month the Kentucky PTA board of directors will be working on a solution. Look for directions to come out later this month or early next month.

For information on our current process go to: http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/bylaws.php

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Financial Reviews

Financial Reviews were due July 15th. If you haven’t done them - please work on getting them done ASAP. Want more info on how to do a financial review, check out this link- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AAOp9g6HEc2jiRIW17ITjBkuPGBlah6/view?usp=sharing

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PTA Store

ShopPTA.com just added to your web store new Community Support Banners. See
We are enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Every time you shop and use your card or your linked phone number, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Kentucky PTA. See below for instructions on how to enroll and link your card.

To enroll, go to www.kroger.com. Log in with your existing Kroger account or sign up for a new one. Under your name, click on My Account. Under My Account, click on Community Rewards on the left side of the screen. Under Find an Organization, enter either our Non-Profit Organization number BS198 or Kentucky Congress of Parents & Teachers, Inc. (1) Click Enroll. (2) You will now receive an automatic confirmation stating that you are now enrolled. (3) Thank you for supporting the Kentucky PTA.