

Dear Woodlin Families,

With two weeks of summer left, the Woodlin Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) welcomes everyone for the 2020-21 school year.

The PTA will continue to work to build connections and keep parents informed during this year. We hope you will all join us. We invite every one of you to get involved in the PTA this year. We need you! During this year, we're going to have to work harder to advocate for our children, support their learning and the school, and build a community. Some people can provide time and volunteer. Others of you can provide support as we advocate for the best learning environment for our children. Still others can provide resources and donate to our PTA. Some of you may have ideas on how we can do things differently and better. We welcome each of you in whatever capacity you want to be involved.

Our PTA is a strong and active all-volunteer organization that works together on behalf of all Woodlin children. Even though our work will look different this year, PTA continues 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; and,
- Fundraising to support these many activities, the school, and our teachers and staff.

Enrichment

The PTA runs programs that enrich our students' learning by supporting after-school clubs and in-school activities. We are currently coordinating fall, winter, and spring sessions of [after-school clubs](#). During the first week or two of school, look for a survey on what clubs your child might be interested in. Our intention is that during this fall and winter, virtual clubs will provide a chance for Woodlin students to interact with each other in small groups for enrichment, fun, and socio-emotional learning. In addition, we support in-school activities, such as assemblies to celebrate our diverse community and STEM learning, cultural arts, the broader world, and financial literacy. If you are interested in helping plan arts residencies or a geography event for this coming year, please let us know!

Community Events

Though we've pushed some of our favorite community activities to the spring in hopes that we can be together in-person, know that we've got a couple of activities planned for this fall to get students outside and feeling more connected to their school.

In place of our typical international night and potluck, we are considering a series of virtual events celebrating the diversity that helps make Woodlin a special place. If you are interested in working on that, please let me know!

We also plan events throughout the year to show appreciation for the amazing teachers and staff at Woodlin.

Advocacy

As we advocate 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. That will be an important goal this year, as well. Woodlin is in the [planning phase](#) for a re-build, anticipated to reopen in time for the 2024-2025 school year. We need to work to make sure that happens. The PTA will remain actively involved in advocating for 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.

Last year, with funding from 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. Two years ago, the PTA provided funds for the school to purchase enrichment-curriculum in reading, writing, and math that is used in all grade levels to supplement the basic MCPS curriculum. This supports the PTA and Principal's Jackson's commitment to making sure every child has access to enrichment opportunities.

We don't know what the school might need this year, but we want to be in a position to make Woodlin a better school when the opportunity arises.

Fundraising and Volunteering

Fundraising and volunteering are necessary for everything the PTA does. We have two major fundraisers each year: the fall fun run (Dash of the Runaway Wizards) and a winter auction. Plans are underway, with both being virtual this year. In addition, your participation in Snider's

receipt collection, the [Amazon smile program](#), dine-outs, spirit wear sales, and the book fairs all provide funding needed to support PTA activities.

Please consider giving your time and talents to the PTA. Whatever your strengths and interests, we can find a place for you.

Please join the PTA!

The PTA is a great way to show your support and help fund our programs. 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/pta-membership/> to join the PTA.

Please join our listserv!

Especially during these times of distance learning the listserv will be our best way of communicating with you. Visit <http://woodlinpta.org/join-the-listserv/> to join our listserv, even if you don't officially join the PTA (but please join us!).

Visit our website!

Our [website](#) has up-to-date information about the PTA, email addresses for Board members, and calendar of upcoming activities, programs, and events, among other useful information for volunteers.

Attend PTA Meetings!

We'll hold 5 PTA meetings this year focused on issues of interest to Woodlin parents. With one key exception, we'll hold virtual meetings this fall and winter. The first part of our first PTA meeting of the year will be held in person on Tuesday, September 15 because of the need to pass our 2020-2021 budget. At this time, compliance with Maryland PTA dictates that the budget be passed in person. We plan to hold a quick, socially-distant, outdoor vote with those available at 6:30pm and then re-convene virtually at 7:00pm for a presentation on the Woodlin PTA's plans for the school year.

Keeping on!

We know that distance learning will challenge most parents, teachers, and students. Many of us will work harder this fall and winter than in years past. We're confident that all of us—parents, teachers, and students—will do the best that we can during this season of distance learning. We know distance learning will help keep Woodlin teachers, staff, and students safe.

The PTA will work especially hard to build community and connection this fall and winter. We ask that you be patient with us, with teachers, and with each other as we try to fulfill our mission in this new environment.

Enjoy the last bit of summer. Here's to making the 2020-2021 school year the best it can be!

Woodlin 2020-2021 PTA Board

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