

Welcome from the PTA! Highland Park Elementary School



September 2016

Hello Highland Park Families!

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer. We would like to welcome new and returning families to Highland Park Elementary School (HPS). The HPS PTA invites you to join us in helping our children have a positive and rewarding school experience. We've prepared this PTA Welcome Packet to provide you with helpful information about our PTA.

The PTA affords the opportunity for sharing thoughts and ideas about programs and activities that benefit children and families. Our PTA provides information and resources through: family programs and events, monthly parent meetings, the HPS PTA section of the website, the Highland Park Families Facebook page along with Dr. Ali's Highland Happening newsletter distributed to all HPS families. We strive to keep open and frequent communication between our school and family communities, and using multiple channels allows us to do so.

We hope to expand our PTA membership and ask that you consider joining. This year the PTA will sponsor various events but we can't make these events happen without the support of volunteers --***we can use all the help we can get!***

Some of the types of programs the Highland Park PTA has sponsored in the past include:

**Back to School Picnic
Family Movie Nights
Book Fair
Variety Talent Shows**

**Adult Social Events
Family Dine Outs
Family Bingo Nights
Fun Run**

Enclosed you will find our PTA calendar of events for the school year. We want to continue providing our family and student programs and welcome new suggestions for topics or programs of interest that you would like the PTA to consider sponsoring.

Our dues are only **\$10.00** per member. Through membership dues and fundraising efforts, the PTA is able to donate funds to purchase educational materials and equipment for the school, as well as be involved in efforts to help the local community. Parents, Grandparents or any adult 18 years of age or over may become a member of the PTA. You can join the Highland Park PTA by filling out the enclosed membership form. Remember to include your membership dues, and return it to school addressed to the HPS PTA. If you would like further information, feel free to contact the PTA Board members listed below. We look forward to a great school year!

2016/2017 PTA BOARD MEMBERS:

Co-Presidents – Stephanie Duvall and Kelly Pierce

Co-Vice-Presidents – Meghan McDowell-Vyse and Tracy Patterson

Secretary – Rachel Kaiser

Treasurer – May Corn

If you have any questions, please contact the PTA Board directly by sending an email to PTAHighlandPark2016@gmail.com

Communication is key!



How will you hear about PTA-sponsored events at Highland Park School?

The PTA will use various communications channels to get the word out to all Highland Park School Families to participate in events and activities throughout the school year.

We will send home event flyers with your children and share “what’s coming up” in Principal Ali’s recurring email newsletter – Highland Happenings – sent to all HPS parents.

We also have **two external communication channels** where you can hear what’s going on with the PTA:

- 1) **FACEBOOK:** We welcome all HPS families to join our Facebook page and hear about upcoming events and activities. This page is a closed group – since HPS is an elementary school and members quite often post photos of children at events – so please search for “**Highland Park Families**” and ask to be added. We’ll add you to the group asap!

Our Facebook page is meant to be a communication board for parents and teachers to share what events and activities are coming up at HPS. If you have any concerns about HPS, please speak with your respective teacher or Dr. Ali.



- 2) **PTA WEBPAGE:** The PTA also has a page on Highland Park School’s external website: <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=610>

The PTA will keep its event calendar up to date on this page as another resource providing the latest and greatest events for your reference.



PTA Monthly Meeting Dates for Highland Park School

Please mark your calendars to attend HPS's monthly PTA meetings. Attending our meetings is a great way to stay informed and to connect with other HPS parents and staff. We often have special guest speakers about timely topics as well.

Tuesday, September 13th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1st – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 6th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 10th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9th – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8th – 6:30 p.m. (Ice Cream Social)



HPS PTA Volunteer Opportunities



We need your help!

This year the PTA plans to sponsor various events and conduct several fundraisers but we can't make these events happen without volunteers! Your involvement can make a dramatic difference for our children, their teachers and the staff at Highland Park School. We have a variety of opportunities that will fit your schedule and interests.

Please note that because we rely on volunteers to help with all of the following opportunities, certain events will not be held if we don't receive enough volunteer support.

Below are some of the volunteer opportunities available. Kindly indicate if you would be willing to help with any of the events/programs below by checking the box(es) next to the ones of interest to you and return this form to the PTA by September 15, 2016.

Thank you in advance for volunteering your time!

Highland Park School PTA

Volunteer Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Child's Name(s) _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Event/Type of Position	Volunteer	Event/Type of Position	Volunteer
PTA Volunteer Coordinator		Mum Sale	
Fun Run Event		Gardening Volunteers	
Box Tops		Teacher Appreciation	
Book Fair		Butterbraids	
Running Club		Dine Out Nights	
Movie Nights		Talent Show	
Yearbook		Spiritwear	
Original Artworks		Me & My Guy Dance	
Meadow Farms		Me & My Gal Game Night	
Fine Arts Program		Lyman Orchard Pies	

Is there another way you'd like to help? Please let us know!

Join the Highland Park PTA



**PTA Membership is \$10 per person. You can pay with cash or by check.
Checks should be made payable to: Highland Park School PTA.**

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Child's Name(s) _____ Grade(s) _____ Teacher(s) _____

**Please return this form to the front office with payment
in an envelope addressed to: HPS PTA,
Or bring this form to the first HPS PTA meeting on Sept. 13.**

Why Join the PTA?

What is PTA? Why join PTA? The number one reason to join the **Parent Teacher Association** is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help our school. But there are many more PTA advantages:

- **Get Connected.** There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.
- **Discover Great Resources.** The PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.
- **Tap into a Network.** PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind. Ideas, concerns, and experiences are shared.
- **Speak Up.** PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
- **Witness Improvement.** By getting involved at your child's school you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role in fundraising to provide building improvements, curriculum-based programs, and social events.
- **Be a Role Model.** By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
- **Enjoy Substantial Benefits.** Individuals and local units can take advantage of a host of benefits from PTA membership including various discounts and offers.

**Adapted from the National PTA Website*