

Programs for Middle and High School PTSAs
Leadership Training June 2010
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IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- **NATIONAL PTA** – www.pta.org
Use the **PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships!**
- **Georgia PTA** - www.georgiapta.org
On the **Georgia PTA** website: visit the “**For PTA Leaders**” section, click on “**Leadership Resources**” (Also visit the “**Youth Services**” section on the website.)
- **Georgia PTA Leadership Resource Guide**
Section 1
pages 14-15 – **PTA Vision, Mission and Values and Basic Policies**
Section 6
page 175 – **Programs**
Page 182 - **Youth Services**
- **Survey your students and parents, faculty and staff, the community!**
- **Talk with your administration.**
- **Ideas for programs...steal them!**
Yes, find out the programs that have worked well at other schools and use them as your own.
- **Promote all of your activities among your group of schools, other schools in your areas, the feeder schools** (elementary, middle and high).

STUDENT PROGRAMS

- Red Ribbon Week
- Community Service activities and events
- Great American Smoke-Out
- Teen Driver Safety and Awareness Week
- Reflections

- Computer Safety
- American Cancer Society's Skin Cancer prevention program - ***Slip, Slap, Slop.***
- Cultural diversity, International Nights/Dinners
- Teen Health Fair - ***Topics to consider - teen dating, depression, disease prevention, drug addiction, teen driving, internet safety, and anger management.***
- Lifestyle Choices
- Health Fair and Fun Run
- Recognition for Academic Achievement - Host Receptions for Awards for students.
- Plan environmental projects that may work with a class or teacher or other student groups in the school
- Coordinate community outreach projects that help students learn to reach out to those in need, while teaching them important life skills
- Offer assistance to academic enrichment opportunities like Jr. Great Books (a program that comes with directions, handouts and guidance for volunteer leaders. The goal is to encourage students to read more and more varied types of work and to share their experience with others. Also, Odyssey of the Mind or Academic Bowl
- Lunch and Learns – ***Topics to consider - eating disorders, teen suicide/depression, alcohol and drugs, prejudice and diversity, sexuality and teens, dating and healthy relationships, body images, methamphetamine use and effects, Consequences of Drinking Alcohol, The truth about being a teen parent, and Anger Management.***
- Testing Support Committee to provide help and motivation during mandated testing. They help notify the families and students of the upcoming testing dates and their importance to both the student and the school (NCLB). ***They provided incentives to students to be at school and on time for all testing dates: pencils, bottled water, juice, and peppermints.***
- Student Response Team - PTSA president and school principal meet with the members of this team monthly to ask for input and evaluation of their work.
- Ask their students to provide the programming on Health issues for their monthly PTA meetings. Presentations were made in the form of skits, raps, poems, posters, Power point presentations, questionnaires and pamphlets. ***Topics to consider - sickle cell disease, suicide prevention, breast cancer, respiratory care, AIDS, hand washing awareness, donating blood, birth defects, heart disease and dental health.*** This program increased communication between teens and their parents.

FACULTY AND STAFF PROGRAMS

- Back to School Luncheon (*a great time to get all of the faculty and staff to join PTA/PTSA – challenge the Oak Tree Membership Certificate – 100% staff by the last business day in Oct.*)
- Holiday and End of Year Faculty/Staff Luncheons
- mini-grants for faculty and staff
- Offer to cover lunchroom or hallway duty as a reward for membership or PTSA participation in programs such as Reflections
- Include them in programs that are school wide
- Have the faculty and staff members talk about what college or university they attended when you are having a College Fair or Awareness Program.

PARENT PROGRAMS

- Offer programs that can be read or accessed from a computer
- Make meetings pertinent to single parents and parents who speak other languages.
- College Fairs – invite **GCollege411** – www.gacollege411.org to participate
- Health Fairs that would include sessions for the parent's health issues as well as those that focus on student health problems.
- Communicate with incoming parents
- 101 Town Hall/Rising 9th Grade Meeting for freshman parents and students, giving them the opportunity to visit the school. Various school clubs, sports coaches, and extracurricular activities can also be available to answer questions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **The Passage Group** - www.thepassagegroup.com
 - **Parent To Parent Program** - Parents need practical ways to use their powerful influence to guide their children successfully through today's toxic culture. Learn how **Parent To Parent** can help parents in your organization create a counter culture and protect their kids.
 - **It's Party Time** - A seven session drug and alcohol prevention curriculum for students 6th grade and up. It's a simulator in the form of a board game that lets kids experience the financial, social and health consequences of using tobacco, drugs and alcohol. The

curriculum is designed for a maximum class of 30 students. The class divides up into six teams and is assigned a drug of choice.

- **Young Audiences** - www.youngaudiences.org
Promotes arts in education, large resource of various artists
- **J. Tom Morgan** - www.ignoranceisnodefense.com
A nationally recognized expert on the prosecution of crimes against children who has written, Ignorance Is No Defense – A Teenager’s Guide to Georgia Law. There are book discounts available on his website.
- **Connect with Kids** - www.connectwithkids.com
This is an internet resource with information and videos on current teen topics for schools, parents and teachers.
- Some school systems have programs and speakers that are available.
Example: Cobb County Schools Prevention Intervention office
<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/preventionintervention/default.aspx>
They have a group of highly trained professionals that are available to the county’s schools free of charge. ***Topics to consider - bullying, internet bullying, internet threats to your children, musical influences on our children, gang threats in our areas and drugs and alcohol abuse in teens.***
- Many agencies have “print ready” articles that can be placed in newsletters and pamphlets ready to pass out.
- Check out the various agencies in the community that offer speakers. Local psychologists, hospital staff, local police and sheriff agencies.
- The **GBI** has two wonderful Forensic Computer Specialists who coordinate programs on Internet Safety. Sue Dowling and Vickie Adams - 404-270-8870 or email sue.dowling@gbi.ga.gov or vickie.adams@gbi.ga.gov. There are over 150 trained presenters throughout Georgia who are certified to give presentations for this program. Their presentations are timely and really open the eyes of parents who don't understand the dangers out there on the Internet for our young people. Their website, www.familyinternet.info <<http://www.familyinternet.info/>> has a link to request a presentation. Seven different presentations can be chosen from: Preschool/ Early elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School, High School, Parents and Community, Four Current Trends and Cyberbullying.

- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force - www.familyinternet.info has a link to request a presentation.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Newsletters
E-newsletters
Websites
All Call or Phone Tree Systems
School Marquee
Daily Announcements
Flyers
Posters

WORKING WITH PRINCIPALS

- **Georgia PTA** - www.georgiapta.org
On the **Georgia PTA** website: visit the **"For PTA Leaders"** section, click on **"Others"**, and select **"Principal's Guide"** – *Principals and PTAs: Partners Working Together to Increase Student Achievement*
- Meet with your principal regularly.
- **Ask Questions:**
 - What type activities they see the PTSA doing to help support the staff and students of the school.
 - What programs that have been done in the past were successful in the eyes of the staff. Which programs have caused concerns to the staff?
 - Talk about what your plans for the next year might be together.
 - Who maintains the school calendar for booking the use of certain areas/rooms that the PTA might use for their programming?
 - What are the procedures are for booking a room or an activity? Is there a form to fill out and return? Can this be done by email?
 - Who will be the liaison with the PTSA?
 - Who will attend the executive board meetings as well as the regularly scheduled PTSA board meetings?
 - Will the Principal write a column for your newsletter/E-news?
 - Will they allow you to send PTSA information out with the school's back to school welcome letter? PTA/PTSA volunteers can assist in getting envelopes/folders stuffed with information.

- About rules for using the phone tree system or email blast system at your school. What days are the calls made or emails sent? Who should your information be turned into? Who is responsible for approving messages for either form of communication?
- What about posting signs in the hallways? Who approves the posters and is there a size limit? Are there limitations as to where the signs may be posted?
- Who to contact for information that needs to be included in your calendar? (Dates of sporting events, concerts, testing dates, pep rallies.) ***A good calendar is the beginning of great communication with your families. Give all the staff a calendar.***
- How can you communicate with the faculty and staff? Is it OK to put notes in their mailboxes? Can you use the staff/homeroom teachers to deliver calendars/directories to the students whose families have purchased these items?

DON'T FORGET

- Introduce yourself to the front office staff.
- Get to know the *custodial staff*.
- Wear your *PTSA nametag* every time you go into the school. Encourage all your board to wear their nametags whenever they are in the school as well.
- Check out last year's yearbook – learn faces and names.
- A middle school you are only there 2 or 3 years, in high school, 4 years. Take advantage of the time you have to volunteer.
- Ensure that no one could ever doubt that you had the school/children's best interest at heart.

NOTES