



# WOODLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

## HOME OF THE WIZARDS



Summer 2019

Dear Woodlin Families,

With one month left of summer, the Woodlin Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is gearing up to welcome everyone back for a great 2019-20 school year - which also happens to be Woodlin's 75th birthday! One of the best ways to stay informed throughout the year is to connect with the PTA. We are a strong and active all-volunteer organization working together on behalf of our kids.

The purpose of the PTA is to support the children of Woodlin by:

- Developing **enrichment** programs to enhance our kids' academic experience
- Hosting **community-building** events for all of us to enjoy
- **Advocating** on behalf of the school's needs at the local, county, and state levels
- **Fundraising** to support these many activities, the school, and our teachers and staff

### Enrichment

The PTA runs programs that enrich our students' learning. We coordinate fall, winter, and spring sessions of after-school clubs and provide buses to get kids home on club days. We also provide in-school activities, such as assemblies to celebrate our diverse community and programs to enhance learning about STEM, cultural arts, geography, and financial literacy.

### Community Events

The PTA's calendar is full of activities throughout the school year that are fun for everyone including a movie night, international night and potluck dinner, school dance, skate night, and spring fair. We also plan events throughout the year to show appreciation for the amazing teachers and staff at Woodlin.

### Advocacy

The PTA advocates for the needs of the school. One of our primary focus areas over the last couple of years has been keeping MCPS attention on Woodlin's facility needs. We are currently on MCPS's list for an addition, with the potential for even more (much needed!) substantial work. This is going to be a critical year for that effort, as MCPS will be making some major budget decisions. The PTA will be actively involved in advocating to improve the physical conditions at Woodlin to get a safe and modern learning environment for Woodlin's students and teachers.

### School support

The PTA provides resources to Woodlin to support our incredible educators. This includes funds for each teacher and grade-level group for classroom activities, and other resources to help our teachers be their best. This summer, with funding provided by the PTA, Woodlin sent a group of teachers to Responsive Classroom training. The Responsive Classroom approach integrates academic and social-emotional skills to create a positive, effective learning environment. By the start of the school year, all educators

and para-educators will have learned about this method. In addition, last year the PTA provided funds so the school could purchase enrichment curriculum in reading, writing, and math that is used in all grade levels to supplement the basic MCPS curriculum.

### **Fundraising and Volunteering**

Fundraising and volunteering are the key to making everything we do happen. We have two major fundraisers each year: the fall fun run (Dash of the Runaway Wizards) and a winter auction and parent's night out. In addition, your participation in Snider's receipt collection, the Amazon smile program, dine-outs, and the book fairs all provide funding needed to support PTA activities.



As an all-volunteer organization, we can only be successful if we have...**VOLUNTEERS!** Please consider giving your time and talents to the PTA. Whatever your strengths and interests, we can find a place for you. No effort is too big or too small - whether it is volunteering for a few hours on a specific activity or coordinating an event, we invite, encourage, and need everyone to get involved.

### **How YOU Can Get Involved**

**Join the PTA!** Joining the PTA is a great way to show your support and help fund our programs. And, if we have a lot of members, we have a strong voice when advocating for Woodlin. Individual memberships are \$12 and family memberships are \$20 per year. Go to <http://woodlinpta.org> to join the PTA.

**Stay Connected!** Visit <http://woodlinpta.org> to join our listserv and sign up to be in the PTA directory. Our website will have up-to-date information about the PTA, email addresses for Board members, and a calendar of upcoming activities, programs, and events, among other useful information for volunteers. You can also follow us on Facebook (Woodlin Elementary School PTA).



*During the week of August 5, we will be moving our PTA listserv from Yahoo to a new service from groups.io. For those of you currently on the listserv, you will automatically receive an email with a link to click if you want to join the new listserv. If you haven't joined yet, keep an eye on the website for subscription info to the new service.*

### **Attend PTA Meetings!**

We hold 5 PTA meetings each year focused on issues of interest to Woodlin parents. Mark your calendars for the first PTA meeting of the year on **Tuesday September 17, 6:30 – 8:00 pm**. We meet in the Woodlin All Purpose Room and we will provide pizza and child care (Thanks Kids After Hours!).

### **Enjoy the final weeks of summer and we'll see you in September!**

#### **Woodlin 2019-2020 PTA Board**

Emily Menashes, President  
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Sandra Rodrich, Vice President—Advocacy  
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