

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN PTA – TALKING POINTS

It's never too late to recruit new PTA members. Here are some talking points and benefits:

- Today more than ever, schools are challenged to provide every child with the best education despite growing limitations.
- Budgets are tight—in most cases, shrinking—while government requirements are growing. Schools are challenged to do more with less.
- More than 30 years of research has proven that children do better when parents are involved both at home and at school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.
- There's a simple way to make these outcomes a reality for your child and the children in your community...Join PTA.

Enjoy the benefits

Here are seven reasons you shouldn't let the school year go by without becoming a member.

1. Get connected. There's no better way to know what's happening in school than by joining PTA. The local PTA works closely with teachers and administrators, as well as school district staff. You'll find out what you can do to help make a difference for your child and other children.

2. Discover great resources. You'll get tips for helping your child with homework, advice for preparing for a parent-teacher conference, and how-tos for working with teachers all year long. Learn how to talk with your child about difficult topics such as bullying and alcohol and other drugs, and also learn everyday practices to keep your whole family healthy. From early childhood education to life after high school, PTA is there for you and your child every step of the way.

3. Tap into a network. PTA functions are opportunities to meet others, build rapport, and discuss issues that are on your mind. You don't have to attend every PTA meeting or event, but know you're always invited. Get to know the parents of your child's friends and classmates, and you'll make friends, too.

4. Watch yourself grow. By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to good use for a good cause—your child and all children in the community. You can try new things and gain confidence, whether you're coordinating a school foreign-language club, writing a newsletter article, organizing a school fundraiser, or hosting a cast party for the school play.

5. Speak up. Because PTA is a forum for exchanging ideas, membership can be a way for you to more effectively suggest changes at your child's school and see to it that those changes happen. You'll be given the tools to respond to current state and federal legislative issues that affect the welfare of children. And you'll learn how to be an advocate and a voice for all children.

6. Witness improvement. By getting involved at your child's school, you'll be part of the solution. Local PTAs play an important role in fundraising to provide school building and grounds improvements, educational programs, and social events—all vital to a school's success. We've been a driving force in establishing school lunch programs, after-school programs, immunization programs, school bus safety, TV rating standards, and more.

7. Be a role model. As a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education. You'll be teaching your child about giving back to the community, and you'll feel good knowing that what you do through PTA is helping not only your child but all children receive a better education.

Whether you have children in school or not, PTA membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission and purposes of PTA and the children we serve. To join PTA or get further information, contact the Georgia PTA at 404-659-0214 or visit our website at georgiapta.org