

Contact

MARCH 2022

transition time

BY CARLA WIESE
Missouri PTA President

Can you believe your year(s) as a PTA officer is coming to an end and new officers are being elected? It is very important that you are leaving a clear path for your incoming officers to follow. Take this time seriously. Become the mentor you wish you had by taking time to educate and prepare the incoming officer(s). *Remember how you felt as a new officer: did you feel overwhelmed and under prepared? Did the outgoing officer mentor you so you had all the tools you needed to be successful? Make being a mentor a priority.*

A thorough officer transition plan

- Helps your PTA avoid starting over or starting from scratch every year
- Transfers of all bylaws, fliers, forms, notebooks, etc. (It's recommended all officer information be placed on your PTA Google Drive)
- Minimizes the confusion of officer transition
- Orientates new leaders (*remember MO PTA can assist with this*)
- Helps incoming officers learn about PTA from experienced leaders
- Increases the knowledge and confidence of the new officers; be a mentor and stay that way for the following year

When should you begin the transition period?

As soon as your new officers are elected, plan an orientation meeting with outgoing and incoming officers as a group. This provides the new officers with an opportunity to understand each other's roles and to start building their leadership team. Encourage these new officers through personal contact;

- *help in developing skills*
- *delegating responsibility to them*
- *clarifying job responsibilities*
- *letting them know that transition will be orderly and thorough*
- *modeling an open, encouraging leadership style*

UNIT SPOTLIGHT: GRANDVIEW MIDDLE PTSA

The cool things happening at Grandview Middle are often in some way tied back to the PTSA and their super supportive Principal, Dr. VaShawn Smith.

The Board all agree that membership is VERY MUCH driven by Dr. Smith. In fact, Dr. Smith personally sponsors a select group of memberships for students who wouldn't be able to be members otherwise.

While other organizations like Student Council only includes elected students and National Junior Honor Society is based on grades, PTSA is for everyone and Grandview Middle PTSA really means that!

Communication Tips

This school uses a very interactive way to communicate with families: Facebook Group!

The group was born during the initial COVID shutdown in 2020 by the district (each school had one but only Grandview Middle remains). Dr. Smith monitors the group personally and 90% of the parents are in the group!

Some precautions Grandview Middle takes with their Facebook group:

- No students are allowed in the group, just parents/ guardians and staff.
- All posts must be approved before posted to keep things safe and on topic.
- Questions are used before adding any members to verify they are actually affiliated with the school.
- Comments are monitored and people are contacted directly when issues arise.

Meet the Team

Amanda Dugan, President & Parent

Dr. VaShawn Smith, Principal & Exec Board member

Breanna Wolz, Secretary and Music Teacher

Courtney Williamson, Special Projects Chair and Parent

Joy Banks, VP and School Secretary

Jennifer Derbish, Treasurer and Parent



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
GRANDVIEWMIDDLEPTSA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GRANDVIEWMIDDLEPTSA)

UNIT SPOTLIGHT: GRANDVIEW MIDDLE PTSA

Their Tips for Events

1. Figure out what is going on in town/district and create events to include families
2. ASK students what they want to do
3. Start out with small events and low expectations, then grow with the success of your event
4. Push your events every chance you get: announcements, flyers, facebook, emails
5. Successful events and fundraisers are a lot of trial and error, just keep trying
6. Build relationships with local business owners to see where that relationship takes you!

Grandview Middle PTSA Event Examples:

- A local business was hosting a scavenger hunt and needed people to make clay gnomes. Students made this part of their community service and helped another organization in the process.
- Family Scavenger Hunt hosted in December - Project Lead the Way class 3D printed keychains with school mascot on them for families to find around the community

PTAs can't be separate from the school - it has to be engrained. *That is what has given us the success.*

-Dr. VaShawn Smith



Students creating clay gnomes as a service project

Keychains that were 3D printed by 6th grade Project Lead the Way class in the shape of the school mascot



Prize bags ready for Family Scavenger Hunt participants

Capitol Chatter



Your Guide to the 2022 Legislative Session

BY PAULA MCKINNEY, *Missouri PTA VP of Legislation and Advocacy*

The members of the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate completed the first half of the legislative session. The members are heading into the mid-session break and will spend the week working in their districts before returning to the Capital on March 21st to begin the final 8 weeks of the legislative session.

Missouri PTA Legislation Department is opposed to the following bill:

HB1814 - Establishes transfer procedures to nonresident districts for students in public schools.

The open enrollment policy created in this bill will harm Missouri students, schools, and communities. This legislation could lead to school consolidation across the state making it more difficult to serve Missouri's most vulnerable students. It will also lead to many districts struggling to maintain educational programs they offer such as choir, band, and athletic programs.

Missouri PTA and other public school advocates are opposed to bills that will pit school districts against each other to compete for students and the funds associated with them. Funding that would normally go toward student learning would be spent on recruiting and competing with neighboring districts.

HB1814 allows districts that engage in open enrollment to discriminate against special education students, denying their participation in the program based on their needs.

The focus should be on supporting and improving our schools and all populations rather than tearing them apart. The focus needs to turn to supporting and building stronger schools in each of our communities. Each community is unique and to say that open enrollment would benefit all students is misleading and grossly misunderstood. However, the impact will be felt by all due to the financial hardship it will cause for districts.

HB1814 has passed out of the house and is now being heard in committee in the Senate. Please reach out to your Senator to ask them to oppose this bill.

STAY UP TO DATE

BY JOINING MOPTA'S JC/DC NETWORK
YOU WILL RECEIVE EMAIL ALERTS ABOUT IMPORTANT
PROPOSED MISSOURI LEGISLATION

WWW.MOPTA.ORG/CATEGORY/ADVOCACY

**FOR THE LAST HALF OF THE SESSION WE
WILL BE FOLLOWING BILLS ABOUT - GETTING
THE LEAD OUT OF DRINKING WATER, TEXTING
WHILE DRIVING, VAPING, PARENTAL BILL OF
RIGHTS, AND MENTAL HEALTH.**

[HTTPS://MOPTA.ORG/ADVOCACY/CAPITAL-CHATTER-BILLS-WE-ARE-WATCHING/](https://MOPTA.ORG/ADVOCACY/CAPITAL-CHATTER-BILLS-WE-ARE-WATCHING/)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



What does it mean to be a PTA member and what separates a PTA from other Parent/Teacher organizations? First and foremost, PTA is the largest and oldest child advocacy organization in the United States. When someone joins a local PTA unit they automatically become a member at the State and National level too. Highlighting advocacy can be a useful tool to grow Membership!

- Educate your school community by relaying the [history of PTA](#). Many programs we take for granted (i.e. Kindergarten, hot lunches, etc.) were established by PTA through advocacy.
- Communicate the [value of membership](#). One member's voice is amplified by the millions of other PTA members across the state and nation. PTA is a powerful force that can actively advocate for programs that benefit our children.
- Make your membership form or flyer more compelling by including a short synopsis that details PTA history and its advocacy legacy.
- Set aside time during your PTA meetings for Legislative updates. Keep your membership informed about what's going on at the [state and national level](#). Advertise this agenda item in your meeting reminders.

Keep up with PTA Advocacy efforts in Missouri by signing up for JC/ DC alerts [here](#). Find out more about the MOPTA Legislative platform [here](#).

Click [here](#) for National PTA Advocacy Resources.

**CHAMPION
FOR YOUR CHILD**

National
PTA
everychild.nervoice®

Sign Up Now!

MOPTA AND BLUE SPRINGS
COUNCIL PTA ARE HOSTING

Spring Training!

April 9, 2022

Blue Springs South HS

9am - 12:30pm

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

Missouri
PTA
everychild. onevoice.

Missouri PTA is planning a great training opportunity in collaboration with the Blue Springs Council PTA. Available to those all units in the surrounding Three Trails Region and units close by in the Pony Express Region. The event will take place on April 9th at the Blue Springs South High School from 9 am to 12:30 pm. There will be several mini workshops available to choose from, unlike anything ever offered before. These training are not anything you would experience during our Annual Convention at Camden on the Lakes in October.

And the best news of all it's all FREE!

Unit PTA officers should have already received an email with registration information so please sign up so we know how many to expect. If you or your fellow PTA officers don't see the registration form then please reach out to fieldservice@mopta.org and let us know you are very interested in attending or [click the link here](#). We'll save you a seat!

More training locations being planned with the Park Hill Council PTA in the near future.



March is Reading Month



When it comes to
getting kids to read,
every book
counts!

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Did you know that learning to read begins at birth? During this webinar Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)'s Director of Programs & Content, Erin Bailey, a certified reading specialist, will demonstrate at-home literacy tips for parents of children from birth through age four.

Content from the webinar and related materials will include simple activities parents can use to support phonological awareness, concepts about print, and reading engagement in the early years.

Register today! <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regi.../6806482072940939788>

**MISSOURI PTA DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY
COMMERCIAL ENTITY, PRODUCT OR SERVICE.
NO ENDORSEMENT IS IMPLIED.**

It's school board election season!

Remember, PTAs cannot endorse any candidate for office!

Units and Councils can host candidate forums inviting all candidates to attend

Why?

Missouri
PTA[®]
everychild. onevoice.

- PTA is a 501(c)(3) organization. 501(c)(3) organizations may not support or oppose any candidate for public office. This means PTAs may not endorse candidates, rate candidates, contribute to candidates, or do anything else that might be seen as promoting or diminishing to a candidate
- PTA is a non profit organization, violating the rules could cause your organization to lose your 501 status. If in doubt, contact Missouri PTA

**RIDING THE WAVES
TO PTA SUCCESS**

Save the Date!

Now seeking sponsors
2022 MOPTA CONVENTION

OCTOBER 21-23, 2022

**CAMDEN ON THE LAKE
LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO**



PRIMARY

First Place – Gia Sterrett, Blackburn Elementary PTA
Second Place – Payton Bailey, Chapel Lakes PTA

INTERMEDIATE

First Place – Laila Fuimaono, James Lewis Elementary PTA
Second Place – Ella Barnett, Chapel Lakes PTA
Third Place – Aleah Matthews, Union Chapel Elementary School PTA
Honorable Mention – Matilda McCoy, Bell Prairie PTA
Honorable Mention – Maddie Van Wagner, Trailridge Elementary PTA
Honorable Mention – Ainsley Ash, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
Honorable Mention – Maddie Troy, James Lewis Elementary PTA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Place – Madison Bell, Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA
Second Place – Charli Roedeske, Lakeview Middle School PTA
Third Place – Ashlyn Hines, Lakeview Middle School PTA
Honorable Mention – Darcy Conley, Mason Elementary PTA
Honorable Mention – Zain Saquer, Central High School PTSA

HIGH SCHOOL

First Place – Alyssa Hakan, Central High School PTSA
Second Place – Sherry Shen, Hickman High School PTSA
Third Place – Amelia McCoy, Oak Park H.S. PTSA/Booster Club

PRIMARY

- First Place – Karly Crichlow, Chapel Lakes PTA
- Second Place – Liam Slagle, James Lewis Elementary PTA
- Third Place – Bennett Shipley, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
- Honorable Mention – Lucas Wray, Mason Elementary PTA
- Honorable Mention – Kai Kelly, Timber Creek Elementary PTA
- Honorable Mention – Murphy Music, Hawthorn Elementary PTA
- Honorable Mention – Amelia Rezzelle, Southeast Elementary PTA

INTERMEDIATE

- First Place – Winston Hystead, George S. Bryant PTA
- Second Place – Levi Swanson, Chapel Lakes PTA
- Third Place – Maggie Daly, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
- Honorable Mention – Abriella Stark, Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA
- Honorable Mention – Jackson Bushell, Chapel Lakes PTA
- Honorable Mention – Liam Rehak, Trailridge Elementary PTA
- Honorable Mention – Maiti Crutcher, Thomas B. Chinn PTA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- First Place – Max Gogan, Walden Middle School PTA
- Second Place – Ronan Waters, Walden Middle School PTA
- Third Place – Ridah Shah, Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTA

HIGH SCHOOL

- First Place – Griffin Heide, Blue Springs South High PTSA
- Second Place – Shawn Walden, Park Hill High School PTSA
- Third Place – Ivy Cheluget, Blue Springs High School PTSA
- Honorable Mention – Sarah Won, Hickman High School PTSA

SPECIAL ARTIST

Literature

First Place – Patricia Derrell, Oak Park H.S. PTSA/Booster Club

PRIMARY

First Place – Cristian Angel Garcia, Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA

Second Place – Oliver Baugh, Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA

Third Place – Brooke Hertzog, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Reign Peden, Randall PTA

Honorable Mention – Kaylee Oswald, John Nowlin Elementary PTA

INTERMEDIATE

First Place – Levi Swanson, Chapel Lakes PTA

Second Place – Madilynn Enneking, Union Chapel Elem. School PTA

Third Place – Zayd Abdulrahim, Longview Farm Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Madyson Gaucin, Stonegate Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Violet Radford, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Lily Tolnai, Thomas B. Chinn PTA

Honorable Mention- Gabbie Gempeler, James Lewis Elementary PTA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Place – Kylee Harris, Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA

Second Place – Rachel Wells, Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA

Third Place – Reese Eisenmenger, Lakeview Middle School PTA

Honorable Mention – Rishi Janakiraman, Central High School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Lael Kennedy, Central High School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Keren Ding, Central High School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Anna Hogan, Delta Woods Middle School PTSA

HIGH SCHOOL

First Place – Molly Hocker, Blue Springs High School PTSA

Second Place – Taylor Lee, Hickman High School PTSA

Third Place – Sofia Heredia, Hickman High School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Kassidy Ellis, Kickapoo PTSA

Honorable Mention – Emma McDonald, Blue Springs H.S. PTSA

PRIMARY

First Place – Lillia Roberson, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA

Second Place – Lucy Price, Hawthorn Elementary PTA

Third Place – Piper Olmstead, Timber Creek Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Maximiliana Castaneda, Thomas B. Chinn PTA

Honorable Mention – Kalea Havellana, Thomas B. Chinn PTA

INTERMEDIATE

First Place – Hudson Brace, Hawthorn Elementary PTA

Second Place – Previn Deshpande, Chapel Lakes PTA

Third Place – Laila Roberson, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Eden Powis, Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Eleanor Steffen, Longview Farm Elementary PTA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Place – Lily Lagergren, Walden Middle School PTA

Second Place – Tessa Seigfreid, Pioneer Ridge Middle School PTSA

Third Place – Isabella Hernandez, Delta Woods Middle School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Isabella Wray, Mason Elementary PTA

HIGH SCHOOL

First Place – Gus Lookingbill, Hickman High School PTSA

Second Place – Hailey Wray, Lees Summit North High School PTSA

Third Place – Vincent Spriggs, Hickman High School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Mareina Harris, Liberty North Eagle Club PTSA

Honorable Mention – Femi Odemuyiwa, Hickman High School PTSA

PRIMARY

First Place – Stella Sharp, Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA

Second Place – Dillon Wall, Bell Prairie PTA

Third Place – Landon Bernard, William Yates Elementary School PTA

Honorable Mention – Holly Heavilin, Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Haven Manuel, Mason Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Graham Pierce, George S. Bryant PTA

INTERMEDIATE

First Place – William Blair Pierce, George S. Bryant PTA

Second Place – Chloe Gagnon, Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA

Third Place – Carson Withers, Chapel Lakes PTA

Honorable Mention – Mazy Strader, Mason Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Cora Barnhart, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Ellie Ciolek, Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Place – Chloe Johnston, Discovery Middle School PTSA

Second Place – Chloe Johnston, Discovery Middle School PTSA

Third Place – Avery Stice, Cameron PTSA

Honorable Mention – Josie Lawless, Mason Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Ben Bishop, Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Claire Miller, Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Chloe Johnston, Discovery Middle School PTSA

HIGH SCHOOL

First Place – Rhiannon Schaefer, Blue Springs South High PTSA

Second Place – Rylee Woodruff, Blue Springs High School PTSA

Third Place – Ansa Sunil, Hickman High School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Mareina Harris, Liberty North Eagle Club PTSA

Honorable Mention – Sofie McMurray, Rock Bridge High School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Ansa Sunil, Hickman High School PTSA

SPECIAL ARTIST

First Place – Katherine Ross, Blue Springs South High PTSA

PRIMARY

First Place – Jude Williams, Wanda Gray PTA

Second Place – Graham Pierce, George S. Bryant PTA

Third Place – August Hystead, George S. Bryant PTA

Honorable Mention – Rosie Stevens, Timber Creek Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Jackson Rau, Southeast Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Ellison Perry, Union Chapel Elem. School PTA

Honorable Mention – Violet Wiese, Wanda Gray PTA

INTERMEDIATE

First Place – Rain Bo Phelps, John Nowlin Elementary PTA

Second Place – Nora Lair, Chapel Lakes PTA

Third Place – Olivia Spisak, Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA

Honorable Mention – Nila Williams, Cameron PTSA

Honorable Mention – Rylee Pavey, William Yates Elem. School PTA

Honorable Mention – Daken Kramer, William Yates Elem. School PTA

Honorable Mention – Sophia Kessler, Union Chapel Elem. School PTA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Place – Keren Ding, Central High School PTSA

Second Place – Isabella Leibold, Pioneer Ridge Middle School PTSA

Third Place – Riley Crutcher, Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTA

Honorable Mention – Darby Cobb, Summit Lakes Middle School PTA

Honorable Mention – Malachi Yates, Delta Woods Middle School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Syblie Boyd, Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA

Honorable Mention – Bella Goodfriend, Central High School PTSA

HIGH SCHOOL

First Place – Brooke Novinger, Rock Bridge High School PTSA
Second Place – Madison Dimmick, Central High School PTSA
Third Place – November Still, Blue Springs High School PTSA
Honorable Mention – Emily Oltmanns, Blue Springs H.S. PTSA
Honorable Mention – Nina Musiyenko, Central High School PTSA
Honorable Mention – Malia Crites, Hickman High School PTSA
Honorable Mention – Zoe Saleem, Oak Park H.S. PTSA/Booster Club



CONGRATULATIONS!

Missouri PTA is excited to announce the names of students receiving state level recognition of 2021-2022 Reflections Program.

These students and their families will be receiving an email invitation to the

Annual Student Reflections Showcase
Saturday, April 9, 2022
2 – 4 PM

Blue Springs South High School
Blue Springs, MO.