

# PELHAM GARDENS MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION

President                      Letecia Stewart  
Treasurer                    TBD  
Secretary                    TBD



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September 2017

Dear PGMS Parent:

Welcome to the Pelham Gardens Middle School Parent Association! As long as your child is member of PGMS, you are a member of the PGMS Parent Association, and with this membership comes great responsibility.

The PA works together to accomplish goals beneficial to our children and to the school. We need every parent involved in order to be impactful. Multiple research studies have shown that parent involvement at school, in addition to home engagement, has had positive outcomes on student performance. So do not underestimate how important you are to your child's success. They need your participation and guidance. You have gotten them this far, so don't stop now.

Be an active parent member so the school always knows that we have a voice. And when we speak, we speak on behalf of our children. We are their advocates, and we are the school's partners in the fight for student success and well-being.

On the back of this letter, you will find some suggestions on how you can be an active parent member at PGMS. Please look them over and decide what you can do to have maximum engagement as a PA member.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact the PA Board at [PA@pgms566.org](mailto:PA@pgms566.org). I wish you and your child all the best this school year and look forward to staying connected throughout the coming months.

Letecia Stewart  
President, PGMS Parent Association

**P.S. – I hope to see you at the first Parent Association meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm.**

## Here are some suggestions for how you can be an active parent member:

- Understand the learning goals for your child this year and encourage your child to take a more active role in their education. They should feel comfortable going to their teachers with questions, seeking additional help when needed, and thinking about the path to their future career interests.
- Attend all scheduled parent-teacher conferences and maintain regular contact with your child's teachers between conferences to stay on top of their academic and social progress. Don't be afraid to ask questions and request answers.
- Ask your child questions on a regular basis about their feelings on school and what they are learning (is it too easy, too difficult, are they enjoying classes, are they getting along with classmates/teachers) so you can address any issues in a timely manner. Make the time to talk—even if it is just for 5 minutes.
- Regularly log into Pupil Path to review your child's assignments and grades. Follow up with them about the progress you see, both negative AND positive.
- Speak with the guidance counselor about the transition to high school. The earlier you prepare, the easier it will be when it is time to make that change.
- Check the school website ([www.pgms566.org](http://www.pgms566.org)) at least once per week. Our wonderful parent Coordinator does a great job of posting updates about school and student activities. Definitely check out the PA section of the website for summaries of the monthly meetings.
- Talk to your child about safety priorities including crossing the street, walking home alone, intro to dating, etc.
- Share your experience and resources with other parents, students and the school.
- Attend or volunteer to help at family events, on school trips, or in your child's classroom.
- Show school spirit! Donate money towards the school's sports teams and extracurricular activities to keep resources readily available for the kids throughout the year.
- Attend monthly School Leadership Team meetings. SLT meetings are now open to all parents to attend, not just the parents on the SLT team. Take advantage of this open forum to hear what is being planned by the school's administration.
- Attend monthly Parent Association meetings. Share any concerns and new ideas. This year, we will be conducting a few Saturday meetings to accommodate the parents whose schedules do not allow them to attend the regular Thursday evening meetings.