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

October 2020 Newsletter

Important Dates

October
National Arts and Humanities Month
National Principal Month
2 School Custodian Appreciation Day
15 Required Membership Payment Due
18-24 Kentucky Safe Schools Week
23-31 Red Ribbon Week

November
1 Warren H. Proudfoot School Board Member Award Application Due*
*Application can be found here

Find more information about Red Ribbon Week at redribbon.org.

National Arts & Humanities Month (NAHM)

October is National Arts & Humanities Month! This is a coast to coast collective recognition of the importance of culture in America. NAHM was launched more than 30 years ago. Americans for the Arts and National Arts have partner together for a month-long celebration with these goals in mind.

FOCUSING on equitable access to the arts at local, state, and national levels.
ENCOURAGING individuals, organizations, and diverse communities to participate in the arts.
ALLOWING governments and businesses to show

A Message From Our Kentucky PTA President Kathy Smiley

Happy Fall!!!

Fall is my favorite season of the year it represents a time for transformations both personal and environmental. The temperatures drop, leaves fall and your wardrobe is dominated by clothing that will keep us warm. It is the favorite season for those that love cooler weather, boots, and Halloween. A season drenched in tradition, fall is the perfect time to reflect and embrace change. We leave the summer heat (yay) behind and the blooming flowers (allergies) are replaced by crisp and leaves changing colors I know we can’t have our Fall Festivals & Events but by thinking outside the box we can support ALL of our families and students. National PTA has ideas for virtual families programs at www.pta.org.

Kentucky PTA is holding our Speaking up for Children - Kentucky PTA’s Advocacy Virtual Training for PTA/PTSA Members on Friday, December 4, 2020 with two different times 9-11am/ 6-8pm. Gaining the maximum membership that you can is essential to PTA’s/PTSA’s effectiveness as an advocate for our children. Every additional member adds power when your PTA/PTSA goes before the SBDM Council, School Board or speaks to a school board member in person or virtual. The number of your PTA’s/PTSA’s members adds power when you contact your state and federal legislators. With plenty members, PTA/PTSA can and does improve the education, health and safety of every child. More information will be sent out soon.

The Form 990 must be filed with the IRS by
Celebrating Kentucky Safe Schools Week this October

By Jason Glass
Commissioner of Education

This year, Oct. 18-24 will be recognized as Kentucky Safe Schools Week. This annual event - which has recognized issues such as preventing cyberbullying, hatred and violence - has taken on a bit of a different perspective due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Kentucky Center for School Safety is asking students to sign the Healthy Habits Safety Pledge, in which they pledge to wear a face mask in public, wash their hands frequently, practice social distancing, be kind to everyone at school, regardless of whether it’s virtual or face to face, and be considerate to others. I think this pledge is particularly significant this year because it focuses

ATTENTION ALL FUTURE LEADERS!!

It is time for our call for nominations for KY PTA Board. If interested, please fill out the following form and submit by December 1, 2020. Nominations Google Form Questions? Contact: Penny Christian, Nominating Chair president@16thdistrictpta.org 859-396-5509

Membership Update

For the month of October the incentive is “June Key” drawing for (1) PTA and (1) PTSA sending in the mandatory membership payment by October 15th. Don’t forget to send in your membership payment. Our students are counting on you.

Membership is every body’s business. Encourage administration, staff, teachers, custodians, office staff and paras to get involved and join their local PTA. Involving teachers and administrators is one of the best ways to strengthen communication between families and schools.

Grow your membership - Parents would like to see a more diverse PTA membership base, representative of our growing multicultural communities to reflect an inclusive and welcoming school community. Parents need to know that the PTA is still here to help them obtain information and become better advocates for their children.

We encourage every family in the school to become a PTA member to support the success of their child/children. We want a diverse membership base that reflects all of the families and needs of students at the school. PTA strengthens connections between your family, your child’s classmates and their families and teachers to build a thriving and inclusive community for everyone.

There are extra resources to make your
on the things that stand the best chance of allowing our students to attend in-person classes this school year.

Wearing a face mask is one of the most important things all Kentuckians can do to protect their community, their family and their children from COVID-19. I ask you all to be good role models and wear your masks in public, because keeping the number of new infections down in your community will help keep your child’s school open this year. And please, work with your children to help them learn and consistently practice the habits included in this year’s Safe Schools pledge.

School safety is a particular interest of mine and a mission to which I am dedicated. I am a Kentucky native, but I most recently served as superintendent of the Jeffco Public Schools in Colorado. While you might have heard that it was one of the state’s largest school districts, what you might not know is that it includes Columbine High School. That name rings a bell with people because in 1999, it became the site of one of the first - and tragically not the last - mass school shootings in American history. In total, that one district has had to come to grips with three school shootings. That is something with which no school, no community, should ever have to deal.

I think as educators and parents, we all want to make our schools a safe place for our state’s children. I want you to know that I am dedicated to school safety. I have two young children myself who are attending public school in Fayette County. I care about their safety and the safety of every child attending a public school in Kentucky. There is little doubt that this school year will be unlike any other. But together, we can make it a positive learning experience for all of our students.

In partnership with the Kentucky Department for Public Health, we have created a framework that provides metric-directed guidance to assist school officials in determining the mode of instruction during the #COVID19 pandemic when statewide test positivity is <6%. Click here for more information

Deborah Lancaster
Kentucky PTA Membership Commissioner

I Matter Because... 2020 Reflections

It’s that time of year again. That’s right!! The annual National PTA Theme Search. October 1, 2020 National PTA will launch their annual theme contest. They are looking for original and creative theme ideas for future Reflections programs Themes. The winning student will also receive a $100.00 award and National Recognition. Remember that you can be the key to helping our state have our voice heard!

Please have all entries to Kentucky PTA no later than November 15, 2020. All entries can be email to reflections@kypta.org or mail to: P.O.Box 654 Frankfort, KY 40602

PTA Leadership Outreach Team

PTA Learning

Guess What? National PTA has been updating their e-learning courses - so if you took them in the past, they are all new now. Check them out!

Quick Quiz
What are the 4 I’s of family engagement?
What is the first and most important thing a PTA leader can do?
Name 5 IRS guidelines that are essential to PTAs?

If you don’t know the answer to these - check out the new PTA E-learning Course of Local PTA Board Basics at pta.org/elearning.

Local PTA Board Basics- Learn the basic governance structures behind most PTA units.
A Message from the Kentucky Center for School Safety

By Jon Akers

Child protection professionals across the country are very concerned about the safety and welfare of children who have been in the home since March due to the pandemic. Many students are still isolated and receiving online instruction. Experts fear these students may be at a greater risk of various forms of abuse and even online threats or cyberbullying. These kids need protection.

I want to make an earnest recommendation to our educators to include the School Safety Tipline information on every online lesson that is being taught every day. I want the students to have a constant reminder that there is help "out there"... they simply need to call 866-393-6659. The graphic is found above this article.

Why Students Need Social-Emotional Learning Now

Some child-development experts are worried that students’ social, emotional, and mental well-being will be put on the back-burner this fall. Read the article.

Local Unit Virtual General Membership Meeting Policy

The Kentucky PTA Board of Directors understands that with COVID-19 and the changes that have been made to ensure everyone’s safety; it may not be feasible for PTAs/PTSAs to have in person meetings. We understand that the access to some school buildings has been limited as well as the ability to have enough people present to have quorum. With that in mind, the Kentucky PTA has voted to allow all local unit PTAs/PTSAs to hold their general membership meetings virtually.

For detailed information, please click here.

Do you know the difference between Bylaws and Standing Rules? Test your knowledge? https://www.powtoon.com/c/es9FdADtin1/1/m

PTA Values

We are dedicated to children’s educational success, health, and well-being through strong family and community engagement, while remaining accountable to the principles upon which our association was founded.

Standing Rules

We want to help you with your standing rules. Each month we will give you a standing rule that might help you with your PTA.

All requested reimbursement must be submitted within 45 days and be submitted with Check Request Form and receipts.

This standing rule is important for many reasons:

- Making sure all reimbursement are done within a certain time frame will keep your records up to date.
- It keeps the PTA from suddenly being hit with request at the end of the year.
- Check Request Forms makes sure that it is submitted properly and is signed off by the PTA President.

Kentucky PTA History — hverchildonevoice

KY PTA officially began in 1918 when it was chartered by the National PTA. However, there were active PTAs in Kentucky long before that. There are records of PTA in Kentucky before the turn of the century, two decades before there was a Kentucky PTA.
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](http://www.kypta.org). I would strongly encourage everyone to check out the new Store options, as that will be the easiest way to do not only membership but social distancing fundraisers. As always if you have any questions, issues or concerns regarding MemberHub, please email us at MemberHub@kypta.org.

Bylaws Update

We would like all of our local unit leaders to take a look at their bylaws renewal date. If they are expired, don't worry. Due to 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. For information on our current process go to: [http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/bylaws.php](http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/bylaws.php)

A Note From Our Kentucky State PTA NTI Parent Ambassador

I know that many of us have sat back in our chairs since August and said “Why now” or “Why this”. At this very moment we are all sitting in situations that we didn’t expect or experience before. But what I can tell you is this moment is necessary and beneficial for all families and schools to build their family engagement during covid. It has also required us to ask questions and dive in deeper with our schools like never before.

Family engagement is a new term that I learned from Dr. Karen Mapp, an educator and supreme knowledge of all things Family engagement inside of our schools. If you get some time one day pick up her book “ Beyond the Bake Sale” and you will see what I mean. She coined Family Engagement because Parent Engagement was just too vague and small. We know that Engagement for the success of our children sometimes have to go beyond just the parents. We have grandparents raising grandkids, Aunties and Uncles after retirement are raising their younger family members; it’s time for a name change.

Family Engagement during covid has caused many to think “ Out-Side of the box”, I know I said it, and I won’t take it back. Yes, to achieve family engagement when you can’t see or touch your parents seemed impossible about 5 months ago. But look how far we have come. We are electing SBDM members via zoom and teachers are calling and facetime family members every day. My kids have speech therapy twice a week and the morning of their call I receive a reminder text. I can’t thank Ms. P at Maupin Elementary enough for doing this for this mom of three. But what she has created is a new normal in family involvement.


Be Kind-Make Covid Better

Follow the link to read Shari Harley's article to find ways to demonstrate kindness during these uncertain times. [https://candidculture.com/2020/09/07/be-kind-make-covid-better](https://candidculture.com/2020/09/07/be-kind-make-covid-better)

Update Your Officers List

Don’t forget to update your officers list for 2020-2021. Important information goes out VIA

Carla Robinson
15th District PTA VP
MemberHub emails, and if we don’t have the contact information for the board you miss out information that might help! You can fill out the officers list here: [http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/ officerlist.php](http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/officerlist.php)

If you have questions or concerns, please email Jenna at the Kentucky PTA office. [kyptajenna@gmail.com](mailto:kyptajenna@gmail.com)

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**Updated Information to Share with Families**

**Pandemic EBT** cards will be sent out to eligible students again in October. Eligible students will be $5.86/per student per day of eligible missed school days. For more information you can visit this website: [https://feedingky.org/coronavirus/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt/](https://feedingky.org/coronavirus/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt/) If you have questions about your eligibility, please email [pebt.info@ky.gov](mailto:pebt.info@ky.gov) or call (855)306-8959.

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**PTA Store**

ShopPTA.com just added to your web store new Community Support Banners. See [Here](https://bit.ly/2XuzLab).

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AmazonSmile has donated over $200 million to charities worldwide! You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to [PTA Kentucky Congress](https://bit.ly/2XuzLab) by shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0461750](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0461750) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app.

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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](http://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.