

PTA Frequently Asked Questions

What is the PTA?

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) reminds our country of its obligations to children and provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students.

The PTA does not act alone. Working in cooperation with many national education, health, safety, and child advocacy groups and federal agencies, the national PTA organization collaborates on projects that benefit children and that bring valuable resources to its members.

What are the PTA goals?

Manchester Elementary PTA goals are available under the "PTA Goals" tab on this website. The National PTA goals are also listed for your review. Please also visit PTA.org for more information.

What does it mean to be part of the PTA?

There are many ways to "bee" a part of the PTA ... you could be on a committee, read in a classroom, make copies, attend meetings, help with an event. The PTA is made up of entirely volunteers. You can help by joining the PTA, sharing your ideas, supporting PTA events and volunteering your time. Every minute makes a difference and it can be as much or as little as you'd like.

As a PTA member you are a voting member of the PTA and your membership card = your vote. Please join us at the PTA meetings, share your ideas and vote on issues that make a difference in your students education. Joining the PTA does not obligate you to volunteer at school or attend PTA meetings, although we hope you will.

Please note, only members who have paid dues for the current year may participate in PTA business such as holding office, introducing motions, debating and voting at PTA meetings. Anyone who is interested in being a room representative or in chairing a committee MUST be a member of the PTA.

How do I join the PTA?

You are welcome to join the PTA at any time. You can pick up a membership form in the school office or at any PTA meeting. The cost for membership \$7.00 for an individual or \$12 for a family (2 members). Membership automatically enrolls you in the state and national PTA. Questions, email Denise Frazier at dlfelice@verizon.net.

How does the PTA spend the membership fee?

Well, your membership fee gets split three ways ... \$2.25 goes to the National PTA, \$1.50 goes to the Maryland PTA and the remaining \$2.25 stays right here at MES to pay for the wonderful events, activities and programs listed and many, many more. Check out the PTA.org website to learn more about the National PTA and your member benefits including great resources for parents !

How do I sign up to volunteer?

Volunteer forms were sent home the first week of school. If you missed the form, please stop by the school office to pick one up. Or, email Suzie Ryan at suzieryan@comcast.net or Gina Shaneybrook at gshaneybrook@comcast.net with questions and let us know what committee you would like to join!

When are the PTA meetings?

The meetings will be held on Mondays this year at 7:00 pm in the media center. PTA meetings are for everyone that is part of the MES community. You are welcome to attend and simply listen or to participate in discussions. If you are a paid PTA member you are entitled to vote on all motions as well. Please visit the "Meetings and Minutes" tab for the actual schedules.

Does the PTA have a newsletter?

Due to the PTA Survey feedback and in an effort to streamline communication, the PTA will include all PTA news in the Manchester Elementary School newsletter.

How does the PTA raise money?

The PTA raises money through fundraising. The Fall Fun Run is our main fundraiser and helps to pay for all the events, activities and programs throughout the year. The PTA also raises some money thru the Fall Book Fair, Market Day, Talent Show, Family Pizza Night and Spirit Wear. The PTA participates in Box Tops, Campbell's Soup Labels and Store Card Programs, however for these programs all of the proceeds go directly to MES.

Does the PTA have a budget?

Yes, the budget is developed taking into consideration all the needs of MES, the PTA survey results and teacher feedback. The PTA budget is then presented to the general PTA at the first meeting of the year, September 19th at 7:00 pm. Everyone that is a paid PTA member is entitled to vote on the PTA budget. If you are not currently a PTA member, membership forms will be available at all PTA meetings.

How does the PTA spend the money raised?

The PTA spends the money raised as per the approved budget. Did you know the PTA...

- encourages education through reading for our students with programs such as Book Fairs, Birthday Books and author visits in our media center
- hosts family activities such as the Family Fun Festival and a Winter Event
- gives Box Tops, Campbell's Soup Labels and Store Card Programs money directly to MES
- promotes student creativity through programs such as the talent show, bake off and art contest
- donates money for each child at MES to go on field trips to help keep the cost down for families
- supports PBIS programs such as Hugs & Handshakes and pep rallies
- sponsors many free activities such as Mornings with Mom & Donuts with Dad
- provides support & appreciation to our wonderful Manchester Elementary School teachers & staff

How do I contact the PTA?

Please feel free to contact the PTA anytime! All Executive Committee information is under the "Contact Information" tab. You can also leave a message with the MES school office for any PTA officer and we will get back to you as soon as possible.