



Dear West Maple Families,

Welcome back to all returning families and a big WELCOME to all new families! We know that almost nothing looks like what you expected or hoped for, but we are confident we can come together to make this a fantastic, unique school year.

We look forward to getting to know your family. We hope you will join us for our monthly PTA meetings, for the foreseeable future all held on Zoom. Our first meeting is on **Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** This is normally where we would tell you all about the first few exciting things we have planned, but for now some reminders:

September 15th	1st and 2nd Grade Parent Night via Zoom	6-7 PM
	3rd, 4th, & 5th Parent Night via Zoom	7-8 PM
September 22nd	PTA Meeting	7 PM

This year for the first time we are completely online. You can join PTA at [westmaple.membershiptoolkit.com](http://westmaple.membershiptoolkit.com). Your dues support our programming, teacher and facility grants, and include a physical school directory and access to the online directory. Once you have joined, you can also download the Membership Toolkit app for easy access to the directory on your phone.

For the PTA to be effective and truly representative of the school, everyone's participation is essential. We still need room parents to help connect our classes and our community, and if you would like to volunteer please do so at <https://forms.gle/bh6ndFamas5538J57>

We would like to thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, PLEASE do not hesitate to contact us at the emails listed below. Together we can make this a great year!

#### Your 2020-2021 PTA Board

Amanda Albritton	President	dunham.amanda@gmail.com
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**We'd Love your Feedback!!!**



\*There are also Facebook groups for each grade level for parents to connect.

## **What is the PTA?**

The Parent Teacher Association is a national organization of families, students, teachers, and administrators devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement.

The West Maple PTA is committed to providing an inclusive and collaborative environment that will enable the best learning and enjoyable experience for our children.

We believe parent participation enhances our capability to make the biggest difference for our children.

## **Why should you join PTA?**

- Be Involved! At PTA meetings and events, you can raise concerns, suggest ideas, and give input on how funds are spent.
- Build community! Meet other parents and interact with their families at the many social events we hope to start having again someday soon, like the Welcome Back Carnival, Movie Night, Bingo Night, and tons more!
- Benefit your child(ren)! When parents get connected to the school, children get better grades, do better on tests, and have fewer discipline problems. When you build relationships with your child's teachers, administrators, and office staff, it will be far easier to communicate about any problem (or victory) that occurs throughout the year.

## **Where does the money go?**

- Modernized furniture to build collaborative learning spaces in every classroom
- Provides \$5000 toward Staff grants, reading programs, google expeditions
- Pays for teacher requested assemblies that coincide with the curriculum
- Funds Raz kids for kindergarten and first grade and Time for Kids for the entire school
- Promotes fitness through the popular Miler's Club, Fun Run, and Kids Heart Challenge
- \$50 gift cards for every teacher to start off the new year
- Supports programs such as Math Pentathlon, Battle of the Books, Book Nook, and Science Olympiad
- Supports artistic programs to encourage talent outside of the classrooms through the national PTA Reflections program and the third through fifth grade musical
- Sponsors New Family Welcome Dinner, Welcome Back Breakfast, the Carnival, Wacky Waldo, Trunk or Treat, Staff Appreciation Week, and many many others!