

Find Your Passion and Get Involved!!

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (“MCCPTA”) is your voice across the county. MCCPTA’s purpose is to unify and strengthen local PTAs in order to promote the interests of children and to encourage programs and projects that will carry out the purposes of the PTA. In order to assist in that business, we have created a number of committees dedicated to school issues. Please review the committee vision statements below. All committees are open to any member of the PTA. There are plenty of ways you may get involved!

Operating Budget

Chair: Jean Schlesinger, jeanschlesinger@verizon.net

The MCPS Operating Budget represents the translation of MCPS priorities into action by allocating funds across programs and functions. The vision of the Operating Budget Committee is that all parents would become well-informed and active partners in the budget process. It is the job of the committee to make this vision happen

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Chair: Steve Augustino, sauggiedog@comcast.net

The CIP Committee supports the advocacy of MCCPTA and the individual clusters on school construction issues. The Committee is dedicated to the principle that every child in Montgomery County is entitled to attend school in a safe, secure, healthy and modern facility. MCPS’s ability to increase academic rigor throughout all levels and to expand participation in college-level coursework, requires sufficient classrooms, modern facilities, and appropriate learning environments. The CIP Committee will work to see that MCPS meets countywide facilities needs, and in particular that MCPS keeps pace with planned additions, modernizations and county-wide programs to replace and maintain building facilities.

Legislative

Chair: Lynne Harris, lharris@jhsph.edu

The Legislative Committee supports the mission and objectives of MCCPTA and MDPTA by providing information to the membership regarding issues, actions, bills, and laws undertaken by individual members, or the Maryland General Assembly as a whole, that affect public education or the safety of students.

Health & Safety

Chairs: Donna Pfeiffer, donnafeiffer@gmail.com

Susan Burkinshaw, susan.burkinshaw@verizon.net

Every student and teacher has an inherent right to be in a safe, healthy and secure environment while they are under the care of the public school system. The Health and Safety Committee will work to support National PTA position statements and resolutions.

Parent Involvement

Co-Chairs: Elisia George, ekjgsha@gmail.com

Nilam Patel, nilampatl@gmail.com

The Parent Involvement Committee seeks to create liaisons to reach out to underserved families within the school community and providing parents with resources needed to empower them in becoming more effective parents. We also seek to increase the level of parent involvement within our school system.

Membership

Chair: Janette Gilman, janettegilman@verizon.net

The Membership Committee’s goal is to grow the membership of MCCPTA to increase the power of our collective voice for the children of Montgomery County. Membership grows one member at a time, and the committee will organize workshops, outreach activities, and tailored mentoring in an effort to help each local grow membership.

Curriculum

Chair: Ted Willard, twillard@aaas.org

Since curriculum is central to the educational process, it is essential that parents are aware of the details of the process of developing and implementing curricula and that they are able to participate in that process. The purpose of the Curriculum Committee is to provide an avenue for that participation.

ESOL

Chair: Antonio Hernandez-Cardoso,

hercarant@gmail.com

One of the missions of the PTA is to speak on behalf of children and youth in our school and involvement of parents. The ESOL Committee will uphold this mission and focus on ways that the communication will be enhanced between parents of ESOL students and the schools. Special Education

Special Education

Chair: Jeanne Taylor, frtjmt@aol.com

The Special Education Committee acts as a resource for parents, caregivers and school staff to share experiences in advocating for children to implement successful family-school partnerships. The committee also conducts outreach to those who may not be connected with their school community.

Gifted Child

Chair: Michelle Gluck, gluck.michelle@yahoo.com
MCPS is committed to “promoting rigorous performance standards and providing instructional programs that encourage all students to achieve at their highest level.” The Gifted Child Committee supports and advocates on behalf of children who require accelerated and enriched instruction within MCPS in order to achieve their full potential. We seek to increase public awareness of the special needs of all highly able learners and to assist their parents in guiding the education of these children, in order to ensure that they are adequately identified and educated. We work to ensure that MCPS systematically provides appropriate programming to meet equitably each child’s unique gifts and talents in compliance with Policy IOA.

Technology

Chair: Mike Worper, mike@morper.net
With the increased use of technology within the classroom and as a training tool for our teachers, it is all the more important that parents focus on issues related to technology. The Technology Committee works to ensure that MCPS provides students and staff with opportunities to develop lifelong technology skills essential in both the world today and tomorrow. In addition, the Committee addresses the effective and consistent use of technology in the classroom learning process.

Middle School:

Chair: JoAnn Burl, joannburl@yahoo.com
This committee addresses the unique issues found in our middle schools to include the Middle School Reform initiative, effective field trips, and the implementation of Advanced coursework and High School credit courses.

High School:

Chair: Dave Lechner, [dave\(at\)lechnersonline\(dot\)com](mailto:dave(at)lechnersonline(dot)com)
The High School Committee works to promote change on issues that affect high school students, focusing on improving communication and the involvement of parents within our high schools. Committee initiatives this year include county-wide programs such as the Safe-Prom Video contest, the High School Model United Nations event, and release of a Parking Lot Safety Study. Other issues such as student release on test days, IB programs, relationships with Booster clubs, and school improvement plans are planned topics of discussion.

Cultural Arts

Chair: Priscilla Peterson, prisfp@verizon.net
The Cultural Arts Committee supports and promotes PTA/PTSA efforts to present high-quality performances, workshops, residencies, and in-school field trips to students in MCPS to enrich their educational program and artistic experiences.

Down County Consortium (DCC)

Chair: Open
The DCC Committee monitors and coordinates the efforts of the PTAs in the Down County Consortium with special attention to the needs of the high school and middle school consortium programs and the associated choice process from elementary school to middle school to high school. We focus on assessing the effectiveness of the choice process in providing families with academically strong options for all students.

Guidance and Counseling

Chair: Deb Lang, debolang@yahoo.com
The Guidance Committee’s aim is to strengthen ties between parents and counselors for the benefit of all county school children.

SSL (Student Service Learning)

Chair: Deb Lang, debolang@yahoo.com
The SSL Committee’s goals are 1) to communicate regularly with MCPS regarding the SSL program, monitoring implementation and providing feedback from parents and students, and 2) to improve the dissemination of information on SSL requirements and opportunities to parents and students.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO JOIN YOUR PTA AND GET INVOLVED?

CONNECT - Parents, teachers, students and administrators meet, discuss and act together. There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.

LEARN – Montgomery County Councils of PTAs offers great monthly programs and forums to educate parents on what is happening in our county.

GROW – By volunteering, you put your skills to use for a noble cause – your child and all children..

SPEAK – Through PTA, you speak for every child – diverse, united, speaking with one voice.

IMPROVE – By getting involved, you will be part of the solution, helping make positive changes.

MODEL – Be a role model by demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.

