

Welcome to 2025 Leadership Convention

This session will begin soon



Putting the T in PTA

Christina Van Dam, Teacher Representative



Putting the “T” in PTA



Who am I?

*Instructional Coach at
Sprucewood Elementary School

*Teacher at Entrada High School

*Utah PTA Teacher
Representative

*Sprucewood PTA member

*An educator at heart



Why the 'T' in PTA?

“No school can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests.”

-Dorothy H. Cohen

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” Helen Keller

“Collaboration between parents and teachers creates magic in education.”



Topics to discuss

Why don't teachers join the PTA?

Role of Teacher VP on your PTA Board

Tips for improving parent teacher relationships

Teacher appreciation ideas

Questions, suggestions, or ideas to help others in their PTA



Why don't teachers and staff join?

- They forget to join.

The beginning of the school year is one of the busiest times of years for teachers. Many just simply forget to join.

- They don't know or understand that they can join

Some teachers misunderstand that the PTA is for parents, not teachers. They might think if they don't have children at the school they can't join. Many new teachers to the profession haven't heard about PTA and don't know they can join.

- They don't understand the importance of PTA

Some teachers don't understand the importance and mission of PTA to "help every child achieve their potential." They don't know that Utah PTA advocates for them at the capital every year. You may need to provide education for them about the mission and advocacy of the PTA and how it impacts them.



It's all in the ask

Consider instead of asking teachers and staff to join PTA, ask them to support PTA with the purchase of a membership. Typically, if the principal is on board and has purchased their membership, the teachers will follow suit and purchase their membership.



Teacher VP

- Needs to be a current teacher in your school
- Should attend all or part of your board meetings when possible
- Serves on your board and counts in your quorum numbers
- Is elected by the PTA membership and is presented through the nominating committee process
- Should be the liaison between PTA board and school staff
- Should help with advice and offer a teacher perspective on events and issues related to your PTA



Ways for Teacher VP to support

- Get the administrator on board so that the Teacher VP's class can be covered during the PTA meeting
- Involve the Teacher VP in conversations so that they are able to elicit the opinions and suggestions of faculty members in the building



Teacher/Staff Appreciation Ideas

- Anything
 - There is no perfect gift, however, anything that shows appreciation is appreciated
- Cards or notes from students
- Flood their inbox with positive emails from parents
- It can be done year round, not just the first week of May
- Lunch from their favorite close by fast food that parents could sign up for so everyone in the school is included
- Make sure no one is left out like speciality/booster teachers, aides, cafeteria, and other staff
- Prize drawings with donated prizes
- Spruce up the faculty room or teacher bathrooms
- Let parents help. You might even find some new volunteers this way.

What have you done for teacher/staff appreciation in the past?



PTA resources

[National PTA resources](#)



Why Teachers Need PTA

[Home](#) / [About PTA](#) / [Member Benefits](#) / [Why Teachers Need PTA](#)

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How Can PTA Help Teachers

Membership in PTA is not limited to just parents. Teachers play a vital role in a child's education and PTA, but they are often overlooked. **Programs** and **events** like **Teacher Appreciation Week** are just one of the ways PTA celebrates and supports teachers. Listed below are resources specifically designed to recruit and support teachers.

[Join PTA Today!](#) →



PTA Resources Teachers Should Know

National
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

Click to learn more about the below resources developed and updated by experts

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Class and Beyond

- PTA Multicultural Reference Guide

Advocacy Resources

- Action Alerts on Emerging Issues
- National PTA's Positions on Issues Impacting Children, Families and Schools

Relationships with Key Education Leaders

- Federal agencies including U.S. Departments of Education, Agriculture and Health and Human Services
- National organizations, national teachers' unions, superintendents, school principals and organizations that support teachers and National PTA's commitment to school communities



Educational, Enriching and Fun PTA Programs

- Reflections Art Program
- School of Excellence
- STEM + Families
- PTA Connected
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Family Reading Experience

Transformative Family Engagement

- Family Engagement Solutions
- National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- Notes from the Backpack: A National PTA Podcast

Leadership Training and Member Benefits

- Thrive: National PTA's community for online learning
- Events
- National PTA's e-Newsletters
- Our Children Online Magazine
- Opportunities for Awards and Funding

Teachers belong in PTA. Support PTA with your membership and join at [PTA.org/Join](https://pta.org/join).

  = **Student Success** 
Teachers + Families





Our PTA Amplifies Your Voice

~~Teachers~~ YOU Belong in PTA!

Why Join Our PTA? Because Our PTA Amplifies Your Voice.

Join our PTA to...

- Have a voice in decisions that affect you and your school community.
- Find a community of advocates who share your interests and concerns.
- Create positive change in our school, community and nation.

The teacher voice has been a critical part of every milestone in advocating for our children since PTA's founding over 127 years ago.

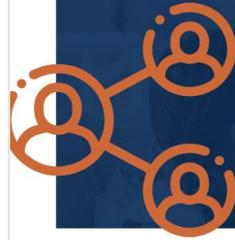
Teachers have unique knowledge and expertise that provide vital insight into the issues affecting families and school communities that our PTA is fighting for.

Why the teacher voice in PTA matters...

- The strength of PTA's advocacy is in the power of families and educators working together for the benefit of all children.

PTA works to secure funding for public education to ensure schools and educators have the proper resources needed to help children learn, grow and succeed.

Support PTA by joining today at pta.org/Join.



Our PTA Creates Connections

~~Teachers~~ YOU Belong in PTA!

Why Join Our PTA? Because Our PTA Creates Connections.

Join our PTA to...

- Build powerful relationships.
- Access evidence-based resources that support family-school partnerships.
- Become a part of the network of PTAs that support the whole child.

In creating connections for teachers, PTA...

- Strengthens the critical partnership between educators and caregivers to promote students' development.
- Empowers families and educators to work together in support of academic success.
- Brings school communities together with the shared goal of helping every child reach their full potential.

Support the "T" in "PTA" by joining today at pta.org/Join.



Our PTA Supports Your Students

~~Teachers~~ YOU Belong in PTA!

Why Join Our PTA? Because Our PTA Supports Your Students.

Join our PTA to...

- Get resources that support your students' growth at school and at home.
- Access resources to support students' and families' mental, social and emotional health.
- Get tips and resources to promote meaningful family engagement and support.

PTA supports the success of the whole school community, including teachers, with enriching, educational and fun programs.



Invest in PTA by joining today at pta.org/Join.



Questions, suggestions, or ideas to help others in their PTA/PTSA



Connect with us on social media



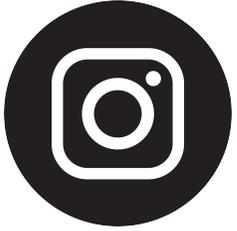
FACEBOOK

- Utah PTA
- Utah PTA Advocacy
- Utah PTA Super Secondary
- Utah PTA Excellent Elementary
- Utah PTA Treasurers
- Utah PTA Reflections
- Utah School Community Councils
- Utah PTA Teachers



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X - @UtahPTAOneVoice



PINTEREST - Utah PTA



YOUTUBE - Utah PTA One Voice



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