

THE PRINCIPAL AND THE TEACHER VP

Working with the Principal

The principal is a member of the PTA Executive Committee and, oftentimes, is the only constant in an ever-shifting leadership group. A supportive administrator encourages teachers and staff to participate in PTA activities and meetings, and cooperates with the PTA in the use of school facilities. Meetings may be held at the school with the permission of the principal or at any other location agreed upon by the membership.

A good working relationship between the principal and a healthy PTA can lead to a great learning environment for students and families. The PTA must work with all community members, especially those on the campus, in order to be successful. With our children and youth as our primary focus, to make every child's potential a reality, the decisions of the PTA center on the students' success. With this winning team mindset, you will see your community have an increase in family involvement, volunteers, and community engagement. The PTA president and the principal must communicate regularly and work together for the good of all concerned. Presidents need to remember that we are in the principal's school as a guest; however, the principal must also understand that we are governed by our bylaws, which may limit the PTA's response to some requests from the school.

The principal and the PTA president establish a positive partnership through:

- ♦ Communicating openly and honestly
- ♦ Understanding roles and responsibilities
- ♦ Establishing common goals and visions
- ♦ Working collaboratively for student achievement
- ♦ Respecting opinions and building trust
- ♦ Actively pursuing family and staff engagement
- ♦ Building positive community relationships

The Teacher VP

The Teacher VP provides an important connection between faculty and the PTA board and can give valuable feedback regarding PTA programs or procedures. Ask the Teacher VP to bring PTA information to the faculty and encourage them to join PTA. Try to schedule your board meetings so the Teacher VP can attend at least part of your meeting. Often the principal will recommend a teacher that has a prep time during the PTA board meeting time or will provide the teacher an aide so they can attend the meeting. Give them a time-certain on your agenda near the beginning of your meeting so they can leave early if they need to.