



Dear New NEST+m Families,

Welcome to the Middle Grades and our Parent community!

Middle School is such a pivotal transitional moment for students and families, and given the additional challenges we're facing both as a community and as a society, we understand that you're making this transition at a time when new norms are being implemented, but our commitment to give back and offer support is unwavering.

Our PTA is widely known to be active, effective and involved, and we invite you all to join us and be a part of our community.

As a PTA, we work hard throughout the year to fill the "funding gap" that has developed in public education. Private donations and outside grants are imperative to delivering the high-quality programs and activities that you and your children expect and deserve from us.

Due to the current pandemic and our need to be more socially aware and safe, we have many, as yet, unanswered questions about how many of those programs and activities will be affected or implemented this year, and many of our usual fundraising efforts will likely be postponed, cancelled or altered.

However, despite these uncertainties, we are confident that we will find ways to continue offering meaningful programs, but will have to be more innovative, creative and agile this year in order to raise the funds that are invaluable to our community.

Contributions to the PTA's General Fund supplement or subsidize the many budgetary shortfalls that the DOE does not cover for both middle and school wide programs, including enrichment programs like our academic and sports teams; after school programs; faculty led academic support/tutoring; ongoing teacher development, amongst others - while continuing to support our outstanding music and arts programs.

Our fundraising efforts are usually activated in June, however, the current circumstances are not usual. In-school learning has been disrupted; families have been disrupted.

As such, instead of reaching out at this time to ask that you contribute to our General Fund, we are asking you to help with a more modest but imperative need:

Teacher Education Support :

We are asking all of our NEST+m families to contribute \$20 to help support our teachers. These fees will be used by our teachers to purchase school materials whether we are in remote learning or in the classrooms. Teachers continue to purchase supplies out of pocket and the PTA, as always, reimburses them. Once we are officially back in our NEST+m building, we will reach out to you for additional support associated with classroom supplies.

To contribute: <http://www.nestmpta.org/classroom-supplies.html>

Once we understand what our school year will look like, we will officially kick off our General Fund campaign, however, *if you would like to contribute to the Fund before then, please visit www.nestmpta.org.*

Over the next several weeks, as we move forward with guidance from the school and the DOE, we will contact you with more information about our fundraising initiatives and ways that you can support those efforts and get involved.

Until then, we encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, ideas or suggestions. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet you soon, in person, on campus.

6th Grade Parents

In September, please consider running for the position of 6th Grade Parent-at-Large on the PTA Executive Committee! It's a great and low key way to get involved, learn about the school, meet fellow parents and participate in decisions that impact our community. You can nominate yourself or a fellow parent.

For additional information, please email:

VPmiddle@nestmpta.org, vpfundraising@nestmpta.org or executivecommittee@nestmpta.org.

Thank you,
The NEST+m PTA Middle Grades Team

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