November 2026

CONTACT

Missouri PTA® everychild. onevoice.

PTA Mission - To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.



Missouri PTA's 110th Convention on November 7–8 in Columbia, Missouri!

We were able to gather a quorum and vote on our 2026-2029 officers. Thank you to all who supported the elections and participated in voting during our annual convention.

Those who will be serving as the New board for 26-29 are:



Christine Kent - President
Angie Warner - Treasurer
Adam Estes - Secretary
Carla Wiese - VP Legislation & Advocacy



Congratulations and Thank you!

The Elected Committee will be gathering together on November 30th to start the appointment process for all the chair positions available on our Board of Managers. If you would be interested or someone you know would be a good candidate for serving in a chair position and advancing our PTA mission, please use this **link** to complete a **'Talent Bank'** application.

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There is no obligation in completing the form.
A phone call conversation would be the next step.

From The President's Desk



Dear PTA Leaders, Members, and Friends,

We have so much to be thankful for every day—not just one day a year.

All year long, PTA leaders and volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to coordinate programs, host events, and raise funds. Without your dedication, so many children would go without essential school supplies, field trips, educational opportunities, and chances to connect with their peers.

Having served at the unit, council, state, and national levels, I know firsthand what it means to be "PTA." I also know how easy it can be to feel discouraged when turnout is low or when families aren't engaging in critical discussions about education, health, safety, and PTA business.

When those moments happen, please remember: **we never fail if we try; we only fail when we quit trying**. There is a lot of work ahead of us, and none of us can do it alone. Moving forward takes connection, patience, and meeting each other halfway.

Thank You for Being a Voice for Missouri's Children.

This November, Missouri PTA is especially grateful for every leader who has stepped up to represent families and caregivers. Thank you for sitting at the table, speaking up for your communities, and making the time to attend yet another meeting to advocate for the needs of children across our state.

Right now, Missouri's education landscape needs more voices than ever.

We have a Challenge for the Rest of the Year -

As you gather with loved ones this month to reflect on what you are thankful for, I invite you to look back on this past year and ask yourself: **"What am I proud of doing to help a child today?"**

Whether that child is your own, a relative, a neighbor, or a student you may never meet, they are our future—and each of us has a vested interest in their education, health, and safety.
As we head into the new year, here is how you can help carry this momentum forward:

- **Take one small step:** Get involved in a committee, attend a meeting, or lend a hand at an upcoming school event.
- **Bring someone to the table:** Invite a friend, neighbor, or fellow parent to join you so they can answer that same question for themselves.

Thank you for everything you do—both out in front and behind the scenes—to make a difference for every child.
With gratitude,
Christine Kent, Missouri PTA President, 2023-2029

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Attitude of Gratitude, Keeping the Feeling Year Round

By Carla Wiese VP Legislation & Advocacy

A few years ago, I read an article on the effect of mental health and gratitude. It challenged the reader to make a daily habit of listing, before bed every evening, what you were thankful for that day. It challenged you to think beyond family, health, job, and etc. but to look deeper at the smaller things that made your day happy.

At the time, I rolled my eyes and scrolled on to the next article.

Later that month, one of my closest friends unexpectedly lost her husband. As I dove into helping her navigate her and her daughters' new reality without their husband and father, the grief was palpable. Every day was a struggle to see beyond the pain. I thought back to that article and began to wonder if the article I had dismissed might be just what was needed.

I began journaling myself (to see if I would keep it up before speaking with her), and at first it was difficult. Some days I could easily fill a page with wonderful things I had to be grateful for. Some days frankly sucked. I struggled to list 3 things (outside of family) to be thankful for. But as the weeks progressed, I noticed I was looking (and expecting) those tiny moments of thankfulness. I began to take it one step further by telling people when they did something I was thankful for.

The change I noticed within myself and in those with whom I shared was immediate. I love the conversations I have when I thank someone. My days seem happier because I am actively seeking out good things. Bad things still happen, but I find myself letting them go easier.

At the end of a year, I can look back and see how blessed I am. I have had a year of thousands of things to be thankful for. And on those bad days, I pick up my journal and remind myself that grief and bad things fade away. Thanksgiving is a great time to sit down and really think about all the things we all have to be thankful for. Everyone who knows me knows challenges are my thing.

SO I am issuing you a challenge to start recording or taking note of what makes you thankful.

If you would like to share, send me an email; I would love to help you celebrate! I hope your blessings are abundant and you find those thankful moments every day!

Happy Thanksgiving, from Missouri PTA.



LEGCON 2027

March 1-3 | Arlington, VA | PTA.org/LegCon

Registration for the 2027 National PTA Legislative Conference (LegCon) Now Open!

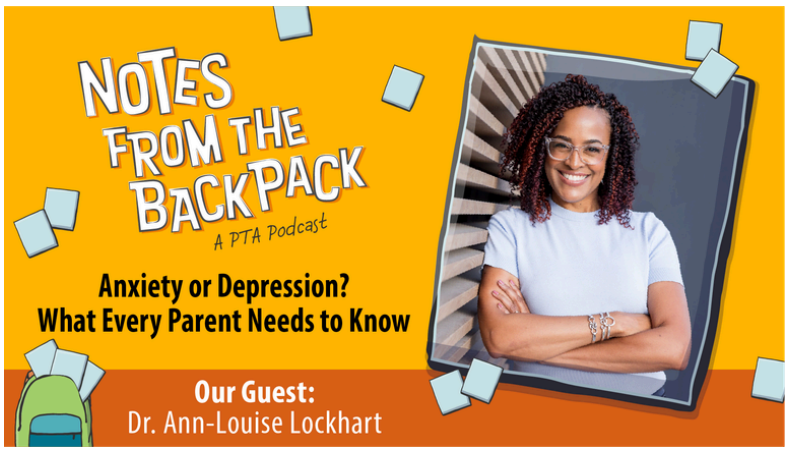
Join us for National PTA's 2027 Legislative Conference (LegCon) March 1-3, 2027, in Arlington, Va.

REGISTER NOW

LegCon will bring together hundreds of advocates from across the country to grow their advocacy skills and take action on Capitol Hill.

Head to **PTA.org/LegCon** to learn more.

Mental Health: Caring for Them, Caring for Us



In this episode of Notes from the Backpack, Dr. Ann-Louise Lockhart, a Pediatric Psychologist and author, breaks down the important differences between anxiety and depression in kids and teens—and why understanding the distinction matters. She also discusses the realities of supporting a child's mental health while navigating your own.

In Part One of this conversation, we explore how mental health challenges can impact relationships, academics and the entire family dynamic.

LISTEN

Missouri PTA®

Treasurer Reminders

As we reach the halfway point of the school year, it's a great time to check in and make sure your PTA finances are on track!

Keep Your Records Updated

Record all income and expenses, keep receipts, and reconcile your bank statements each month.

Share Treasurer's Reports

Give a financial report at each PTA meeting (beginning balance, income, expenses, and ending balance).

Check Your Budget

Compare what you've spent and raised with your approved budget.

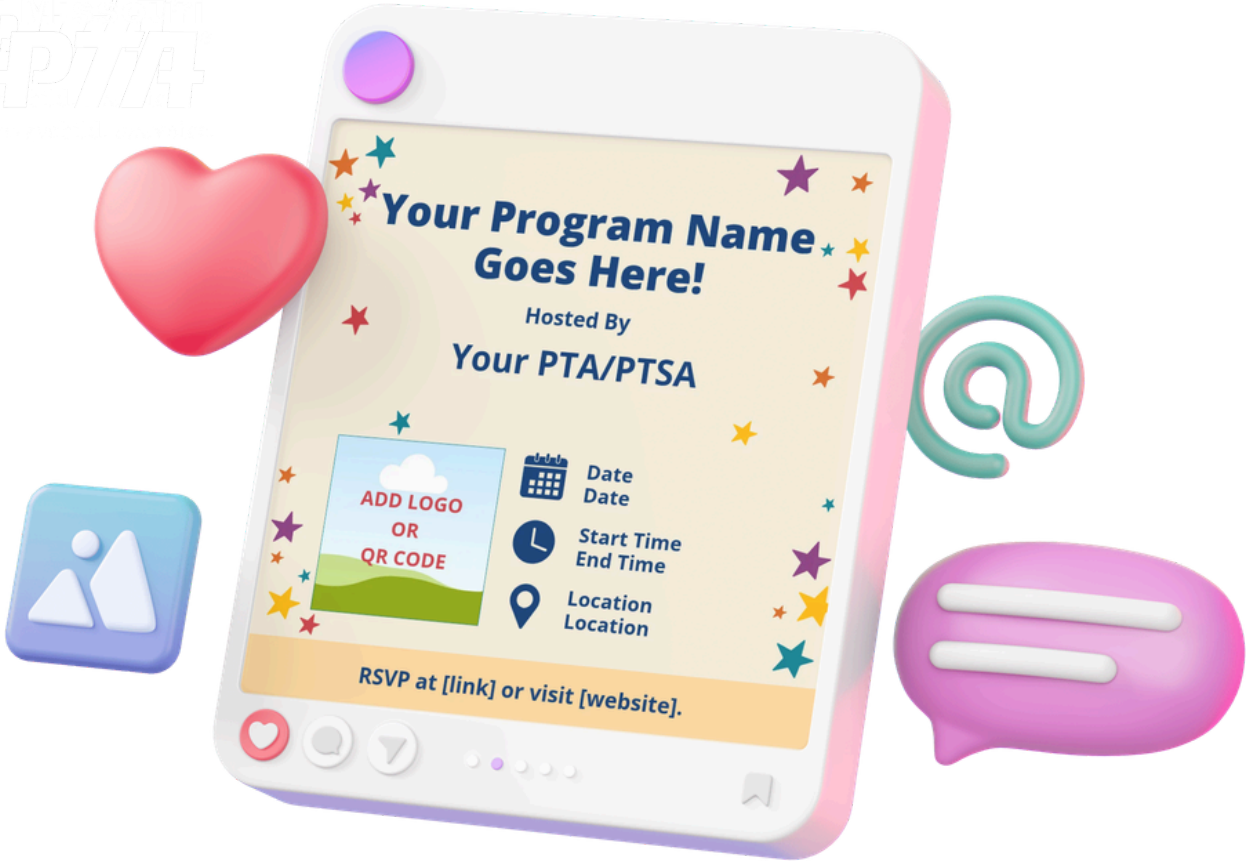
Follow Financial Procedures

Have two people count cash, get proper approvals for spending, and never sign blank checks.

Remember Important Deadlines

Stay current on membership dues, financial reviews, and tax filings (most PTAs file an annual IRS Form 990).

Every dollar has a purpose, and every dollar makes a difference!



New Resources to Boost Diverse Participation in Programs and Activities

Eager to engage all families in your PTA programs and activities but not sure where to start? Review these new resources for including all families in every PTA program and activity by helping to remove barriers to participation and ensuring your families feel welcome.

Check them out now by double clicking on each row:

- Survey to Boost Participation in PTA Programs and Activities
- Five Effective Ways to Boost Participation in Your PTA Programs and Activities
- Customizable Program/Event Flyer
- Customizable Social Media Graphic

PTA HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Celebrate This Season Using a National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Game!

The Healthy Lifestyles initiative offers educational resources and engagement opportunities that empower students and families to make better-informed health decisions.

Healthy Lifestyles Bingo

Being healthy doesn't have to be boring!

Utilize Healthy Lifestyles Bingo as an easy and fun way to practice healthy habits.



Encourage your students and families to play Healthy Lifestyles Bingo and make healthy choices together at home, at school, and in your community!

ShopPTA.com



Blanket with PTA Stars & Stripes Design

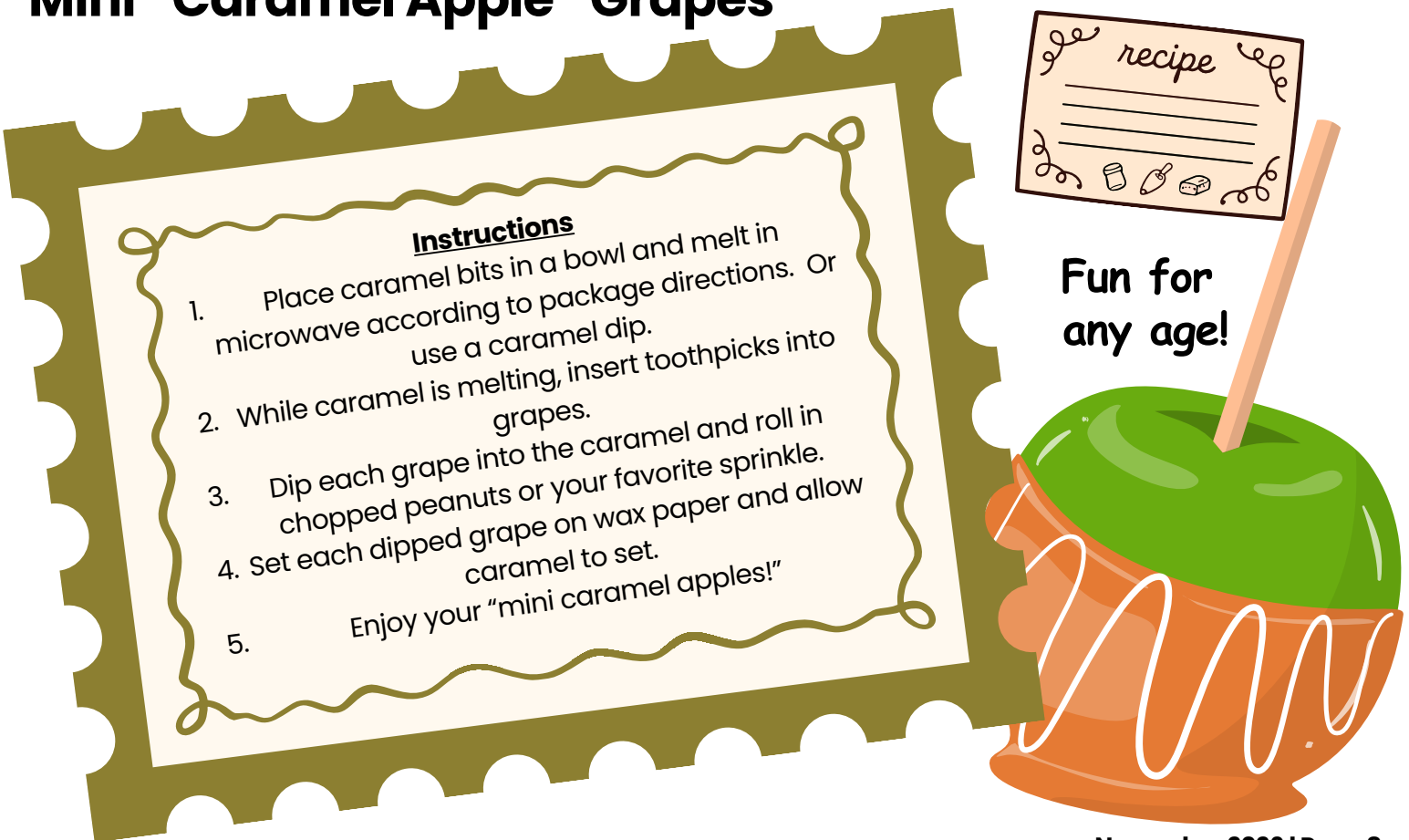
$19.50

This soft fleece blanket is made from 9.8-ounce linear yard, 100% polyester fleece. It's fully hemmed on all sides and the finished size 50" x 60". Blanket is navy blue and features the PTA Stars & Stripes logo imprinted on one corner.

Ships in: 1-3 Business Days

SHOP NOW

Mini "Caramel Apple" Grapes



Missouri PTA® Upcoming Events

Check out our website calendar to Register for these events and MORE.

All PTA Members Welcome!

12/1	**Deadline to Submit Financial Year End, Financial Review/Audit, 990 Receipt** *(All submitted to Missouri PTA, using the 'Big Yellow Button' on the right hand side of our website, mopta.org.)*
12/1	**Legislation Bill Filings Begin**
12/15	**Reflections Entries Deadline** *to submit to Missouri PTA*
Jan/21 @ 6 PM	**Missouri PTA All Units Leadership Growth Zoom**
See you in January	**Missouri PTA Legislative Discussion Roundtable**

mopta.org/moptacalendar/

Calendar Link

Missouri PTA®

A Season of Gratitude: The Heart of PTA

November is a perfect time to pause and say thank you to the amazing volunteers who make PTA possible across Missouri.

From planning events and supporting teachers to fundraising, advocating, and creating opportunities for students, our PTA volunteers give their time, talent, and heart to strengthen our schools and communities.

A Big Thank You To...

Our local PTA leaders, committee and event volunteers, parents, families, and staff who pitch in, community partners and business supporters, and everyone who supports PTA's mission for children!

Your Time Makes a Difference!

Thank you for all you do to support students, families, and schools across Missouri. You are truly the heart of PTA!