



Who We Are

- Advocates for ALL students at ALL times! <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/uploadedfiles/advocate-with-pta.pdf>
- Support for an ever-changing educational system! How to get parents involved in that change! <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/getting-parents-involved-schools>
- Change agents that get the job done!

From the President

Turning Lemons into Smiles

by Susan Rupert
 President
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I would like to introduce you to Helena. She is a 1st grader at Parkview Elementary in Cameron, MO. She is very bright, has a wonderful imagination and loves to create. Her masterpieces never cease to amaze me and my refrigerator proudly displays several of these originals. On August 4th Helena held her 2nd Annual "Main Squeeze" Lemonade Stand event. She sold fresh squeezed lemonade and cookies. She used the proceeds to buy school supplies for kids whose families cannot afford crayons, pencils or backpacks.



Even at the young age of 6, Helena realizes not all children have everything they need to be successful in school. What a wonderful example of being aware and sensitive to the needs of children and taking action. In Helena's case, she is helping her peers.

PTA has made a difference in the education, health and safety of children for the last 120 years. Opioids, human trafficking, self-harm, homelessness, hunger and school safety are just some of the challenges that confront our children today. It is more important than ever that we reach out to everyone with our invitation to join the PTA family. It is because of our loud voice and willingness to take action that PTA makes a difference. Our kids, our families and our schools need us to make a difference. We need to be a fierce advocate and a relevant resource to those that need and count on us.

As PTA members we need to be that role model to our children and our peers that exhibits kindness, tolerance, and acceptance. We must demonstrate the importance of being engaged in our school, giving back to the community and advocating for those who cannot for themselves. We need to lead the effort to build those vital relationships between school, home and the community. Being a member of the nation's largest child advocacy organization needs to be the norm and not the exception. Let's set the stage today so our children will have everything they need to reach their potential tomorrow and every day after. The world needs more Helenas and more lemonade stands. We all need to turn lemons into smiles. "Be the change you wish to see in the world", Mahatma Gandhi.

Legislation & Advocacy

Be Loud, Be Proud!

by Kristina Wilmoth

Vice President & Director of Legislation

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Being an advocate for all children is within your reach. Follow these 3 tips to make sure your voice is heard.

1. Join JC/DC Network at mopta.org to stay up-to-date with Action Alerts, Legislative Updates, and PTA's Position Statements.
2. Use MOPTA and National PTA's online Advocacy resources and follow capital chatter through news sources.
3. Be active! Share all JC/DC Action Alerts on social media. Call your senators and representatives! Run for your local, council, or state Legislative and

Advocacy Chair positions. Volunteer to bring a Town Hall to your area. Recruit other parents to get involved.

Our MOPTA voice is over 44,000 members strong and we have been heard. Let's keep that momentum moving toward action!

[Click Here for More Advocacy in Action.](#)



Why is PTA Advocacy/Legislative Chair so important?

As your local Advocacy/Leg Chair, you help Missouri PTA advocate

- to protect & call for local control of schools
- for strong laws protecting our kids from abuse and neglect
- to increase mental health services
- to maintain or generate local & state funding for public education
- to keep youth from being placed in the adult court system unless certified to do so.

What is the Advocacy/Leg Chair responsible for?

Advocacy Chair gives legislative updates at meetings and in unit/council newsletters, passes along Action Alerts to members, encourages participation in the JC/DC network, and presents monthly Legislative Report (given to you by Missouri PTA).

How do I get started?

- Join the JC/DC network (sign up at mopta.org)
- Volunteer to run for your local PTA Advocacy or Legislative Chair.
- Familiarize yourself with MOPTA Advocacy Resources at mopta.org.
- Advocate! PTA was founded as an advocacy organization and we need YOU to help us as we speak up for all of America's children!



Want to know more?

Contact Kristina Wilmoth
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Programs



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

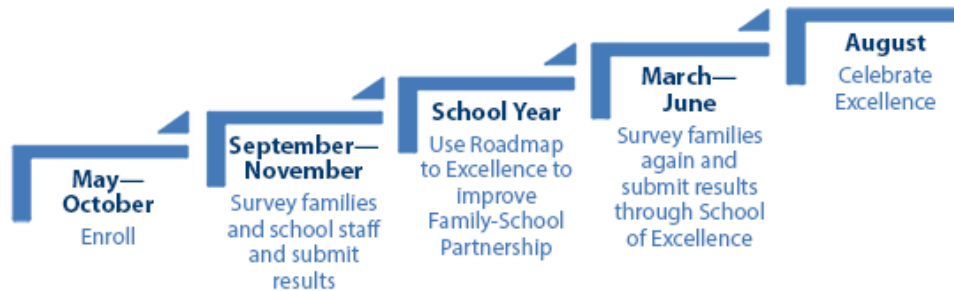
Is there something at your school that you'd like to improve? Or, is something great already happening and you want it to be recognized?

The National PTA School of Excellence program is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. By enrolling in this program, your PTA and school administrators are making a year-long commitment to identify and implement an action plan for school improvement based on PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

PTAs partner with their schools to examine how families feel the school measures up to the research-based indicators of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. PTAs and schools then work together to address barriers and create new ways for families to support student success. The National PTA School of Excellence designation is awarded when a PTA and school have achieved a high level of family engagement or when a PTA and school have made substantive, positive improvement in families' perceptions by the end of the school year.

Enrollment is now open for the School of Excellence program and consideration of the 2019-2021 School of Excellence designation. The deadline to enroll is Oct. 1. For more information about the program, [visit PTA.org/Excellence](https://www.pta.org/Excellence).

[Click here to enroll.](#)



Membership

Build Your Membership

by Angie Warner

Vice President & Director of Membership

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- You can build your membership by just asking. Many parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles, etc, just need to be asked to join. Show them what you are all about! Use pictures, words, word of mouth, heck use the kiddos to get people involved!
- Talk to local businesses about the benefits of joining PTA. It's a tax write off, they are supporting children's education and partnering with your school community.
- If you are a PTA leader, you should ALWAYS have membership forms with you. Ask everyone.
- Brand recognition - We need to be the brand, meaning we are PTA wherever we go.

[Get your free DIY Kit for Membership Growth and Local PTA Leader Kit here.](#)

Field Services

by Mandy Mitchell

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As the year begins, it's easy to get overwhelmed. You may find yourself asking, "What do I do?" "Where do I begin?"

First of all take a deep breath, you have lots of support! You can contact the Regional Director for your unit's region <https://mopta.org/mopta-regions-map/> for help getting your unit in good standing. Your Regional Director, as well as your local council are here to support you. We love working as a team and seeing each unit be their best. Don't be afraid to reach out, we all have the same goal, Every child. One voice.

by Tara Miller

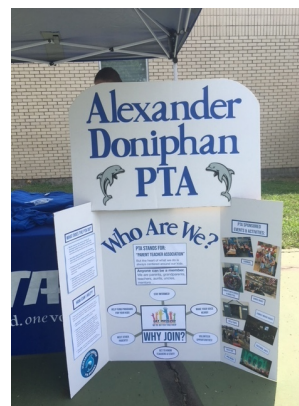
Regional Director – Pony Express

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One of my units, Alexander Doniphan, had this informational poster at a recent Popsicle for

Kindergartners event. The poster explains what their unit is all about. I just love this, it helps parents know what events are sponsored by the PTA and what the PTA does. It's a good way to recruit new members and even volunteers.

We want to know you! MOPTA wants to know who your PTA is, please send in your Unit/Council executive board to office1@mopta.com.



Personal Experiences

by **Ashley Fulton**
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One thing that I have learned during my years of PTA involvement is to always let your new PTA parents know they are not required to help with every school event or attend every single meeting. I remember being a new PTA mom and being very hesitant about signing up for the PTA. I was working full time and also going to school myself. I had always heard stories of once you are roped into PTA you no longer have a life and that worried me. It wasn't until my first meeting that I was told volunteers are just that. You do what you can to help, if you can help at an event for 30 minutes or an hour then great, after that you can enjoy the rest of the time with your children. If you want to be more involved then consider being a board member and being more involved.

Be sure to ALWAYS thank your volunteers. Showing a little appreciation will go a long way and will make them want to keep helping out.

Need inspiration? Check out this article on how one mom brought the PTA to life. <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/bring-pta-to-life/>

Reminders

by **Christine Kent**
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Elected Officer information should have been submitted online on our Missouri PTA website by March 31, but there is no time like the present to get that done and still receive helpful resources, information, and tools to use for the entire school year.

[Submit your officers now.](#)



Back-to-school is practically a holiday for PTAs around the country—and this year we're celebrating in a BIG way! Mark your calendars because we've designated Sept. 17-21 as National PTA Back-to-School Week.

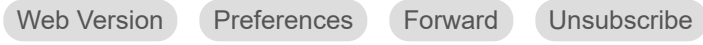
Each day of the week we will highlight and share tips and resources for the amazing people who support our children's learning and success. And we're excited to announce that we've teamed up with Office Depot to make all of this happen!

Monday, September 17 – PTA Leaders
Tuesday, September 18 – Parents
Wednesday, September 19 – Students
Thursday, September 20 – Teachers
Friday, September 21 – Office Depot Day

Back-to-School Week will feature a comprehensive webpage with a wide variety of resources, announcements on grant recipients and new grant opportunities, classroom surprises—and so much more!

Be sure to visit PTA.org and use and follow [#PTABacktoSchool](https://www.instagram.com/PTABacktoSchool).

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