



You always have something to celebrate



Andrea Battaglia | MoPTA Contact Editor | andreab@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.

Your school year is almost over, and no matter how it's gone so far, you still have time to make it a success and you certainly have something to celebrate. Don't let yourself get caught in survival mode, change your perspective because you can live in thrive mode.

Celebration Means Pursuing What Excites You Most

I hope you've heard the saying, "you can't pour from an empty cup." It means take care of yourself first so you can take care of others. I think we often work so hard to take care of everyone else and we forget that we also have needs. Celebrate right now by taking a break to pursue what excites you most. Yes, there are days where between work, volunteering with PTA and driving the kids around all day that I need to binge-watch my favorite TV show, but I'm not sure it counts as what excites me most. Even if you only have 15 minutes to spend, use it on something you enjoy. Today, I went on a run, I worked on designs for this newsletter and I spent time writing. I had to make purposeful decisions - and sacrifices (like waking up at 5am) - to make time with my favorite activities happen. But it's worth it. You are worth it.

Celebration Means Embracing Step Two

Discovering step one of what excites you most is a celebration moment and a good place to start. What's harder? **Step two**. Step two means you're committed, you've moved beyond beginner and you are making progress toward your goal. Don't let step two scare you. It may be hard, but do it anyway. Do it right now. Celebrate step two and all of the awkwardness and uncertainty that it brings. It's what you really need to move forward. I remember getting MoPTA newsletters 3 years ago and thinking "I like designing, maybe I should volunteer to be Contact Editor (step one)." But filling out the Talent Bank form took planning and confidence (step two). Do they need me? (Yes, they did. And we need you too - fill out a [talent bank interest form](#) today). Will I have time to do this? (Yes, of course - I made time). And now, 3 years later, I've made great progress with what newsletter content we can share with you - and I'm celebrating.

We have made great progress this year together as PTA parents. Each one of us is stronger because we are together. We are making a difference. It may be hard to see our forward movement when our individual progress seems small. But at more than 45,000 strong in Missouri, I know together we are making a difference. I encourage you to celebrate where you've been this year, to live with intention and be happy on purpose. You'll begin to see there is much to celebrate.

Adapted from andreabcreative.com "[Purposeful Happiness](#)"

Mark Your Calendar

Contact us! contact@mopta.org

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

Missouri PTA 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.

Sunday, April 30

MOPTA Convention

Monday, May 1, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Friday, May 5, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Sunday, April 30

MOPTA Convention

Monday, May 1, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Friday, May 5, 2017

Teacher Appreciation Week

Wednesday, April 26

National Volunteer Week

Thursday, April 27

National Volunteer Week

Friday, April 28

National Volunteer Week

MOPTA Convention

Saturday, April 29

National Volunteer Week

MOPTA Convention

contribute to
CONTACT

May Edition: Reflections
Items due April 20



June Edition: Joys of Volunteering
Items due May 20

To contribute, simply email content to contact@mopta.org

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Back in 2011 students in the state of Missouri came together to write, promote and pass the Distracted Driving Resolution. This resolution was then submitted and passed at the National Convention.

Why was this issue so important to the students? At the time both Missouri and National PTA had resolutions pertaining to teen driving and cell phone use but nothing that spoke to the larger problem of distracted driving. Distracted driving isn't a teen problem. Every driver who makes the decision to drive distracted poses a potential risk to everyone else on the road, including him or herself. Distracted driving spans all ages, genders and socioeconomic backgrounds.


Did you know that at highway speeds, in the amount of time a driver keeps their eyes off the road to type a 3 to 5 second text message they will have traveled the length of a football field. Your personal awareness can make a difference. April would be a great time for PTSA Units to host a presentation on distracted or impaired driving and the importance of buckling up. Prom and graduation are around the corner. This time period typically sees a much larger incidence of accidents among youth.

[Arrive Alive](#) and [Missouri Safe and Sober](#) have some great ideas for bringing students' attention to the dangers of unsafe driving. For more information on statistic, research, campaigns, and pledges check out the [Distracted Driving website](#).

From the Missouri PTA President

Contact me! dorothyg@mopta.org

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



THE MORE YOU
CELEBRATE
YOUR LIFE,
THE MORE THERE
IS IN LIFE TO
CELEBRATE.

Oprah Winfrey

Go ahead - toot your horn!



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

PTAs like to celebrate. We do it pretty much all year long. Back to school is filled with teacher

breakfasts and family/community social gathering events. As we roll through the year we celebrate designated months (distracted driving, red ribbon month, start the arts, etc.) through events or by simply raising awareness. In February, we celebrate our Founders and reflect on the impact of PTA both small and large. We celebrate the bond between parent and child by organizing events to encourage and promote Take Your Family to School Week. And of course, we love our teachers which finds us often pulling out all the stops for Teacher Appreciation Week.

If you really think about it, at our core, PTA is a celebration of the child. Everything we do, both on a large and small scale, locally and nationwide, focuses on making sure children, and those directly connected to children, are recognized.

So, go ahead and celebrate! But don't forget to pat yourself on the back occasionally. PTA leaders are an awesome and selfless breed. We give and give and give of our time, talents and resources. And sometimes we focus so intently on those we celebrate we forget to celebrate ourselves.

Make sure to plan some sort of celebration to recognize the great work of your PTA volunteers. And yes, that includes you too! Sometimes as the year blasts through from August to May we forget just how much we have accomplished. That hard work always deserves to be highlighted, recognized - celebrated. Finish up the year by celebrating all the PTA volunteer's contributions. Bring a cake, party favors, tiara's - whatever fits your PTA - to a meeting. Hold a volunteer lunch or block party. Send out thank you notes. Just do something to not only thank everyone who make this year a success but to celebrate them.

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Over 30 workshops! President Session Treasurer Training Success as PTA Secretary Membership Bylaws Legislation and Advocacy Parliamentary Procedure Effective Meetings Watch D.O.G.S Conflict Resolution Navigating the New Bullying Law The Peaceful School Bus Trends in Drug Use PTA Reflections Family Reading Experience Social Media for Beginners Social Media Advanced Student Involvement Emergency Operation Plans Missouri PTA Awards Tips and Tricks through the PTA year Insurance Needs for PTAs Fundraising Missouri State Budget Diversity Engaging at Risk Students

Book your room by April 4, 2017!



ASPIRE to INSPIRE

Missouri PTA Convention 2017

Schedule

Friday – April 28

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Registration Open

Saturday – April 29

7:30 am – 9:00 am Registration

8:30 am – 9am Volunteer training

9:00 am – 10:00 am Workshop Session #1

10:15 am – 11:15 am Workshop Session #2

11:30 am – 1:00 pm General Meeting / Lunch

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Workshop Session #3

2:30 pm – 5:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open/Dessert

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Workshop Session #4

6:15 pm – 7:15 pm Workshop Session #5

Networking & Dinner on your own

Sunday – April 30

9:00 am – 10:30 am Roundtable networking

10:45am – 11:45am Workshop Session #6

11:45 am – 12:00pm Pick up lunch

12:00 pm – 1pm Workshop Session #7/Lunch

2:00pm – 4:00pm Reflections Ceremony

Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30, 2017

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
2601 S Providence Rd. Columbia MO 65203

Adults \$165
Students \$165 & buy one get one free
(student attendees should be in 8th grade or above)

Register Online
for Convention Today!
Visit www.MoPTA.org for more information

MoPTA Convention

Communication Tips

Contact us! communication@mopta.org



MissouriPTA



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@MissouriPTA



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

We're in the final stretch of the 16-17

school year! You have elected your new board, have submitted those officers to the state office (if you haven't, please fill out that form [here!](#)) and are approaching the finish line. Whether you are continuing in your position, or a new person will be coming in next year, now is the time to make sure your records are up-to-date.

Whether or not you are continuing in your position, make sure your procedure book is up to date. Make sure you have a record of all your user names and passwords. Keep these separated by ones that are generic to your PTA that will be passed on to the next person and those that are tied to you personally or to your personal email where access rights will need to be transferred. Your procedure book doesn't necessarily need to be a physical binder. It could be a digital document as well. You could create a whole binder in one file with a cover sheet, table of contents, etc.

Maybe it's the IT nerd in me, but I was excited to create a digital binder this year for my position! It saves on paper, and I have access to it on the go from my phone if I need it for reference. If a new person is coming in next year, make sure access rights

to those accounts are transferred to the new person by the end of the school year or before you sit down with them for a transfer meeting. You should schedule a training session to show them how things work, what accounts you have, etc. During this session, evaluate what you did this year; what worked, what didn't, how you can improve. Make sure if there is a new person coming into the position that they are involved in this conversation. They may have brand new ideas or think of things differently and will be able to offer another perspective. If you are continuing, you should start working on your communications plan for next year, using information from your evaluation of this year to improve for next year. If a new person is coming in, recommend they start planning, and offer to help or review their plans and offer suggestions.

If you are not serving on your board next year, you may have "senioritis", but keep communication strong through the end of the year!! Be sure to start including incoming board members on board emails and incoming parents on any unit information. Get the new people excited about joining your school and/or your board next year!

Distracted Driving Prevention

April is Distracted Driving Prevention Month. In today's age with teens and adults having access to electronic devices all of the time, it is necessary to promote the need to focus on driving and not on your device. Students and adults face tragic accidents every day, due to someone driving while doing something other than focusing on driving. Encourage your PTSA students to take a pledge.

Child Abuse Prevention

While as PTA members we work to better the lives of children, we know that there are children in our cities and towns, our state, our Nation and the world that are still abused in many ways. In the month of April, invite a professional to your school to give a program so that caregivers can recognize the many signs of child abuse.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer week is usually held the third week in April. This week is set aside for schools and civic organizations across the US and Canada to honor the work and achievements of volunteers in our schools and communities. Check with your school to see if they have a special celebration for the volunteer efforts done by members of your community. Consider celebrating your own outstanding volunteers by honoring them with the Missouri Distinguished Service award. Half the proceeds from the award go to support the Missouri PTA Scholarship program.

Google Express

National PTA is pleased to announce that [Google Express](#) has become the association's newest [Proud National Sponsor](#). As a Proud National Sponsor, Google Express will play a vital role in supporting the work PTA does for children and education.

[Google Express](#) is a shopping service that connects shoppers with popular retailers for fast, convenient delivery of groceries, household items, school supplies and more. Google Express strives to help families, PTA members and their communities save time by delivering everyday essentials right to their door from stores including Costco, Whole Foods Market and Walgreens.

From now until May 31, 2017, National PTA members can get 25% off their first Google Express order, up to \$30 off*, with code PTAPOWER. Visit [Google.com/Express](https://www.google.com/Express) to start shopping.

Amazing Dads



Angie Warner

Missouri PTA

Three Trails Regional Director

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Leaders
Project
Feature
Article

Each year Ott Elementary PTA has hosted an event for students and dads or other special guests. The recent goal has been to move away from the traditional Donuts with Dad type of events. While these are great to have, our PTA felt like it was important to have male role models engaging with their students.

We are a school with over 76% free and reduced lunch. Many of our students come from single parent families. Any opportunity to have dads engaged with their children is a great experience for the students to have. Studies have shown how critical a father's role is in child development.

This year our unit partnered with our local Home Depot in Independence to have an amazing night for our students and dads. Home Depot donated over 200 kits ranging from wooden cell phone holders, birdhouses, and more. Store employees came to our school that night with the kits, hammers and were there to advise how to put them together.

What occurred was one of our biggest events ever. Dads were engaging with not just their kids, but with other kids and parents as well. The environment was great and it was obvious how much everyone enjoyed the night. You could see the excitement from the kids as they were taught how to use a hammer safely while putting together their projects.

This is definitely an event that we will have each year from now on. We are so appreciative of Home Depot for their support. We would not have had such a successful event without them.

Like Dorothy, Missouri PTA State President said:
TooT Your Own Horn!

Share your Unit/Council successes with Contact - we'd love to consider featuring you! Simply email us at contact@mopta.org to contribute.

(Hint: It also helps you achieve awards and Leadership Project requirements.)



DIVERSITY



is the one true thing
we all have in common.
Celebrate it every day.

Burchell McGhee

Missouri PTA Diversity
Outreach & Engagement
burchellm@mopta.org

We are busy. We get tired. Sometimes we need just a little inspiration. I never know where I'll find it. But when I do, I like to share it and hopefully inspire someone else to keep going just a little bit more. I hope these add a little inspiration to your day as much as they have for me.

**"ALONE WE CAN
DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE
CAN DO SO MUCH."
- Helen Keller**

National Membership Update



Christine Kent

Missouri PTA VP Membership
christinek@mopta.org

National PTA's Membership Olympics are in full swing and they are getting ready to order medals. "We'd love to award more than 12 medals this year and celebrate with you on stage." says the NPTA Membership committee.

As a reminder, the Membership Olympics will recognize EVERY state showing growth through May 31, 2017 during the Reflections and Awards Dinner at Convention in Las Vegas. Bronze medals for states with growth up to 2%, Silver for states with growth between 2% and 5% and Gold for states growing more than 5%. Winning states also receive a complimentary ticket to the awards dinner.

At Legislative Conference, NPTA heard from several states who encourage local units in schools with sometimes difficult cross-town trips to school, to host meetings in apartment complexes or neighboring churches – rather than at the school. This sounded similar to what has been seen in communities who have conducted successful outreach to Spanish speaking communities (bringing the meeting to the people rather than the traditional ask the people to come to the meeting model) – and we LOVE this idea!

Are any of your units doing this? Are you willing to share more? We'd love to hear it!

The average growth in memberships among Large States has been (-1.37%), Medium States (-3.14%), Small States (-8.20%), Petite States (-13.68%), & a Total (all Congresses) (-2.5%).

Missouri currently is sitting as a Medium state. To reach the large state level goal we have only a little over 6,000 members to go! Even though some of our award deadlines have passed, we can still continue to increase our numbers throughout the remaining school year. Keep up the great work!

Have a campaign idea or tip that worked in your unit? Please share! We welcome the opportunity to highlight the great work happening across the organization.

**LOOK FOR
SOMETHING
POSITIVE IN EACH
DAY, EVEN IF
SOME DAYS YOU
HAVE TO LOOK A
LITTLE HARDER.**



SPECIAL UPDATE

From Missouri PTA

Vouchers Bad for Missouri



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

Vouchers are the hot item right now both in Missouri and at the federal level. A voucher allows parents to use public funds to pay for

some or all of their child's private school tuition. Most often these are in the form of education savings accounts. These accounts allow parents to direct monies designated to public education to be diverted instead into accounts to be used for private school education. PTA opposes the use of vouchers. National PTA has developed a position statement that in part states: National PTA opposes any private school choice proposal and/or voucher system that diverts public funds to private or sectarian schools. Missouri PTA also has a [position statement](#) regarding [School of Choice](#) and the use of vouchers.

Secretary of Education DeVos and President Trump have made vouchers a priority. They both often speak to the importance of vouchers for American families. It is important to note that vouchers were begun as a way for low-income families or children with disabilities to have better school options. Today, 12 states and the District of Columbia have some sort of voucher system often open to any family in the state. Many of those 12 and other states have tax credit programs that partially or fully subsidize private schooling.

How do vouchers work? In most states, once a parent requests a voucher, the money flows directly from the government to the private school. The amount of money varies from state to state and is adjusted annually.

Some states offer tax credits for private schooling instead of vouchers. In those cases, an individual can get a credit on their tax return or a corporation can get a tax break for giving money to private scholarship organizations. The credits may be small or may be enough to cover full tuition at a private school. The money is placed in an education savings account.

Voucher programs are politically contentious. They drain much-needed resources from public schools and lack the oversight that exists in public institutions. Public schools have rigorous standards that must be met in order to remain accredited. Our principal concern is that many times private schools are not mandated to follow these same guidelines. The accountability is not there. Students may actually be receiving an education that places them at a disadvantage when entering

college or transferring to a public high school. The New York Times recently published an article about vouchers and if they even work. In fact the article states, "new research has emerged suggesting that private school vouchers may harm students who receive them. The results are startling – the worst in the history of the field, researchers say." The article outlines three recent studies and the results prove that public education is the best choice for students. You can read the entire article by clicking [here](#).

Missouri Legislator has several bills gaining traction that MO PTA is watching and opposes. [SB 32](#) would establish the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program is a particular concern for PTA because this program would create an account that would allow taxpayers to make a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization and claim a tax credit, as described in the act. The tax credit is for one hundred percent of the amount of the contribution. The tax credit may be carried forward for four years and may be transferred, sold, or assigned. The scholarships will be used in private schools effectively creating a voucher system in Missouri.

The Empowerment Scholarship Account is not good for students and parents, taxpayers and Missouri's public schools for the following reasons:

- Irresponsible expansion of tax credits when the state is facing massive shortfalls in the current budget.
- This is a voucher in a bad disguise. This bill is not about choice but about killing public education, as we know it, with no assurances that education will be delivered at all.
- Lack of financial oversight of the schools receiving the funds. These organizations could be for-profit institutions designed to take money directly from school students that could deliver no education but profit at the expense of Missouri taxpayers.
- Expands education beyond the age of 21 as long as the student has not completed high school.

What can you do? Sign up for our [JC/DC Alerts](#) and contact your representatives to let them know vouchers are BAD for Missouri's children

SPECIAL UPDATE

From National PTA

President Trump's Cuts to Public Education Undermine Opportunity for All Children

Heidi May Wilson | National PTA Media Relations Manager | hmay@pta.org

ALEXANDRIA, Va., (March 16, 2017)—Today, President Donald Trump released his budget blueprint for Fiscal Year 2018. The proposal cuts funding for public education programs by \$9.2 billion, while including a \$250 million investment to expand private school options.

"Opportunity starts and ends with access to a great education. Equitable, high-quality public education for all students is essential to children and the nation's long-term success," said Laura Bay, president of National PTA. "National PTA is disappointed to see President Trump's proposal cuts funding for critical public education programs, while investing in private school options. National PTA opposes any private school choice system that drains public school resources. Public dollars must remain invested in public schools for the benefit of all students and the future of our nation."

"The significant cuts to education in the president's budget along with the expansion of private school choice programs—which have not been proven to improve student outcomes—mean that, now more than ever, it is imperative to invest in family engagement programs, like the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs)," said Nathan R. Monell, CAE, executive director of National PTA. "Family engagement in education has demonstrated benefits to student achievement and school improvement. The SFECs program would empower parents and families

with the resources they need to ensure their children are provided the best opportunities to thrive and learn. National PTA hopes funding for the SFEC program will be included in the release of the full budget request in the coming months, and we remain committed to advocating for funding for the program as Congress considers the budget."

While National PTA is disappointed that President Trump's budget proposal cuts vital funding for public education overall, the association is pleased to see the president designate an additional \$1 billion for Title I—which aids schools with high percentages of children from low-income families—as well as maintain funding of \$13 billion for special education grants through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Although these important foundational federal education programs were spared from cuts, we remain concerned about the disinvestment in education that this blueprint lays out.

"Across the country there are great disparities in available resources as well as the quality of and access to educational opportunities," added President Bay. "It has long been a top priority for National PTA to work with the administration and Congress to ensure robust federal investments are made in public education programs that promote equity and opportunity for all children."

From
National
PTA

Position Statement

National PTA New Position Statements

The National PTA Board of Directors adopted two new position statements at its March meeting on mental health and trauma informed care. Below is a brief summary of each with a link to where you may read the statement in its entirety. MO PTA supports both of these and the positive impact it will be to many children and youth in Missouri.

Early Identification and Interventions for Children with Mental Health Needs

National PTA believes every child deserves the opportunity to grow into a happy and healthy adult, which includes mental, physical and overall well-being. Too often, however, mental health issues for children and young adults are misdiagnosed or never identified. National PTA supports robust federal, state and local policies that provide mental health services to all children, youth and their families so every child can reach their fullest potential. Furthermore, National PTA believes in greater outreach and education to parents, families and related groups so they can be advocates for their children and ensure their child's mental health needs are met under the letter of state and federal law.

Furthermore, National PTA believes greater attention and resources should be provided for mental health early intervention and prevention services for non-school aged youth and their families. Early intervention and prevention can help to address a child's behavioral and mental needs before symptoms exacerbate into more detrimental social, emotional or academic behaviors or activities. [Read the full resolution online.](#)

Trauma-Informed Care

Since 1897, National PTA has played a critical role in crafting and advocating for federal, state and local policies that keep children healthy and create safe school environments. An estimated 46 million American children will be affected by violence, crime, abuse or psychological trauma in a given year—referred to as an adverse childhood experience (ACE). A groundbreaking Center of Disease and Prevention Centers (CDC) and Kaiser Permanente study in 1997 found that ACEs significantly harm a child's brain development, and that they are the root cause of most chronic and mental illnesses and future violence in their adult years.

To combat the negative effects of violence and trauma, National PTA advocates for providing significant resources and incentives to states and local jurisdictions to create connected communities, positive school climates and trauma-informed schools that keep students healthy and in school. [Read the full resolution online.](#)

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2016-2017 THEME:

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Sunday, April 30, 2017
2:00 pm to 4:00pm

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center 2601 S Providence Rd. Columbia MO 65203

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MoPTA Reflections



*Versatile and Dedicated
Leader*



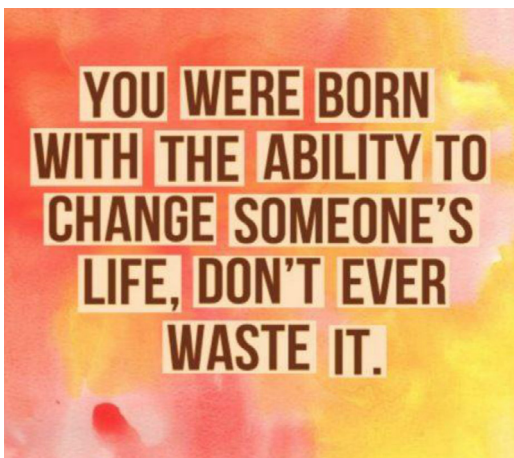
Angie Warner | Missouri PTA Three Trails Regional Director | angiew@mopta.org

I am 45 years old. My husband and I have been married for 23 years. We have 3 children, Devon 23, Jordan 23, (yes they're twins, identical boys) and Amber 21. I work as a Focus Room Interventionist at Ott Elementary in the Independence School District. I have worked there for 18 years. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, which helps me daily while working with students who all have their own individual and unique needs.

I have over 17 plus years experience in PTA, having served in every position except fundraising chair, from elementary PTA, middle and high school PTSA.

Although my children have all graduated I am still active in my local unit where I am once again serving as President. I also have served on the Independence Council PTA as Legislative Chair for the past 2 years. I believe that ALL students need a voice and my mission is to help children and families be successful.

What I have learned through PTA all these years is that all we need to do is ASK. Parents want to help but often don't know how. They are just waiting for someone to ask. Don't overlook anyone because everyone has their own niche. It's our job as leaders to help them find it.



Angie's Favorites

Food: Pot Roast

TV Show: Gilmore Girls, Law & Order SVU

Movie: Sweet Home Alabama

Music: Chris Tomlin, Lauren Daigle, Sam Hunt

Book: anything by James Patterson, Alex Cross series

Activities/Hobbies: Reading, watching all sports, spending time with family, volunteering, playing with my Siberian Huskies