Top 10 Things Your PTA Should Do at Back-to-School Time

1. Submit your Unit’s officers to Kansas PTA (use our online form!)

2. Set a PTA calendar and establish how you will communicate with your teachers, parents and community. Be sure to work with the school to align PTA activities with the school’s.

3. Plan a Membership drive using “Put Yourself in the PTA Picture” materials provided by Kansas PTA.

4. Set up a PTA membership sign-up table at your school’s Back to School night (and most all-school events). Have membership and volunteer sign-up forms available, as well as voter registration assistance.

Continued on Page 2
Hello!

From Kansas PTA President, Monica Crowe

It’s that time of year again, Back to School! We have a lot of great information available on our Facebook page and our website.

This year’s membership theme is Put Yourself in the PTA Picture. There is a link to download images that you can use on your materials to show off those picture perfect people who are part of your PTA units.

Be sure to also check out the newly named PTA Leaders Guide. This is your go-to guide for just about everything that will help you have a successful PTA year.

The National PTA has revamped its official Local PTA Leaders Guide. Go to pta.org to register. It has some new items to help with Membership!

We made history in April with the first combined state convention, “We Kan do MOre Together”. We have included some photos to share in case you weren’t able to join us.

In June, seven delegates and one student from Kansas traveled to New Orleans, LA, to attend the National PTA Convention. Six attendees were State Board members; we had three first timers (2 delegates and 1 student); and our immediate Past President Denise Sultz, currently serves as National PTA Treasurer/Secretary. We attended workshops, general meetings and even snuck in some sightseeing and lots of fun!

We will be doing a Fall Leadership training on Oct. 6th—we invite you to join us!

My hope is that everyone has a successful and fun PTA school year, we are here for you if you need assistance.

Monica Crowe
KS PTA President.

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Top 10 Back to School, continued

5. Address parents & teachers at first major school event of the year. Share what PTA is about and the wonderful things you do for the students, ask for membership and volunteer sign up, and share info about already scheduled events like meetings & fund raisers.

6. Complete your PTA audit of last school year’s books and submit it to state; update check signers on your PTA bank account.

7. Create a budget & get it approved by a quorum at your first PTA meeting.

8. Submit your initial membership dues to KS PTA (use our handy form found on www.kansas-pta.org).


10. Mark your calendars to attend KS PTA’s Fall Leadership training on October 6th. More details inside this issue!

With these 10 steps your PTA will be off to a great start to the year!
Introducing the 2018-2019 KS PTA Membership Theme

Put Yourself in the PTA Picture!

Kansas PTA wants you to put YOUR PTA in the PTA Picture! Use this theme to encourage parents, teachers and community members to put themselves in the PTA picture and support—and get involved—with PTA at your school.

We’ve provided a collection of artwork that you can use for your membership materials, including customizable pieces to add YOUR PTA photos to show how your school, your students and your PTA are #InThePTAPicture!

Download the artwork at www.kansas-pta.org/membership18-19
Kansas PTA is getting a new website!

Our website team is working to bring you an all-new website that will deliver the information you need about all-things PTA. We’ll be pushing updates on the new site’s progress on our Facebook page and we anticipate completion in November. The URL (www.kansas-pta.org) won’t change—but everything else about the site will!

Spread the Word about our KS PTA Website Renovation gofundme campaign!

www.gofundme.com/kansas-pta-website-renovation

KS PTA FALL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018

The Kansas PTA Board of Managers will be holding our annual Fall Leadership Training on Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. at the Johnson County Central Resource Library (9875 W 87th St. in Overland Park).

We have a unique day of training for PTA leaders and all PTA members who wish to learn more in the areas of: Leadership, Membership, Grant Writing for Your PTA and a special Leg & Learn segment on how to make advocacy easier.

We’ll also showcase a mini Vendor Fair, featuring local partners.

The event is FREE to your PTA, includes lunch and there will be great prizes!

Full details will be released soon and registration is required. The registration form will be emailed to members with email on file and shared on Facebook.
Kansas PTA

Legislative Update

The Gannon VI decision was handed down from the Kansas Supreme Court in June. It ruled that the Kansas Legislature’s work regarding school funding met equity concerns, and adequacy was met in the first school year, 2018-2019, but essentially needed to be adjusted for inflation for subsequent years. The Courts have allowed the Legislature to work on this next legislative session starting in January.

The Legislature created a Dyslexia task force to study how schools address dyslexia, and had its first meeting in July.

Kansas PTA testified in Topeka last session in opposition to HCR 5029, a proposed Constitutional Amendment that would declare the power to appropriate funding for education is exclusively a legislative power and not subject to judicial review. [Link](http://www.kansas-pta-legislative.org/?q=content/testimony-hcr-5029) This had little momentum last session, but may come up again next session.

Here is National PTA’s position statement regarding gun safety and violence prevention [Link](https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/pta%27s-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/Position-Statement-Gun-Safety-and-Violence-Prevention)

August 7th is the primary election. As of this writing, it is expected that only a fourth of Kansas voters will turn out in this critical election. Low turnout does not favor candidates that generally align with our goals. November 6th is the general election. Stay engaged, learn more about the candidates, and vote for ones that support our schools and our PTA Legislative Platform and Priorities [Link](http://www.kansas-pta-legislative.org/?q=legislative-priorities)

Please reach out to your elected officials to meet parents at your PTA meetings and invite them to back-to-school nights, carnivals, and other events. School board members and area House Representatives and Senators often provide crucial insight into the district workings, and the goings-on in Topeka. They enjoy hearing from parents and patrons, and they are elected to represent YOU!

Contact the Kansas PTA Legislative Team to help provide legislative updates to your local units, Q & A, and to learn more about policy gets created in Topeka, and how your

PTA voice can be heard!

Web [Link](http://www.kansas-pta-legislative.org/)

Facebook [Link](https://www.facebook.com/kansaspta/)

Twitter [Link](https://twitter.com/ksptaleg)

Devin "Brick" Wilson
Legislative Team
ksucats96@gmail.com

Like & Follow

Kansas PTA on Facebook

to stay up-to-date on programs, events, announcements and more, happening in Kansas PTA!

Current Stats:

1,604 Likes
Help us reach
1,800 by December!
PTA Advocacy Day 2019
The Date is Set!

The next Advocacy Day will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019. With newly elected lawmakers in Topeka, this will be a great opportunity to visit the Capitol. We’ve set the date early to allow everyone a chance to plan ahead, so mark your calendars!

Whether you are an engaged, up-to-the minute Twitter following political enthusiast who is intimately aware of all the legislative issues, or someone who doesn’t even know who the current Kansas Governor is – Advocacy Day is for YOU!

We will have coordinated activities planned throughout the day, including Capitol Tours, relevant committee meetings, and meetings with policy and decision makers. It’s always a thrill to sit in the Senate and the House when they’re ‘gaveled’ in. Of course, attending Advocacy Day doesn’t mean you have to do all of these things, just take your pick! Lunch will be provided for members in attendance.

There is more to come regarding the logistics, planning, and excitement of Advocacy Day, so mark your calendars, plan to participate and stay tuned!

For those who feel the really want to learn more before attending, Kansas PTA will be providing a great learning opportunity during the Leadership Training October 6th. Come and learn more about why you don’t have to be an expert to make an impact during Advocacy Day. We will be sure to “Take the Scary out of Advocacy!”

So, there you have it. Lots of dates from the Advocacy Team thrown at you. Election dates, training dates, and yes – a 2019 Advocacy Day date.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Brian Hogsett
Vice President of Advocacy, Kansas PTA
bhogsett12@gmail.com

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**Immunization Requirements**

Back to School is a time to make sure your child is up to date on their immunizations. The state of Kansas requires immunizations to attend school. Healthy children are better able to learn. Immunizations help keep all kids healthy by preventing common childhood illnesses. Please see the Kansas Dept of Health & Environment for all required vaccines. It is also important that your children eat a healthy breakfast including protein and carbohydrates to fuel their brain for learning. Proper sleep is another healthy habit that improves school performance. Make sure your child is getting 9-12 hours of sleep per day if they are under 12, and 8-10 hours if they are 13-18 years old.

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**Take Note:**

**Citizenship & Reflections Programs Deadline Dates Have Swapped**

Reflections Program – “Heroes Around Me"
Due to the Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairman December 1, 2018

Citizenship Program – “My Motivation"
Due to the Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairman February 15, 2019

(Full guidelines and forms are available on in the Leaders Guide at www.kansas-pta.org)
2018 Fall Election

It is not too early to get the election dates on the calendar, especially if you plan to travel this fall. The primary election was August 7th and the general election is November 6th. This fall Kansas will elect U.S. Representatives, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Insurance, one State Senator (Dist. 13), all 125 Kansas Representatives, State Board of Education for 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, seven Kansas Court of Appeals Judges as well as District Judges and District Magistrate Judges.

The stakes in Topeka have never been higher, so while it is essential that you cast an educated vote you can do more. As PTA is a non-partisan organization, we cannot campaign for or endorse candidates. You might be asking, “Well then, if PTA can’t do any of that, how can I do more than cast my vote?” That is an excellent question. There are many things that can be done to help. It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3! The three main areas that will make a difference include:

1. Voter Registration

Making sure those in your community are registered to vote with their current address is the first important step. If someone is educated about the issues and candidates and they go to the polls on Election Day, none of that will matter if they are not registered. By asking, “are you registered to vote yet?” or “do you know where you need to go to vote this election?” may spark a conversation that can lend assistance to getting a friend, family member, neighbor or other members of the community registered to vote or reminded to update their registration after a recent move. The deadline to register or update registration is July 17th for the primary and October 16th for the general.

⇒ Set up a voter registration table at school events (have forms or even a computer ready to go)
⇒ Contact your high school to identify what is in place to help students turning 18 get registered
⇒ Post on social media so your friends and followers can be reminded about getting registered

You can use this link to get to register or change registration: https://www.kdor.ks.gov/Apps/VoterReg/Default.aspx

To register to vote online, you must have a valid Kansas driver's license or non-driver's identification card. If you do not have either of these documents, you may register to vote using the paper form. You must re-register each time you change your name, address, or party affiliation for voting. If you are registering for the first time in Kansas, you must submit evidence of US citizenship.

Affiliation and why it matters during the primary election

Primary elections are held to narrow down the number of candidates when there is more than one that is running in a particular party. Each party will have a specific ballot for voters who are affiliated with that party. In order to receive a specific party’s ballot, a voter must be affiliated with that party. So, in order to vote for the Democratic candidates, you must be registered as a Democrat and likewise with the Republican Party. If a voter is not sure which party’s ballot they would like to participate in prior to Election Day, they must have updated their registration to non-affiliated before June 1, 2018. Only those who are registered as non-affiliated can declare a party on Election Day.

Continued on page 8
2. Voter Education

The next step, Voter Education is actually already started if you have been actively working on the first step of Registration since that involves informing people of important dates, including registration deadlines. It is important that the communities have an opportunity to learn about the candidates who will be on the ballot. There are a few ways that you can help with voter education. Keeping your community informed on where to get accurate, fact based information is extremely important, especially with all of the post cards they will be bombarded with throughout the summer and early fall.

⇒ Distribute Kansas PTA information and links
⇒ Identify trustworthy local news sources and share articles and survey responses
⇒ Host candidate forums
⇒ Remind, remind, remind and then remind again!!!

Kansas PTA will be hard at work putting together information including important Vote Counts publications that show how legislators voted on legislation relevant to public education and other topics that would impact Kansas children. There are a large number of races for various positions all across Kansas and the Kansas PTA and local Legislative Chairs cannot be everywhere 24/7. That is why finding and monitoring trustworthy news sources can be very helpful in providing community members with useful information about local candidates. Survey results and forum events can be very helpful.

Hosting candidate forums is something that every PTA unit is able to do. There are certain rules that must be followed. One big one is to make sure all candidates for the position(s) you are focused on are invited. Additional dos and don’ts apply and can be found here: https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-resources/Election-Guides.

Kansas PTA will also be coordinating a forum/debate for the candidates in the Governor’s race. Stay tuned for details.

3. Get out the Vote

Lastly, make sure everyone knows the election dates. Voting in person at the polls on Election Day is always a good option. For those who aren’t able to get out and about easily, or those who aren’t certain if they will be in town or able to go to the polls, advanced voting is an option.

Advanced voting started July 18th for the primary and will start on October 17th for the general. As long as we are reminding everyone of all these opportunities to cast a vote, there is no reason for someone to miss out on casting their ballot.
Your First 30 Days as Treasurer

Working in partnership with other PTA leaders, your PTA Treasurer helps to ensure that PTA has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission: to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

If you take each of these steps in (roughly) your first month in office, you'll be off to a fantastic start!

#1: Plug in.

Your state PTA and National PTA are here to help and support you. Getting connected right away will make your job much easier! Here’s how:

**Contact your State PTA.** Provide your State PTA with names and contact information for you and your fellow officers. Ask who to call if you have any questions. Find out what training opportunities are scheduled in the near future that can help you and your board get off to a good start.

**Explore National PTA Resources.** Start with this Local PTA Leader Kit, but learn more from National PTA through eLearning courses, the One Voice Blog, e-newsletters, and Our Children Magazine.

**Get Social.**

- **Facebook:** Follow the National Parent Teacher Association to get updates and connect with other PTAs.
- **Twitter:** Follow @NationalPTA for updates on education-related issues and PTA efforts.
- **Pinterest:** Follow National PTA for the latest parenting and leadership ideas.
- **Instagram & Flickr:** Follow National PTA and share photos from your own events.
- **YouTube:** Check out the National PTA channel for informational webinars and get inspired by other PTAs and #PTAProud stories.

For even more ideas and connections, search for your state and other local PTAs on your favorite social media platforms.

#2: Gather.

There are several items you’ll want to put your hands on right away to be sure important records aren’t lost in the transition. Collaborate with past officers to gather these records. If any records are missing, contact your State PTA for guidance. Records to gather include:

- **Your PTA Bylaws** (and any accompanying standing rules) to find important information about how finances are to be handled and how funds are to be disbursed.
- **Current year’s budget** to guide any immediate expenditures, as well as prior year budgets, to help you get ready to draft a budget for next year.
- **Receipt book** to acknowledge money received.
- **Checkbook** to disburse funds as authorized by the current year’s budget and bylaws.
- **Treasurer’s account book** in which to keep the PTA’s financial records. If this is an electronic file or system, schedule time to be trained on how it works.
- **IRS tax information,** including your unit’s IRS determination letter of tax-exempt and/or application (if you have it), federal employer identification number (EIN), and copies of filed Form 990 or other required tax forms. You should also have information regarding your state tax status, including sales tax.
- **The most recent audit report and recommendations.** If an audit did not occur after the latest transition of officers, make sure to get one done. You will want to start fresh with a new set of books. Be sure the previous accounts are "closed" or "zeroed" out and audited.
- **Bank statements and electronic access.** Gain access to and then change the usernames and passwords for all accounts - for many units, this includes both a checking and a savings or reserve account.

*Continued, page 10*
#3: Protect.

Take these few important steps right away to safeguard your PTA’s nonprofit status and protect your local PTA from theft, fraud and liability.

Make sure IRS Form 990 was filed properly for the most recent year. See Your 501(c)(3) status and/or the 501(c)(3) Basics for Local PTAs eLearning Course for more information.

Change the signatures on your PTA’s bank accounts. You will want to be sure previous officers no longer have access to your accounts. A transition letter from the outgoing treasurer or president to the bank may be necessary to enact this change. Also, make sure the bank has your PTA’s EIN on file, rather than an individual’s social security number.

Ask your state PTA what is required for insurance and when the payment is due. Insurance can protect your board members, events, and PTA property.

#4: Build Your Team.

You don’t have to do this alone! A finance committee works with the Treasurer to make sure the association is in good financial health, in good standing with the IRS and other government authorities, that its assets are protected, and that its resources are used appropriately.

Look for volunteers who have a willingness to understand and accept responsibility for financial reporting and tax-exempt filing requirements.

Consider volunteers with expertise in the financial area.

Seek other PTA members with experience writing grants, assisting with sponsorship and helping to raise funds.

Continued from Page 9

Your First 90 Days as Treasurer

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

One of our Kansas PTA Past Presidents had a conversation with a PTA member that brought up an unusual point of view. Most of us believe that our best communication path is through email and through Facebook....but the question is: have you asked your membership if that is the best communication path for them?

Facebook and email are indeed a fast and quick way to get information out....but is it the best? What if your member doesn’t use Facebook? Many people have backed away from Facebook recently in light of harsh political communications, the fear of lack of privacy, and/or the amount of time they have to read all of the posts of the day.

And I am sure you all have built an email list only to have email addresses bounce back at you because the member has changed that address for some reason, or maybe you have mistyped or misread their handwriting. And what if they don’t read your email quickly enough to respond? Or get so much email from you (and others) that they have stopped reading all of it? When you send out communication, is it timely and is it relevant?

As many of our PTA leaders have moved to electronic communications....please think....are we leaving some of our parents behind? Maybe it’s a good time to have honest discussion with input from many sources about communication and it’s various forms.

Some forms of communication that you might consider checking out could be:

- telephone tree
- group texts
- email
- survey monkey
- or even, that old-fashion paper copy

Good communication takes effort and some planning. But the rewards could be immense. Food for thought?

Denise Sultz,
Membership Chair

(with support and input from that fabulous Kansas PTA Past President and the Kansas PTA Vice President of Member Services)
Diversity: Not Just On The Outside

Angie Rodriguez-Gunion, KS PTA Diversity Chair

Growing up there was diversity in KCKS Public School District, but it seemed to me that it was looked at by ethnicity. At that time we were asked a few questions about our families when filling out forms. When we look at our schools today we see a whole variety of faces, but there is a growing movement to look beyond our ethnicity and define and support the diversity that we do not see.

When I started becoming involved in PTA, I can honestly say I did see ethnicity first. Honestly, I think most of us do, because that is the first part of demographic next to gender that we notice. Now we are going beyond, and for a good reason. We, the PTA, are for Every Child, One Voice but we need to know who the children and families are we serve. Families with parents in the military, gifted, blended, Special Education, one parent, two same-sex parents, adopted, foster, LGBTQ, social economically and with disabilities either mental or physical, the list goes on.

The challenge is how we guide our children to look beyond skin color and understand differences that they, and maybe we, do not fully understand.

In an article by Christopher J. Metzler, Ph.D. titled Teaching Children about Diversity, written for PBS Parent online, he points the following:

Start with us. Children listen to what we say as well as watch what we do. So as parents, we must deal with our own diversity deficits, so that we can lead by not just saying but also by doing.

Get out of our comfort zone. For all the talk about diversity, Americans still segregate ourselves into fairly homogenous communities. Teaching our children to accept differences may require that we use the power of the internet to learn about differences, that we seek out cultural activities that are out of our community and explore the strength and value in diversity.

Listen and respond. When children ask about differences, start by listening to the question they are asking and the language they are using. If in asking questions about differences they are using hurtful or stereotypical language, explore with them why such language is hurtful. Explain in an age-appropriate manner why stereotypes don’t tell the whole story and are divisive.

Don’t be blind to differences. Parents often tell me that they want their children to be “difference blind.” This is both unrealistic and misses the point. Children will notice that Jouain has a different sounding name or that Yasmeen always wears a head scarf to school, or that Rajiv eats foods that look and smell different from what they eat. They will have a natural curiosity about this. As parents, we must help them appreciate and learn about those differences, not pretend that they do not exist. The question is not whether differences exist; it is what message we are sending by teaching children to be “blind” to differences.

Avoid political correctness. Parents who teach children to be politically correct when interacting with differences are making the situation worse. Rather than teach children the correct labels or names for people, let’s teach them that differences are only a part of who we are. It is not the total of who we are.

Parents teach children how to brush their teeth, to comb their hair, to be responsible and to be successful. We do so by introducing and reinforcing behavior that helps achieve these goals. We should do the same when it comes to appreciating diversity. It is only then that we can move from tolerance to acceptance.

2018 Virginia Peak
Outstanding Leadership Award

The recipient of the Kansas PTA Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award for 2018 goes to...

Dr. Mary Sinclair

Mary is a member of the Shawnee mission Board of Education and supports and contributes on our KS PTA Legislative team.

Mary has been involved in PTA since 2002, on all levels, including local unit, council and state. Mary is a true PTA supporter and child advocate.

The KS PTA Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership award is given annually to recognize someone who has given exemplary service to the youth of Kansas.

Congratulations, Mary!

Wall of Fame

The Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame is a special recognition program to honor educators, parents, students, and volunteers who have made special contributions in the lives of children. Each year PTA members from across the state nominate these outstanding volunteers to the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame.

I am happy to announce that the following individuals were named to this year’s Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame:

Alexandria Bartels, Atchison H.S.
Allison Knight, Turner High School
Camille Caldwell, Quindaro Elementary
Dale Thompson, Nelson Elementary
Denise Sultz, SMAC Council
Diana Fabac, Turner PTSA
Dr. Kent Yocum, Comanche Elementary
Ernie Goren, Golden Oakes/ Past President
Larry E. Smith SR., Welborn
Lauri DeNooy, Kansas PTA
Mary Ricketts, Eisenhower M.S.
Melissa Green, Comanche Elementary
Mia Wooldridge, Shawnee Mission West H.S
Michael Jurich, Piper West Elementary
Mindy Harmon, Junction Elementary
Mrs. Anaya, Piper West Elementary
Rachel Russell, KCK Council
Ruthie Johnson, Prairie Creek
Ryan Kalis, Sunflower Elementary
T.J. Villa, Turner Elementary
Vikki Mullins, Turner Council

Congratulations on being named to the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame! PTA members greatly value your dedication and commitment and thank you for making a very important difference in the lives of our children!

The proceeds from these nominations are contributions to the Kansas PTA Future Teacher Scholarship Fund and Teacher Graduate Study in Education Fund.

For more information on nominating someone to the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame or about the scholarship program, contact our state office at 785-234-5782 or visit our website (www.kansas-pta.org).

Patty Jurich, Kansas PTA Scholarship Chairman
National PTA
Local Leader Kit

(Formerly the Back-to-School Kit)

Renamed the Local Leader Kit this year, National PTA offers local units a full resource guide on all-things-PTA. You must register to gain access to the online kit. Head to www.pta-kit.org to register.

This is a resource you will access all year long for Leadership, Finance, Membership, Programs, Fundraising, Advocacy and Communications insights and guidance. Each segment offers a Quick Reference Guide plus TONS of valuable info.

PTA Leaders Guide - Must Have Info!

Previously called the Summer Packet, the Kansas PTA Leaders Guide including materials PTA leaders need to effectively run and plan their PTA Units, including
• Executive Board
• Advocacy
• Arts & Awards
• Family Engagement
• General PTA Info
• Membership
• By-laws & Standing Rules (must have a password to open these docs. Contact KS PTA office to obtain the password).

When you submit your Unit Officers Info to the State Office you will receive an email with information about the Leaders Guide and the password to access the By-laws. The Leaders Guide is on our website at www.kansas-pta.org/leaders-guide.

Be a Successful Unit Secretary!

The PTA Secretary has a very important job: to record the business of the organization. That may sound a bit daunting, but by following the basic procedures, it’s not a complicated duty!

Kansas PTA has put together a helpful presentation, “The Role of the PTA Secretary”, to walk you through the role of Secretary and includes tips for Successful Note Taking, Sample Minutes, Motion Slips, Procedure Book Contents and more.


The Presentation also includes how to use Social Media in your PTA.

KS PTA FALL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018

Johnson County Central Resource Library
In Overland Park
6 Tips to Help Special Education Students Get Back in the School Routine

By Cindy Villa – Special Education Chair, Kansas PTA

Getting into the swing of things after having the summer off can sometimes be difficult. Regular bedtimes often must be reinstated, and meal schedules may need to be reset. Getting the Monday-Friday mindset can unnerve even the smoothest of households after spending a few weeks letting one day slide lazily into the next.

For Special Education students, the transition is fraught with changes to which they may not easily acclimate. Below are six tried and true tips to help ease back into the school year.

1. **Two weeks before school begins, start the school year bedtime ritual**; that means a regular bedtime every night (not just on weeknights). Do the same with mealtimes...try to have meals at the same time every day. As they become part of the daily schedule, your child will accommodate to the pattern of eat, sleep, and school that much easier.

2. **Start talking about the school year – be positive and use phrases that encourage your children**. Saying things like ‘you are so lucky to be going to school where you’ll see your friends’ works much better than saying ‘you’re going to be around a bunch of new people. Be reassuring! Remind your child that going back to school is a good thing, and that you’re looking forward to hearing and seeing what they accomplish.

3. **If possible, arrange a tour of the school before the ‘back to school’ night**. It is comforting for children to be a least a little familiar with their surroundings before being there with several hundred other students. Show them the classrooms, bathrooms, office and cafeteria; if you know where their classroom is, let them explore a bit. If they can meet their primary teacher, that’s a huge plus.

4. **The Watson Institute in Pennsylvania** recommends using a visual calendar to count down the days until school starts. Having your child/children be part of the planning and implementation is huge and empowering for them.

5. **An article at Reading Rockets** reminds parents to review their child’s IEP and to begin a communications log.

6. **Lastly, have fun with the back to school rituals.** Smiles are contagious, so be sure to share plenty of those with your children!

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1. [https://www.thewatsoninstitute.org/special-education-transition-tips-for-back-to-school/](https://www.thewatsoninstitute.org/special-education-transition-tips-for-back-to-school/)
STEM + Families
Active Grants for PTAs

Do you want $1,000 to host a fun, interactive STEM event for your students and families? National PTA is committed to empowering families to support student success in STEM education and is offering these new grant opportunities:

STEM + Families Science Festivals
National PTA and Bayer have teamed up to promote Science Festivals with two unique grants available depending on your type of PTA. The 2018-2019 National PTA STEM + Families Science Grants sponsored by Bayer will award $1,000 to 30 local PTAs to host a STEM + Families Science Festival, and $3,000 to five State, District, Council or Region PTAs to partner with local PTAs in hosting Science Festivals.

STEM + Families Math Grants
National PTA and Mathnasium are partnering to empower families to support student success and fill a critical gap in STEM education. The 2018 National PTA STEM + Families Math Grants sponsored by Mathnasium award local PTAs $1,000 to host one STEM + Families Math event with students and families at their Elementary School.

To Learn More & Apply for these Grants, go to: https://www.pta.org/home/programs/stem/STEM-Families-Grant-Opportunities

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“Techy” Needed
NEW Technology Committee in Search of Tech Chairperson

Kansas PTA has recently formed a Technology Committee and is currently seeking a qualified tech-savvy individual to serve as the Chairperson. While this position is formally appointed by the KS PTA President, we are reaching out to our membership to help us find and fill the role. The purpose of the committee is to ensure consistency in the selection, implementation, transition and use of technology. The type of technology the Technology Committee shall manage includes, but is not limited to:

- Kansas PTA website, including domain registration, hosting services, content management platform and professional web development vendor(s)
- Computer hardware peripherals and accessories - (i.e. laptop and desktop computers, tablet, cell phones, printer/copiers, headsets and speakers, servers, input devices and monitors)
- Audio/Visual (video recorders, audio recorders, cameras)
- Software, both cloud based subscriptions installed executable programs
- Social media accounts/subscriptions/memberships

If you are a tech-savvy person – or know someone who is – and have a desire to lend your time and talents as a volunteer in an organization dedicated to the well-being of Kansas kids and education, please contact Brian Hogsett, KS PTA VP of Advocacy, at bhogsett12@gmail.com.
2018 “MOKAN” Convention Wrap-up

270 Delegates from Kansas & Missouri
6 National PTA reps
28 Workshops
30 Vendors

The weekend of April 28-29, 2018 was a historic event — it was the first-ever combined state convention! Kansas PTA and Missouri PTA came together to host their annual conventions at the Stoney Creek Convention Center in Independence, MO. The beautiful weekend provided a great setting for delegates from both states to come together and share resources from their state with the other. Over 28 workshops were provided covering current topics including Engaging At Risk Students, School Safety, Membership, Healthy Schools & Homes, Advocacy, School Counselors, Emotional Intelligence in Leadership, Social Media, Bylaws, Conflict Management and many others. Our vendor fair showcased 30 companies and agencies supporting PTAs in both states.

Kansas PTA proudly awarded Dr. Frankie Lizar, educator at Turner High School as our Outstanding Educator of the Year 2018 and Megan Fabac, Senior at Turner High School as Outstanding Student of the Year 2018, at our Saturday evening awards banquet.

Some additional highlights: Our Marjorie Holwick Wall of Fame awarded 22 nominees for a total of $220, which goes toward our Future Teacher Scholarship Fund. Our Scholarship Fund also bequeathed $1,550.00 from our Silent Auction.

It was a #PTAProud weekend and we thank all delegates who joined us. We hope to see even more of you when we are back in Kansas City, KS for our 2019, Annual Convention. Details will be shared as they are available.
Save the Date for our 2019 State PTA Convention

April 12-13, 2019 in Kansas City, KS

**New in 2019: convention is Friday & Saturday only**
More Convention Pics

#WeKANDoMOreTogether
# Kansas PTA Board Roster

## STATE OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Monica Crowe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts in Ed. &amp; Awards Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>YAC Chairman</td>
<td>TJ Villa</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## FIELD SERVICE REPS

| Region 1 Field Service Rep             | Mary Ricketts         | 913-707-6343   | mtjricketts@gmail.com           |
| Region 2 & 5 Field Service Rep        | Julie Howard (Interim)| 913-544-9072   | kuslider@junocom                |
| Region 3 & 6 Field Service Rep        | Lauri DeNooy (Interim)| 913-548-7277   | Lauri.denooy@gmail.com          |
| Region 4 Field Service Rep            | Lauri DeNooy (Interim)| 913-548-7277   | Lauri.denooy@gmail.com          |
| Region 7 Field Service Rep            | Josie Gutierrez       | 913-787-6367   | josiechad@yahoo.com             |
| Region 8 Field Service Rep            | Tash Davis            | 913-626-9666   | tashjdavis@gmail.com            |

## COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City Council</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Kansas PTA State Office**
715 S.W. Tenth Street Topeka, KS 66612
1-888-311-5782 or 785-234-5782 Fax: 785-234-4170
kansaspta@gmail.com; www.kansas-pta.org

**National PTA Headquarters**
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(800) 307-4PTA (4782)
info@pta.org; www.pta.org
Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers

715 SW Tenth

Topeka, KS 66612-1686

Aug—Sept 2018

If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office.

Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.