

CONTACT



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2016

Missouri Parent Teacher Association | 2101 Burlington Street | Columbia, MO 65202 | 800-328-7330 | office@mopta.org | www.mopta.org



Missouri PTA

PTA Vision: Making Each Child's Potential A Reality

PTA Mission: PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for all families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

The **Purpose of PTA** is to promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into close relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.



Amy Blakemore | Missouri PTA VP Communication | amyb@mopta.org

Do you feel a bit lost in your PTA responsibilities or have questions pertaining to your position but don't know where to find help? Missouri PTA and National PTA have wonderful resources available for you.

A great first step would be to attend the Missouri PTA Convention. You will have the opportunity to attend training specific to your position, network with other Units and Councils and most of all, connect with the Missouri PTA Board of Managers. The next Convention is Friday, April 28th to Sunday, April 30, 2017. Put it on your calendar and make plans to attend – we promise you will go home full of ideas, inspiration and excitement to share with your local Unit or Council.

Another great resource is the National PTA Back-To-School Kit. You will need to register to access the kit. It contains valuable information for Presidents, Treasurers, Membership chairs and provides tips, tools and advice on Fundraising, Communications, Programs and most importantly, Advocacy.

National PTA also provides e-learning where you can access online courses at your convenience. The e-learning library has everything you need including PTA basics, nuts and bolts information of a working PTA and leadership enhancement courses. They even have a micro-course which lasts 10-15 minutes and would be a great addition to a Unit or Council meeting.


The Missouri PTA website also has great resources for you. The PTA Members Section has Bylaws information, Tool Kits and guides, videos and even previous convention workshops to help you in your role. Your Unit or Council President will be able to help you access this information with your local unit id and password.

Lastly, please reach out to your Regional Directors and other members of the Missouri PTA Board of Managers. These are individuals dedicated to helping you.

Mark Your Calendar

Contact us! contact@mopta.org

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [t @MissouriPTA](#)

Today   Saturday, October 1 ▾

 Print [Week](#) [Month](#) [Agenda](#) ▾

Missouri PTA October Calendar

Looking for ideas or topics for a PTA Event or meeting? Check out the Missouri PTA website calendar. We have added some National Awareness Weeks and some fun days, too! Visit <https://mopta.org/moptacalendar/> for the full list.

This calendar is in Agenda View, but you can also select week view or month view for any month!

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, October 1

ADHD Awareness Month

Monday, October 3

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Tuesday, October 4

Dyslexia Awareness Week

World Animal Day

Wednesday, October 5

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Walk and Bike to School Day

Thursday, October 6

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Friday, October 7

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Monday, October 17

National Baking Week

Tuesday, October 18

National Baking Week

Wednesday, October 19

National Baking Week

Thursday, October 20

National Baking Week

Friday, October 21

National Baking Week

Monday, October 24

Red Ribbon Week

Tuesday, October 25

Red Ribbon Week

Wednesday, October 26

Red Ribbon Week

Thursday, October 27

Red Ribbon Week

Friday, October 28

Red Ribbon Week

Deadline to submit Resolutions to Missouri PTA
October 21, 2016

Reflections Theme Suggestion Deadline
October 31, 2016

Deadline to register unit for the Reflections Program
November 1, 2016

Unit in Good Standing fiscal year-end report, annual financial review, and copy of IRS filing due to state office
December 1, 2016

Reflections entries due to Missouri PTA
December 17, 2016

Take Your Family to School Week
February 13-17, 2017

Founder's Day
February 17, 2017

National PTA Legislative Conference
March 7-9, 2017

National Volunteer Week
April 23-29, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week
May 1-5, 2017

Mark Your Calendar

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Mark your calendar and join us!

Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30, 2017

Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Columbia, Mo

Visit www.MoPTA.org for more information

Missouri PTA 2017 Convention

The PTA created Family Reading Experience packet program has everything needed to organize and run a family fun filled event. As you plan for the months ahead, make sure you save the date and get ready to celebrate National Reading Month in March with PTA's [Family Reading Experience](#).

Sign up for a free event kit and your PTA will be eligible for a Kindle Giveaway! The first 1,000 PTAs to sign up by Dec. 1 will receive colorful posters, event signage, stickers for students, bookmarks and family take-home messages to support your event.

This sweet treat is the direct result of membership dues in action.

National PTA everychild.onevoice[®] Family Reading Experience Powered by kindle

Apply For Free Kindles

Enhance your PTA Family Reading Experience

[Learn More!](#)

Visit the [Missouri PTA Webpage](#) for more information.

National Association of Parliamentarians
Jacomo Unit Presents -
"Building a Better Meeting"
Basics of Presiding
Minutes, What Happened?
Used and Abused Motions

**Saturday
October 15,
2016**

Hilton Garden Inn
19677 East Jackson Drive
Independence, MO 64057
Time: 9:00am to Noon
Deadline for Registration:
October 1, 2016

All topics will be presented by Professional Registered Parliamentarians, experts in their field.

Q & A session will follow. Learn how to become a member!

Tickets are available for \$30.00 ~ Continental breakfast & all workshop materials included.

COULD YOUR PTA USE \$5,000?

You may win one of four (4) \$5,000 cash prizes for your PTA. Additionally, each State PTA with a winning local unit PTA will be awarded \$1,000 cash. If your local PTA wins, we will fly you to NYC for a luncheon and check presentation in the famed Good Housekeeping Institute.

[Register today](#) to become an official coordinator on behalf of your PTA. Go to ghpopstars.com to learn more and to register.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
**P·O·P
STARS**



From the Missouri PTA President

Contact me! dorothyg@mopta.org

[f](#) MissouriPTA [p](#) MissouriPTA [t](#) @MissouriPTA

Congratulations to the 2016-2018 School of Excellence recipients for Missouri

We are excited to announce the 2016-2018 School of Excellence recipients for Missouri. Congratulations to these schools:

Fairview Elementary PTA in Columbia

[Prairie Point Elementary PTA in Kansas City](#)

New Bloomfield PTA in New Bloomfield

[Union Chapel Elementary PTA in Parkville](#)

Education has to
be a priority

"EDUCATION
IS THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON
WHICH YOU CAN USE TO
CHANGE
THE WORLD."



Dorothy Gardner | Missouri PTA President | dorothyg@mopta.org

There is something currently missing from the election landscape in Missouri. A conversation that really gets to the heart of our future as an economically prosperous state. I'm referring to something so basic, something so fundamental, that it provides the crucial infrastructure on which everything else stems. Something so inherently important our state constitution mandates "in no case shall there be set apart less than twenty-five percent of state revenue" to provide for its funding. I'm talking about education.

Why doesn't a conversation about education garner the same attention as 2nd Amendment rights, health care, and voter ID laws? A real conversation going beyond surface. For if you want to fully support education or fix education you need to understand what today's public schools grapple with day in and day out. We need to be willing to see and acknowledge what today's student in Missouri really looks like.

Because we now have reached a 52% level of free and reduced lunch the odds are high that one of the two children sitting on either side of your child in class lives in a household that might be struggling with poverty. Bullying is still a prominent issue regardless of the grade or socio-economic background. The number of students struggling with high levels of stress and anxiety has increased. Technology has indeed changed the way we interact, educate, and live our lives. Unfortunately,

technology's ability to reach everyone everywhere instantaneously can exacerbate issues surrounding bullying, stress and anxiety. I once heard it described by a student as 'constantly being on stage'. A student study taken in 2014 found that 11.7% of students had seriously considered suicide. Missouri's suicide rate has been higher than the national average for over a decade, and it is the 2nd leading cause of death for young adults.

Our public education system opens its doors each day to every student. No one is turned away. Inside our schools' walls teachers and administrators deal with issues much broader than state standards and testing. Because educating involves working with students to identify a pathway to learning. Each student's pathway is different. And some of those pathways are filled with obstacles and barricades that fall far outside merely struggling to comprehend specific academic concepts.

Maybe this conversation is glossed over because it's uncomfortable to identify and address the vast number of problems facing our youth. Perhaps the idea of really digging into the totality of all that our schools face is overwhelming. But until we do, until we have the courage to honestly look at education as a whole, Missouri will remain socially and economically stagnate.

Transmission: Success

Contact us! communication@mopta.org

MissouriPTA

MissouriPTA

@MissouriPTA

Sweet Tools To Make Communication Easier



Does your unit primarily use email for communication? Would you like to have reporting and tracking options or a database of contacts that are easily accessible? Then check out [BenchmarkEmail](#). They offer free accounts to PTAs up to 100,000 members. Perks include templates, social media integration, tracking and reporting options and contact list management tools.

As a non-profit, sometimes it is hard purchasing the tools you need to make your job easier. [Techsoup](#) is a product donation program that helps to obtain technology resources. You can find everything from accounting software to refurbished computers. This is a great resource not only for your PTA but for your schools.

If you haven't discovered these volunteer organizer tools, you will be glad you did. [SignUp](#) (formerly VolunteerSpot) and [SignUpGenius](#) make volunteer organization a breeze.

Sometimes it's difficult finding time for a meeting because of busy schedules and then there is confusion sending emails back and forth to find the perfect day and time. Use [doodle](#) to send a quick poll.

	September 27, 2016				
	9:00	11:00	2:00	4:00	8:00
Tom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paula	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chris	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why use social media?

1. Enhance educational experience at your school
2. Promote your PTA, school or school district
3. Involve the community in decision-making
4. Feedback loop with community
5. Enlist volunteers
6. Build online community of supporters
7. Raise funds for a cause or campaign
8. Get people to attend your events
9. Enhance existing communications programs
10. Connect with peers at other PTAs

Technology Based

- Website
- Blog Posts
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Direct Emails

Paper (Take Home)

- Summer Mailings
- Beginning of Year Welcome Packet
- Weekly Student Folders
- Monthly Newsletter

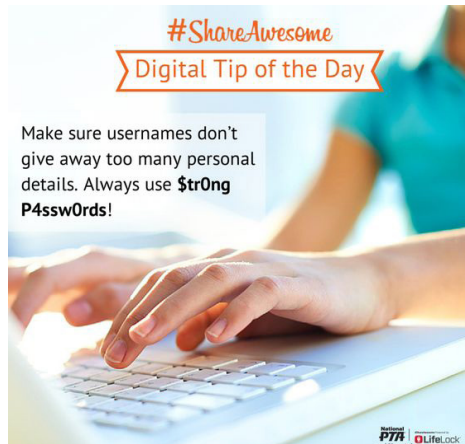
Collaborative PTA Communication Plan

In Person

- Meet the Teacher / Open House
- PTA Meetings
- Curriculum Nights
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Scheduled Events

In the Community

- Newspaper
- Community Bulletin Boards
- Neighborhood Groups
- School System News
- Civic & Religious Organizations





Sweet Tips to stay on Track

- Send the year-end financial report and annual financial review to the state office. No need to wait until the Dec. 1st deadline when the holidays are looming.
- Go ahead and file the 990 and send a copy to the state office. Again there is no need to wait for the Dec 1st deadline. If receipts were under \$50,000 the unit is eligible to file the 990-n also known as the E-postcard. It's easy and super quick.
- Send in membership dues. Dues are due monthly.
- Start thinking now about nominating committee. Check your bylaws for specifics regarding who can serve, how they are elected, and any deadlines associated with the committee.

Avoid Tricks with Training

Looking for flexible training courses that improve your PTA leadership abilities? National PTA's e-learning courses can expand your knowledge of the organization, its primary functions and how to effectively lead your local unit PTA.

With courses covering president, treasurer and secretary positions, advocacy, membership and more—National PTA e-learning courses can help supplement your training and take your organization to the next level!

Introducing Micro-Courses! [National PTA Micro-Courses](#) take a specific subject from longer e-learning courses and cover it in just 10-15 minutes, so learners can get the information they need in a manageable amount of time.

To find out more info, or to start taking courses, please visit PTA.org/eLearning.



We receive a lot of questions related to running a PTA. Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions we've received since the beginning of the school year.

Do we need a movie license to show a movie?

While it is not a requirement of either Missouri PTA or National PTA to have a license to play movies, many production studios do require a license be in place in order for their product to be shown at a public event. A public event is typically defined as outside the home setting. Many schools already hold licensing agreements. As long as the movie is shown in the school's building it is usually covered under that license. Check with the school to see if the showing of a movie for PTA event would fit under either the school's license or meet the perimeters of Educational Exemption.

Who issues a Letter of Determination? All PTA units in Missouri are organized and fall under Missouri PTA's corporate non-profit umbrella. It is the responsibility of Missouri PTA to report to the state which units are in good standing, meeting the requirements established under state statute for non-profits, and which are not. Because of this reporting, Missouri PTA is the one to contact for a Letter of Determination. If the unit is currently in good standing the letter is sent by email for the unit's use. This Letter of Determination is needed when filing for Missouri Tax Exemption and can be required when applying for grants and donations.

Can we use debit and gift cards to conduct business?

Neither Missouri PTA or National PTA recommend the use of debit or gift cards as a form a payment. However, deposit only ATM cards are acceptable if your bank offers this service. The rational for not using this form of payment stems from the following risk factors. If a debit card is lost or stolen the account can be drained before you realize what has happened. The more individuals with access to the debit card the more difficult it is to track the purchases and follow the best practice of using a voucher system. Gift cards are seen as cash in the eyes of the IRS and are not traceable once purchased. There is no way to confirm the gift card was used for the intended line item in the budget.

Is our PTA covered under Missouri PTA insurance?

Due to the varying natures and needs of each PTA unit it is impossible for Missouri PTA to cover units under our state PTA insurance. We do highly recommend all PTAs include in their budget the means to pay, for at a minimum, officer liability coverage and a bond. Depending on what events your PTA will be holding general liability coverage might also be needed. Schools and other venues have shown an increase in the requirement that PTAs have proof of coverage prior to hosting certain events. Most PTAs and Missouri PTA use AIM for insurance needs. You can find their information at www.aim-companies.com.



Missouri PTA
Department of
Membership

Power of PTA

Contact us! membership@mopta.org

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [t @MissouriPTA](#)

The Extra Mile

Hopefully, your membership drive is surpassing your goals. Now that you have your members, are you keeping them informed? Many joined your unit for support while knowing that their time commitments wouldn't allow them to be physically present at the meetings. Let's start going that extra mile to keep all members informed and up to date on all activities. There are several methods to get members information missed at the meetings:

- Email the minutes to the members
- Send a copy of the minutes home via backpack mail
- Post key points on your units and/or school's Facebook page, or
- Post minutes in school's newsletter

Make every effort to keep your unit's members of the discussions in the meetings, upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities. They'll appreciate your efforts.

How are you doing on your PTA membership drive this year? 2016-17 Membership Campaign Incentive

The Missouri PTA is offering an incentive for all units who increase their membership by at least 10% over last year. All units that meet the percentage increase will be put into a drawing for the cash incentive. This will be awarded at the 2017 Missouri PTA convention in April.

- 10% increase- \$250
- 15% increase- \$500
- 20% increase- \$750

Missouri PTA has set a goal of 50,000 members for this year. Check in on our website for an update on our progress.

#MembershipMondays
Your input matters! Overcome Objections!
PTAKit.org/Membership



Christine Kent
Missouri PTA Student Involvement Chair
christinek@mopta.org

Is there a trick to growing PTA membership?

Hello and welcome to the many diverse meanings of fall! For some it is the changing leaf colors, the beginning of colder weather or the many different celebration rituals that welcome in the season. For some PTA units it is the ever ongoing search for more members. And with these more members, what to do with them once they are an effective part to the entire PTA success.

You have probably been working really hard at your PTA routine welcoming and greeting everyone you see for the new school year. And re-inviting past members and working towards the 100% Faculty support of your school. All the while, sharing all of the reasons why anyone would want to join your PTA unit. Some sign up on the spot, others smile and say they will join later while others make a huge u-turn when they even see a PTA sign or table.

Don't worry you are doing a great job!

There is really no "trick" to "scaring" up more PTA memberships, all you need to do is continue to ask everyone you meet. By doing so, this will allow for a diverse mix of members to give their voice as to why it is important to support our children thru joining PTA. And while you are asking everyone, make sure to mention that anyone can be a member, their relatives, friends and even businesses that they work for or use often. You would be surprised at how many people believe that you can only be a member if you have children still in school.

PTA support is for anyone interested in the happenings and future happenings with our children. The original founders believed that the health and safety of our children was important and look how far we have come.

During this creative season, remember to look for ways your unit can share fall safe and healthy activities and tips to elementary students. For the middle and high school students, make sure that you are inviting them to join your unit and look for ways they can become involved, engaged and share in the spreading of the good things that we do. They will, after all, one day take our place. What greater "treat" would it be to look back in the future and see them becoming the leaders that we are today?

By continuing to reach out to others you are being inclusive to everyone and providing an avenue for them to grow your units numbers, ideas and unique perspective on how we can help all children.

PTA Swag & Pizzazz

Contact us! programs@mopta.org

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [@MissouriPTA](#)

Reflections Theme Selection Contest

Promote the Reflections theme selection contest. A student from your school could submit the winning theme for 2018-2019 Reflections Program! The entry form can be found on the Missouri PTA website at <https://mopta.org/reflections-toolkit/> go to the bottom of the page and click on the icon to print off the form. Your unit can submit an unlimited number of student theme ideas. Forms are due to the Missouri PTA office by October 31, 2016 (postmarked, faxed or email).

Reflections Student Entries

- It's important to understand the rules and guidelines for Reflections student entries. All this information is available to you on the [Missouri PTA website Reflections Toolkit page](#)
- Check out the [Reflections 101 video](#) and an [E-Learning course](#) if you'd like more direction and insight
- Remember your unit must be in good standing to advance Reflections entries to the state round. Check with your president to make sure everything has been taken care of.
- The deadline for advancing to the state round is Saturday, December 17, 2016.

2016-2017 THEME
What Is Your Story?

PTA
everychild.one voice.®

LESSONS
INSTRUCTION & WORKSHOPS
NATIONAL REFLECTIONS SPONSOR



Sparkl West | Missouri PTA Reflections Chair | sparklw@mopta.org

Reflections is a student recognition program that encourages creativity in school and at home. It welcomes students of all ages and abilities to reflect and think critically about how their world applies to the annual theme. Through exploring and creating original art, students gain confidence in their abilities and engaged in their own learning.

Reflections encourages students to unleash their inner artist to be more creative, reflect deeper and have more fun while learning. One could argue that students gain critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary for overall academic success. This year the theme is "What's Your Story?"

Hopefully your PTA/PTSA has chosen the category (or more!) in which you will be submitting entries. Suggestions:

- Don't overwhelm your organization by trying to submit entries in all categories.
- The celebration doesn't have to be extensive or elaborate.

However, try to make it fun for everyone.

- Ask for volunteers to assist you as soon as possible. Elementary schools – invite high schools students to assist you.
- Engage and invite the teachers who teach or specialize in the Reflections categories to be involved and assist your PTA.

The Reflections categories are:

Dance Choreography
Film Production
Literature
Music Composition
Photography
Visual Arts

A revised checklist will be online to assist you in meeting your goals and submissions. State submissions are due by December 17th. We still need volunteers to assist with the planning of the state Reflections Celebration. We can't wait to see your submissions.

Resources & Reminders

Share your update or advertise with us! contact@mopta.org

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [t @MissouriPTA](#)



Show Us Your Healthy Treats!

PTA needs your help as we gear up for Healthy Lifestyles Month. We'll highlight these elements during Healthy Lifestyles Month through blogs, photos, videos and stories. As part of National PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Month, we want to use your photos to help educate families on the importance of nutritious school meals, empower families to partner with schools to advocate for and support improved nutrition standards in their school meals.

Here's how you can submit your photo:

- Visit PTA.org/MyStory and fill out the collection form. Perhaps you have a story about a healthy lifestyles program at your school and would like to share your success.
- Share your photos on Twitter and Instagram, using the hashtag #SchoolMeals and tag @NationalPTA!

Achievement Awards

Want to make sure your unit or council is on track to being the best PTA it can? Do you want to show your membership and school administration that your unit has done a stellar job promoting parent engagement and advocating for all children?

Then look no further than the Missouri PTA Achievement Awards. Chances are your unit is already accomplishing many of the criteria to receive an award. If you pulled up the forms for the awards you might have thought there was some nasty trick at play. Mistakenly the deadline for these awards was set at Sept 1st 2016 instead of Sept 1st 2017. This has been corrected.

Why September 1st when in past it was April 1st? These awards should reflect your unit's or council's work and accomplishments over the entire school year – July through June. Previously, when the deadline was April 1st, there were programs such as National Volunteer Week which qualified for the award but occurred after the April 1st deadline. The new deadline of September 1st gives your unit time to finish out the entire year before reaching the application submission deadline.

So for this school year, 2016-2017, applications for achievement awards are not due until September 1st 2017. Eligible for the awards are all the planning, meetings, programs, recognitions, events, etc. that took place between July 2016 and June 2017. If you need help or have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Changes in 990-N notification

For as long as the 990-N or e-postcard has been in place the IRS would send by email confirmation. This process has changed.

To check the status of your 990-N filing log in and go to the "Manage Form 990-N Submission" page. The status for your 990-N, either accepted or rejected, will appear here. Save that notification page as a pdf and email it to the Missouri PTA state office to complete the IRS good standing requirement.



Everyone knows about the inevitable "birds and the bees" talk between parents and their kids, but what about the "texts and the tweets?" That's another "talk" that's rising in importance, especially as parents navigate the tricky waters when it comes to their kids with the latest gear and gadgets. PTA and LifeLock created [The Smart Talk](#)—a free, online tool to help families set ground rules for technology use and have open, ongoing conversations about online safety and responsibility.

The Smart Talk engages kids and parents in an interactive experience, leading them through a guided conversation about five key areas:

- Online safety and privacy
- Screen time
- Apps and downloads
- Texting and calling
- Social media and respect

Families then create a personalized agreement that can be stored on a computer or printed and posted at home. Parents looking to begin the conversation today can [visit The Smart Talk website](#) and review this [quick guide](#) to get started.

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Resources & Reminders

Share your update or advertise with us! contact@mopta.org

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#EveryChildMatters

During the month of October PTA's [Every Child in Focus campaign](#) centers on LGBTQ children. Negative attitudes toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students puts them at an increased risk for violence and bullying. Negative attitudes also impact a student's ability to learn at school. Some Facts about LGBTQ Children and Families:

61% of LGBTQ students were more likely than their non-LGBTQ peers to feel unsafe or uncomfortable as a result of their sexual orientation.

11-30% of gay and lesbian students and 12-25% of bisexual students missed at least one day of school because of safety concerns.

12-28% of LGBTQ students were threatened or injured on school property from 2001-2009, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Support groups in schools can make a big difference for LGBTQ children. Research shows schools with support groups decreases the likelihood these students will experience threats of violence, miss school or attempt suicide.

Join the conversation on Twitter by using the hashtag #EveryChild.



Bullying - worse than just a mean trick

October is Bullying Prevention Month. During this month, you can promote and implement [Connect4Respect](#), which is National PTA's initiative to help students, parents and educators to create school climates full of safe and supportive peer relationships.



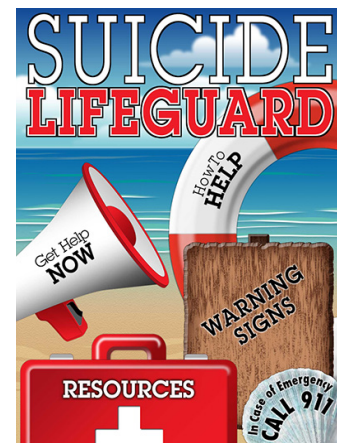
Research shows that one of the most effective ways to prevent bullying behavior is to create a positive school climate. School climate encompasses everything that contributes to a student's experience with a school—from the physical building to policies, staff and peer culture. Positive school climates exist in schools where students, families and educators all work collaboratively to build a culture of respect.

Use the Connect for Respect (C4R) Toolkit to guide your PTA/PTSA on ways to engage students in improving the school climate and reducing bullying.

Suicide Lifeguard App

[Suicide Lifeguard](#) is a **FREE app** intended for anyone concerned that someone they know may be thinking of suicide. It provides information on:

- How to recognize warning signs of suicide
- How to ask about suicidal thoughts and/or intentions
- How to respond
- Where to refer the person having thoughts of suicide



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Stephanie's Favorites

Food – Mexican

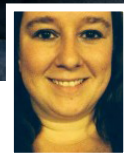
TV Show/Movie – Gilmore Girls (can't wait for the comeback special this fall!)

Music/Band - Jewel

Book – Don't make me choose! I refuse! Stephen King, Janet Evanovich, James Patterson, Emily Giffin, Lois Lowry, Gillian Flynn, John Saul, just to name a few authors.

Activities/Hobbies – reading, shopping, travelling. Lately it has been playing Pokemon Go with my husband and daughter!

The Website Master



Stephanie Wade | Missouri PTA IT/Tech Chair | stephaniew@mopta.org

I am happily married to my husband Joe. We have been together for 16 years, married for 9. We have one daughter, Lexis who is 14 and a freshman in high school this year.

Joe and I are both avid volunteers. Joe did serve on the PTA board at Lexis' elementary school, but after elementary, he moved on to being a volunteer basketball coach for both NYAA (the local rec league) and the Lady Patriots (a local competitive league). He started out with just coaching Lexis' team, but at one time had two teams, of which Lexis' played on neither! He now has one younger team that he coaches, and Lexis has become the assistant coach. We love that she is loving volunteering!

I got involved with PTA Lexis' 1st grade year at Procter Elementary as the volunteer coordinator. I moved on from there to be the Bylaws chair, President and Secretary during the rest of her time in elementary school. Her 3rd grade year, I joined the Independence Council PTA board as the Membership Chair, and moved on from there to serve as Treasurer, Fundraising, and now President. I joined Missouri PTA in the fall of 2015 after being invited to the state office for a Council Connect meeting. I spoke with Kathy Nevans that day about having a desire to join the MOPTA board, but that I wasn't sure I had the time because of all the things Lexis is involved in. Kathy said something that day that motivated me to talk to Kim Weber before I left and commit to joining the MOPTA board. She knows me and my daughter, so knew she was entering high school the next year. She said to me, "You only have four more years of her keeping you busy. It's ok to not be at EVERY game, or EVERY meet. You need to start thinking about what you will do to keep yourself busy and happy after she has moved on. You need to make sure you have something for you." PTA is my "something for me".

What makes you stand out? – I am super organized, and have great problem solving skills.

Describe yourself – kind, organized, techy, wife, mother

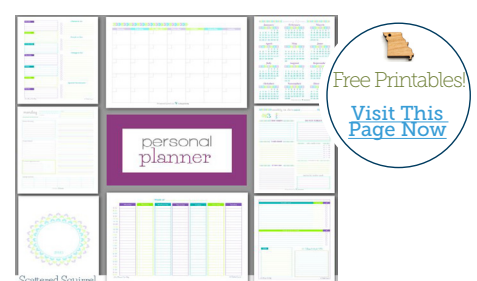
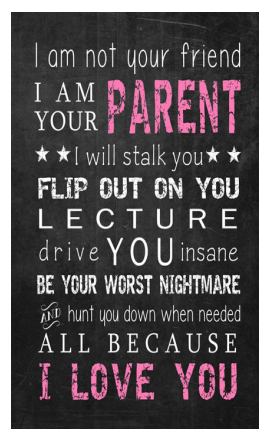
Healthy Living Tip – Take time for yourself – to me, this means make time for exercise each and every day. Drink lots of water!

What are you learning this year? How to make healthier choices and become a better me!

What is a goal you have this year? Going to Hawaii with my daughter and her band on their spring trip.

What is a proud accomplishment? Getting to where I am today. I am happily married, we have an amazing daughter, we have a beautiful home, and are financially comfortable.

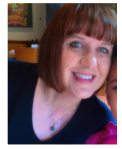
Something interesting you've done this year? I attended the National PTA Convention in Orlando, FL with my best friend Paula. We had a great 5 days in Orlando and gained a lot of knowledge!



"I am strong because I've been weak. I am fearless because I've been afraid. I am wise because I've been foolish" -Unknown

YOUR ELECTION UPDATE

Missouri PTA Legislation and Advocacy Election Guide



Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy | carlaw@mopta.org

One of the most important areas PTA at the local, state and federal areas functions is in our strong history of Advocacy. As a member of your local PTA you are a member of the single largest Advocacy group in the United States and around the world working for the health, safety, welfare and most importantly education of all our children. Your voice joins the voices of 4 million others through out the US and 50,000 here in Missouri.

This November we will be electing many important officials for public office. These officials have the ability to impact how children across the country receive education. Our children do not have a voice, they cannot vote. However, YOU can.

Please learn about the candidates and their stance on education. To assist you, this guide has been prepared for our members to learn where the candidates stand on education. Missouri PTA is proud to present our first Election Guide. We posted the following question to each person running for President, United States House and Senate and Governor. If the candidates

In addition to elections there will also be many other [ballot issues](#). We encourage all our members to become informed on these issues and be prepared to vote in November.

Presidential Candidates:

answered we included their response and we have provided the link to their website or Facebook page.

We asked each candidate the following questions:

- How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success?
- What is your opinion on the adequacy of federal (state) funding for early childhood through grade 12 education?
- How do you plan to support the newly enacted Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) in Missouri?
- How should teacher quality and school and student performance be evaluated?
- If you could change one thing about the way we educate children, what would it be?

Now more than ever PTA needs you, vote in November and stand up for your child and the children of Missouri!

Democrat: Hillary Clinton

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>

Republican: Donald Trump

<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

Libertarian: Gary Johnson

<https://www.johnsonweld.com/>

Constitution: Darrell Castle

<http://castle2016.com/platform/>

Green: Jill Stien

<http://www.jill2016.com/>

Education Week prepared information comparing the Clinton and Trump pertaining to Education. You can access the information [here](#).

YOUR ELECTION UPDATE

Missouri PTA Legislation and Advocacy Election Guide

US Senate Candidate

Democrat: Jason Kander

<https://www.jasonkander.com/>
Currently Missouri's Secretary of State, Jason Kander declared his candidacy for U.S. Senate in February 2015. After 9/11, Jason joined the Army and later volunteered to serve in Afghanistan. While serving in Afghanistan, Jason investigated groups and individuals suspected of corruption, espionage, drug trafficking, and facilitating Al Qaeda and the Taliban. As a state legislator representing Jackson County, Jason worked with Republicans and Democrats to balance the budget each year without raising taxes and helped turn Missouri's once weak human trafficking laws into among the country's strongest. As Missouri's Secretary of State, Jason cut his own budget by over \$1 million. He cut red tape and fees to help small businesses hire and thrive and he's led the fight to clean up Missouri's worst-in-the-nation campaign finance and ethics laws. Jason lives in Columbia with his wife, Diana, an entrepreneur, and their 3-year-old son True.

How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success?

I believe the federal government can and should help provide communities the resources they need to empower teachers and parents, ensuring that our children receive the best education possible and giving every child the same opportunity for a quality education.

What is your opinion on the adequacy of federal (state) funding for early childhood through grade 12 education?

I believe we should increase funding for schools, both at the federal level and here in Missouri through the foundation formula. We also need to do a better job of targeting the schools where it would be most effective.

With school funding varying from school district to school district, the federal government needs to set clear standards (with cost-of-living adjustments) for minimum funding to ensure all children, regardless of where they live, have access to a high quality education.

How do you plan to support the newly enacted Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) in Missouri?

I want to make sure the law is successful in Missouri and if we hear from teachers, parents and students that changes need to be made, I'll make sure that happens. This is a bill I support while my opponent, Senator Blunt, was one of a handful of Senators who voted against it to keep the status quo in place.

How should teacher quality and school and student performance be evaluated?

I believe metrics have a role but should not be a deciding factor in determining teacher or student achievement. Instead, a combination of all factors, including student improvement, graduation rates, and standardized testing should be used to determine teacher and student achievement. If you could change one thing about the way we educate children, what would it be?

I believe we need to increase universal access to non-compulsory early childhood education initiatives. Research shows that early childhood education and care programs provide a strong foundation for children to build upon. The benefits of early education programs are numerous including helping increase school preparation and close achievement gaps for at-risk students, decrease the chances of a student dropping out of school, repeating a grade or getting into trouble with the law.

US Senate Candidate Libertarian: Jonathan Dine did not respond to Missouri PTA's request for information.

<https://www.facebook.com/vote4dine/>

US Senate Candidate

Republican: Roy Blunt

Incumbent candidate seeking reelection
<http://www.blunt.senate.gov/public/>

Roy is a fifth-generation Missourian who learned about hard work growing up on a dairy farm in Southwest Missouri. As the grandson to schoolteachers and the first in his family to graduate college, Blunt learned early on that a good education will lead to more job opportunities and stronger families. He brought his passion for education to the classroom, where he began his career teaching high school history. In addition to serving as Greene County Clerk and Secretary of State, Blunt served as president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. until Missourians overwhelmingly elected Roy seven times to the U.S. House of Representatives. Roy has served Missourians in the Senate since 2010, where his first-hand knowledge and passion for education make him uniquely qualified to serve as the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees federal funding for education.

How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success?

I believe that parental and family engagement is at the center of student success. I was pleased to offer an amendment with Senators Chris Coons and Jack Reed to the Senate bill reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that would allow more resources to go towards family engagement.

What is your opinion on the adequacy of federal (state) funding for early childhood through grade 12 education?

The federal government should help support our education system without trying to control it. As Chairman of the Committee that funds the Department

of Education, I will continue fighting for programs that allow states, local school districts, and schools to decide how to best use limited resources. Last year we increased funding for Title I by \$500 million and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by \$450 million, the first significant increases these programs have received in the last 6 years.

How do you plan to support the newly enacted Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) in Missouri?

As Chairman of the Committee that funds the Department of Education, I plan to provide funding for education programs to help ensure that every student in Missouri can succeed. The goal of ESSA is to shift significant responsibility, control, and accountability for schools back to states and local school districts, where it belongs. I will continue to monitor implementation and support programs that provide flexibility for states and local school districts to help carry out the goals of ESSA. I will also continue to speak with parents, educators, and school administrators to make certain that the federal programs are working and allowing them to have the flexibility they need to ensure student success.

How should teacher quality and school and student performance be evaluated?

I believe that teacher quality and student performance should be measured by states, local school districts, schools, principals and parents – not by federal bureaucrats. School districts in Los Angeles and New York City are different than St. Louis and West Plains so we need to recognize that we can't have a one-size-fits-all approach.

If you could change one thing about the way we educate children, what would it be?

As a parent and former educator, I know the importance of local control and family engagement in education. If I could change one thing about education, it would be to further increase local control and encourage even more involvement from parents and families.

YOUR ELECTION UPDATE

Missouri PTA Legislation and Advocacy Election Guide

Governor Candidates

Democrat: Chris Koster
<http://chriskoster.com/>

Republican: Eric Greitens
<https://ericgreitens.com/about/>

Libertarian: Cisse Spragins
<http://electspragins.com/>

Independent: Lester Turilli **
<http://www.governor2016.com/>

US House of Representatives

District 1 Candidates
Democrat: William Lacy Clay
<https://lacyclay.house.gov/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Republican: Steven Bailey
<http://bailey4rep.org/>

Libertarian: Rob Cunningham
<https://www.facebook.com/RobbLibertarian>

District 2 Candidates
Democrat: Bill Otto **
<http://billotto.org/>

Republican: Ann Wagner
<https://annwagner.com/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Libertarian Jim Higgins
<http://www.jimhiggins4congress.com/>

District 3 Candidates

Democrat: Kevin Miller
<http://kevinmillerforcongress.com/index.html>

Republican: Blaine Luetkemeyer
<http://luetkemeyer.house.gov/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Libertarian: Dan Hogan**
<http://hogan4congress2016.my-free-website/>

District 4 Candidates

Democrat: Gordan Christensen
<http://www.christensenforcongress.com/>

Republican: Vicky Hartzler
<http://www.vickyhartzler.com/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Libertarian: Mark Bliss
<http://www.bliss4congress.com/>

District 5 Candidates

Democrat: Emanuel Cleaver
<http://www.cleaverforcongress.com/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Republican: Jacob Turk
<http://www.turkforcongress.com>

Libertarian: Roy Welborn
<https://www.facebook.com/RoyWelbornForCongress/>

District 6 Candidates

Democrat: David Blackwell
<https://www.facebook.com/blackwell4congress/>

Republican: Sam Graves
<http://www.gravesforcongress.com/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Libertarian: Russ Monchil **
<https://www.lp.org/candidates/liberty-candidates-14/russ-monchil>

District 7 Candidates

Democrat: Genevieve Williams
<https://gen4congress.com/>

Republican: Billy Long
<http://www.billylongforcongress.com/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Libertarian: Benjamin Brixey
<http://www.benbrixey.com/brixey-for-congress.html>

District 8 Candidates

Democrat: Dave Cowell
<http://davecowellforcongress.com/>

Republican: Jason Smith
<https://jasonsmith.house.gov/>
Incumbent candidate seeking reelection

Libertarian: Jonathan Shell
<https://www.facebook.com/jonshellfor-gov/>

**All candidates responding to Missouri PTA requests for information are highlighted on the following pages:

YOUR ELECTION UPDATE

Missouri PTA Legislation and Advocacy Election Guide

US House of Representatives District 2 Candidate Democrat: Bill Otto

<http://billotto.org/>

Bill Otto is a husband and father of five, whose life has been fueled by hard work, determination, and a sense of duty to those who helped him along the way. Orphaned as a young teenager, Bill was homeless before going on to a distinguished career in the Navy, as an air traffic controller, and head of a boys' home—helping kids, like him, who needed guidance and opportunity. Bill gained a reputation in the legislature for putting people first—fighting for better jobs and schools, cutting perks for politicians and cracking down on lobbyists. He has never allowed a single lobbyist to buy him as much as a cup of coffee. Bill is running for Congress to be an independent voice for our district, rebuild our middle class, and give working families a voice in the halls of power. Bill and his wife, Kathy, have raised six children – three boys and three girls – and now have five grandchildren. When not working at the State Capitol or at home with his family Bill can be found watching a Cardinal's game or strumming on his guitar.

How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success?

If you're talking about Federal Government, I believe its first job is to ensure the safety of Americans – our families and our children. I believe it is significantly better for our children, our parents, our teachers and our schools when local government plays a significantly stronger role in education than the Federal Government – unless you are a big fan of unfunded mandates – and I am not.

I personally believe the Federal Government's job regarding our kids' schools should be to "aid when needed." That said, here's what I think the Federal Government CAN do: I think it's our job to make sure every child in Missouri and across the country has the opportunity to genuinely succeed – and we know the largest portion of that is access to a good education. The times we have been the most successful as a country is when we allowed – encouraged, even – individuals enter the world prepared, start a career, start a company or chase an idea. As our next member of Congress I believe my number one job regarding education is to stay out of the way of local parents and teachers when it comes to educational policy – and secondarily to be a strong ally when they ask for one.

What is your opinion on the adequacy of Federal (State) funding for early childhood through grade 12 education?

It's not adequate – not by a long shot. Missouri should fully fund its Foundation Formula, not reduce it. As someone who has had the privilege of being a Missouri public school student, a father of Missouri public school kids, a grandfather to Missouri public school kids, a local City Councilmember and a State Representative – I have looked at a lot of school funding issues in my day.

Of course the money for our kids' schools comes from a combination of Federal, State and local dollars. In Missouri – like most States - the State Legislature sets a per pupil funding formula that applies to all school districts. According to Parents United for Public Schools, this funding formula increased an average of 1.14% annually from 1992 through 2005. That's when things started to get really dicey.

In 2001, long before I was elected to the Missouri House, the State legislature passed a law indicating it would fund 85% of the cost of public schools. The effect of this law was a reduction in property taxes for homes and businesses which was very popular at the time. However, fifteen years later the legislature has NEVER actually met that funding level, leaving the burden on local schools to fill the funding gap.

On top of the gap in funds from the State, overall Missouri is funding public

schools at a rate nearly 14% below the national average – something we are struggling to improve but have consistently found little help on in a State Capitol dedicated to cutting taxes to the rich over adequately funding our kids schools. In Missouri we don't have a money problem so much as we have a politician problem. Missouri's public education funding comes from a number of sources, including taxes, gaming, and of course the Missouri Lottery. While the State funding commitment has been politically flat lined, a number of new school initiatives and expectations were passed into law – including more unfunded mandates from State and Federal sources. Any teacher or principal can also tell you the costs for personnel; health insurance, fuel and other operating expenses have increased dramatically over the last 15 years for our schools.

As a result most Missouri schools are constantly faced with increased expectations, a greater diversity of students and a flat State funding commitment. The only way for these local schools to raise the necessary money is to increase local property tax levies. The solution to all of this? The State should uphold their promise of funding 85% of the cost of schools – and we should keep voting in new legislators until we find ones willing to prioritize our kids' schools again.

How do you plan to support the newly enacted Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) in Missouri?

As a father, grandfather and local lawmaker I was thrilled to see No Child Left Behind be shown the door. I support Every Student Succeeds because I believe it is a more flexible approach to student testing and school accountability, once again making States responsible for fixing under-performing schools. Because States are now back in control of accountability and resolutions, it takes Washington politicians out of the mix – a huge improvement.

In addition to being the strongest ally St. Louis parents and teachers will have in Congress, I believe my most important role in relation to the law will be in fighting for the resources Missouri schools need to best ensure bright future for our kids. The law authorized the spending of \$24.9 billion in 2016, and according to the Congressional Budget Office, that cost would grow to \$25.8 billion in 2020. As our next member of Congress, I'll fight to get Missouri kids every dollar possible.

How should teacher quality and school and student performance be evaluated?

The short answer is I'd be happiest if teacher and student performances were evaluated by the local school system. I know the past three U.S. Presidents have at least partially hung their legacy on improving our schools and each time ratcheted up the level of involvement from the Federal Government, but it seems to me that everyone in the country is talking about how we evaluate teachers, when the folks we should be talking to we aren't: our teachers themselves.

Some of you know I was orphaned as a young teenager and spent a fair amount of time in a Missouri boy's home. I would later go work at a Missouri Boy's Home as an adult house leader. It taught me a lot about myself and about what motivates kids. Everyone wants to do well at what they are working on – all anyone wants is a fair and open system to be measured against.

Should teacher evaluations be rigorous? Of course! The teachers I know all argue that a well-designed process would benefit them AND their students. Fair, consistently applied, and based on an understanding of teaching – that doesn't sound ridiculous, does it? What teachers don't want is to be evaluated based on test scores – and who can blame them. I fully support a community led comprehensive evaluation for those that teach our children. But I have a hard time getting behind any evaluation system based on test scores.

If you could change one thing about the way we educate children, what would it be? Give more local control to parents and teachers and get the politicians as far out of the process as we can.

YOUR ELECTION UPDATE

Missouri PTA Legislation and Advocacy Election Guide

US House of Representatives

District 3 Candidate

Libertarian: Dan Hogan

<http://hogan4congress2016.my-free.website/>

Office Sought: U.S. House of Representatives, Missouri -3 Party: Libertarian
Birthplace: Huntsville, AL Current Residence: St. Peters, MO Spouse: Crystal (Married 2006) Children: Delaney (Born 2013) Employment: Conductor, Amtrak Education: -Associate of Applied Science in Health Care Management -Community College of the Air Force -2009 -Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice -Ashworth College -2009 -Bachelor of Applied Science in Management -Peru State College (Nebraska) -2013 -Master of Science in Organizational Management -Emphasis: Entrepreneurial and Economic Development -Peru State College (Nebraska) -In-progress (Dec. 2016 completion) -Certificate of Completion -Alternative Dispute Resolution -Kansas State University -2011 Military: -Reserve Components (Army and Air Force) -1998-2009 -Staff Sergeant (Air Force, E-5) -Network Switching Systems Operator/Maintainer (Army) -Health Care Manager (Air Force) -United States Army (Active) -2009-2012 -Sergeant (E-5) -Multi-channel Transmission Systems Operator Maintainer -Non-commissioned Officer in Charge (Additional duty) -Battalion S-6 Shop -Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) -2011-12 Electoral History: -2013 Manhattan (KS) City Commission -Not elected -2014 Kansas House of Representatives -Withdraw to accept employment with Amtrak in Missouri -2016 United States House of Representatives, Missouri -3

How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success?

Get out of the way. From my perspective teachers aren't actually allowed to teach anymore. The government and the systems have become so concerned with common core and standardized testing that teacher's hands are tied and all the students are taught is rote memorization.

Government needs to get out of the way of teachers doing what they know how to do. It should be teachers and parents sitting down and discussing the correct paths for their children's education, not government dictated methodology.

What is your opinion on the adequacy of federal (state) funding for early childhood through grade 12 education?

The problem with federal funding is that it starts at the states, gets sent to the federal bureaucracy, and then gets funneled back to the states at an amount lesser than what was sent out. The federal government needs to get out of the game and let the states keep the money within their borders for educational use.

Furthermore, the federal government will hold that money ransom if the systems fail or refuse to comply with federal mandates (such as common core). Let the states keep the money and they will have more money to spend on local systems.

How do you plan to support the newly enacted Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) in Missouri?

While I support it transferring more authority to the states, it still requires standardized testing. We cannot effectively teach and expect future success is we are only teaching students to take tests.

Get the federal government completely out of public education and let the state and local systems take care of their students. The needs of the students vary from system to system and no level of federal interloping can standardize these needs. The local community and system knows what they need and how to proceed far better than the federal government does.

How should teacher quality and school and student performance be evaluated?

Like student needs, I think this is something that needs to take place at the state and local level and not the federal level. I believe that the best course of action would be for each school to develop a board consisting of parents, teachers, and administrators. Through open discussion, recommendations would be compiled and then sent on to district, system, regional, and eventually a state board. Each level will involve parents, teachers, and administrators do develop the performance evaluation standards. This should be re-assessed every five years.

Where applicable, teachers unions will also be involved in the board process.

If you could change one thing about the way we educate children, what would it be?

Stop standardized testing. Let the teachers teach instead of using them as test instructors. It is amazing what teachers can do when they are free to actually teach and use tried and true methods. I can remember while I was in elementary school we had standardized testing, but we didn't concentrate on that all year.

My 3rd grade teacher (who is still a very close friend to my family and also taught 3rd grade to my younger sister) took us on a trip to Mexico! We didn't actually go, but it was part of the educational experience. We each made a suitcase out of poster board, and we got a big sheet of plain white paper so that we could make whatever we needed for the "trip" (clothes, etc. I made myself a Batman cape). She made us little passports specifically for the trip. Our travel was nothing more than walking around the building with our suitcases, but when we came back in some of the parents had decorated the room, and put out Mexican dishes and had Mexican music playing. It was an immersive experience, not just someone up in front of the room telling us things from a book.

Now it has been more than 20 years since that happened, though I cannot specifically remember what we were taught, I do remember that experience. I wonder if children today are going to have the same types of memories from school, or if they will only remember testing. I think we need to concentrate more on encouraging abstract thought through reading and writing and art, we need to create cognitive thought not suppress it.

YOUR ELECTION UPDATE

Missouri PTA Legislation and Advocacy Election Guide

Governor Candidate

Independent: Lester Turilli

<http://www.governor2016.com/>

Currently Missouri's Secretary of State, Governor Turilli's campaign provided us the following responses:

How can the government effectively partner with parents and families to support student and school success?

As a parent, I understand the importance of parental involvement for the effectiveness and success of our children's education. Utilizing the feedback from families is necessary and instrumental for the progression and protection of teaching our students. Government must understand that parents offer the checks & balances to keeping governmental education on tract with the family values that are important to Missourians. As Governor, I would incorporate more parental involvement at the very highest level of state government, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The parents representing of our children need to be heard and allowed to engage. My wife is also an educator and counselor, thus I also understand the importance of the role of a teacher. Our teachers have the most significant jobs that have lasting impact on future generations. Through the classrooms will come the next group of leaders of our nation. The development of the life skills and educational knowledge comes through commitment, love, and endless hours teachers have selflessly put into preparation of lesson plans and curriculum. Our government must listen to parents & educators and collaborate with them to be effective in teaching our children.

What is your opinion on the adequacy of federal (state) funding for early childhood through grade 12 education?

Our schools districts deserve to be fully funded. Government officials should not restrict monies promised to our school districts because of hidden political agendas. It both saddens and frustrates me to think that our schools would be denied money that is due to the district. It is our children who suffer as the result of outlandish political behavior. Restricting funding to our schools is unjustly punishing our children for something that is out of their control. As Governor, I want Missouri to fully fund our school districts.

How do you plan to support the newly enacted Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) in Missouri?

The Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) is an attempt to improve the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). I support ESSA's standard in keeping teacher evaluations within our state and local level. Teachers must not be evaluated solely on assessment testing, but on a combination of criteria determined by the state and local school district. In addition, ESSA looks to fix some of the brokenness of NCLB. Although NCLB was important to total inclusion for advancement to the next grade promotion, it left the top achievers in the classroom often bored and unchallenged. As Governor, I will promote the teaching of every child for the purpose of them reaching their highest potential.

How should teacher quality and school and student performance be evaluated?

I support the PTA's position that state and local means are the best and most fair way for teacher evaluation. Local determination of personnel evaluation with parental input is essential. The effectiveness of our teachers depends on local

involvement. Encouraging our teachers with the support that they need (from parents, district, and state) is necessary to the success in the classroom. Teachers perform better in a positive environment where they are allowed to teach. As Governor, I will support legislation and policy decisions to keep state and local development strong for our classrooms. Although assessments are the main identifier of progress in the classroom, I understand that various circumstances also contribute to a student evaluation. To achieve the best assessment scores, our teachers need clear insight before testing. In addition, assessments are administered at the end of the year without an effective plan of instrumentation of the results. Thus, I believe Missouri can implement assessments in a more productive and efficient way to build student and teacher success.

If you could change one thing about the way we educate children, what would it be?

Unique to my campaign, education is one of my top priorities. I believe that education should include a return to values that help provide our children with improving morality, character, and productive citizenship. It is necessary to include outside stakeholders, such as the PTA to assist in this process. Our classrooms should feel more like home and less like a business model for productive learning. Likewise, I support religious freedom and liberty for administrators, teachers, and students. As dictated in more recent Supreme Court decisions, I believe the Bible should be allowed as part of curriculum development for its literary content, moral compass, and historical contribution to our nation and other world cultures. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

House of Representatives Candidate

District 6:

Libertarian: Russ Monchil

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008243830354&fref=ts>

I am married with two boys that attend public school. I am on a local school board. I farm and work part-time job also.

- I think we need to get away from all this testing and let teachers focus on teaching.
- Teachers need more freedom to teach outside the box.
- When it comes to parent involvement that is tough, a lot of parents think of school as the state sponsored babysitters. I am open to suggestions.
- I am big supporter of S.T.E.M., Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. More of the school day needs to be focused on this.
- 70 percent of U.S. citizens live paycheck to paycheck. More education needed on economics, personal finance, saving and investing.
- Approx 10,000 is spent per student in Missouri. Some say to high, others to low. I am open to debate on this.
- I also would like more input from employers, corporations, ect, what they are looking for in the market place when hiring. I have spend some time with CEO's who listed : Good reading / writing, bilingual, strong math, public speaking, technology efficient, as a general they want in employees.

YOUR ELECTION UPDATE

Missouri PTA Legislation and Advocacy Election Guide

Additional Candidate Information

We did not pose questions to the following candidates, however we are providing the link to their website or Facebook page.

Please take the time to learn about each.

Lieutenant Governor

Democrat: Russ Carnahan

<http://russcarnahanformissouri.com/#bio>

Republican: Mike Parson

<http://www.mikeparson.com/>

Libertarian: Steven Hedrick

<https://www.facebook.com/stevenhedrickcampaign/>

Independent: William Peipers
(none)

Write in: Mary Bower

<https://www.facebook.com/Missouri-Lt-Governor-Race-elect-Mary-Bower-287161074822837/>

Attorney General

Democrat: Teresa Hensley

<http://www.teresahensley.com/>

Republican: Jake Zimmerman

<https://jakezimmerman.org/>

Secretary of State

Democrat: Robin Smith

<http://www.robinsmith2016.com/>

Republican: Jay Ashcroft

<http://ashcroftformissouri.com/>

Libertarian: Chris Morrill

<http://www.chrismorrill.com/>

Treasurer

Democrat: Judy Baker

<http://www.showmebaker.com/>

Republican: Eric Schmitt

<http://schmittformissouri.com/>

Libertarian: Sean O'Toole

<http://otoole4mo.com/>

MO House of Representatives

https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri_House_of_Representatives_elections_2016

MO Senate

https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri_State_Senate

Education Roundtable

The Education Roundtable invited candidates to be interviewed. Chris Koster, Russ Carnahan and Mike Parson all were interviewed and stated that they support public education and public education funding. The Education Roundtable is made up of the following groups:

Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers Association (MO PTA)

Missouri School Board Association (MSBA)

Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA)

Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP)

Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)

Missouri State Teachers Association (MSTA)

Missouri National Education Association (MNEA)

American Federation of Teachers (AFT- MO)

**Remember to vote on Tuesday,
November 8th, the children of
Missouri depend on you!**