Together We Can ... Make a Difference

Why should you be involved in your child’s education? Educators tell us all of the reasons to be involved. Numerous studies have shown that when parents are involved, students:

- Achieve higher grades and test scores.
- Are more likely to graduate.
- Have higher attendance rates, increased motivation, and improved self-esteem.
- Have lower suspension rates, decreased drug and alcohol use, and fewer instances of violent behavior.
- Are more likely to pursue postsecondary education.

We also know that the relationship between students and teachers, and between parents and teachers, has a major impact on a student’s success. Involved parents can recognize that teachers are committed to the well-being of students. Parents can ensure their child’s success by providing a home that encourages learning and supports physical, mental, and emotional development and by working with the school and other groups that have an impact on their child.

It takes time and care to be an involved parent. Who are your child’s friends? What excites your child at school? Exploring questions such as these with your child can help ensure the success of your child in school, with friends, and in life. Education is a tremendous part of a child’s life. So explore some ways that you can make a difference. Your child and your child’s school will be pleased to have you as an active and involved parent. Every day offers a fresh opportunity to get involved with your child and his or her school.

Thank you for the opportunity to help you during the last two years to become more involved in your school and Parent Teacher Association (PTA). I would like to thank the members of the 15th District PTA Board of Managers for helping fulfill that involvement. Not only are they concerned about their own children’s success in school, but they are also concerned about your child’s success and experience in school. The 15th District PTA Board of Managers, like you, have put in countless volunteer hours. We want you and your child to succeed.

I am excited about the newly elected 15th District PTA Board taking office. Plan to attend the Kentucky PTA Leadership/Convention and 15th District Back-to-School/Back-to-PTA Conference. Get new ideas.

Enjoy the summer, but start planning the beginning of the school year now! Be prepared. Together We Can ... help ensure a successful future for every student.

Thank you,

Traci Priddy
15th District PTA President

Our New President’s Acceptance Speech

“Thank you to all who have elected me to this position. I believe that we are at the cusp of opportunity for the 15th District PTA to provide a much needed voice to the discussion regarding the state of education today. Each of us in this room, and those that could not be with us this evening, have stepped into a role of leadership and responsibility, a role that asks us to work together as a common cause. We each have unique talents, strengths, and skills to share. When we link our individual strengths together, we are unstoppable. Each of us is an essential piece needed to ensure that all of the children of Jefferson County are represented both locally and in Frankfort, and are part of the equation on a national level. I liken myself to that famous character from Roald Dahl’s Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. No, not Charlie, I’m not that nice. More like Veruca Salt: I want it all. I want every school in JCPS that has a PTA to have a strong PTA. I want membership at every school to be not just 100 percent, but 200 percent. I want those PTA’s that are struggling to be able to count on the PTA’s that are succeeding for advice and mentoring. I want all of us to cheer one another’s success, and help each other pick up and keep going when there has been a misstep. I want there to be busloads of JCPS PTA representatives at the Capital on Kentucky Kids’ Day 2010 speaking for our children. See, I want it all. However, I don’t want to end up like Veruca Salt did in the book, being tossed aside with the bad nuts. So to avoid that circumstance, I will work closely with the new board that has been assembled here this evening to keep us all in balance and focused. I also look forward to partnering with all of you in the year ahead as we do our very best to adhere to the motto of the PTA, everychild.onevoice. Thank you for being part of this journey, for I can’t imagine us without you.”

Myrdin Thompson
President Elect 2009–11
**Reflections**

As you start to develop your projects and programs for the next school year, don’t forget to include the Reflections Program.

This is a National PTA Arts in Education Program. Its purpose is to provide all children and youth with the opportunity to experience the self-fulfillment of creative expression through the arts. The primary goal of Reflections is for all children and youth to have the opportunity to participate. Although it is a program with recognition and awards at the local, district, state, and national levels, the importance of participation should be emphasized over winning. Students may submit entries in the areas of music, art, dance, film/video production, and physical education. Although it is the theme of Reflections to provide all children and youth with the opportunity to participate, the theme will be "Beauty is …”.

Packets will be sent out to all schools, PTA presidents, art teachers, English teachers, music teachers, and physical education (PE) teachers at the beginning of the school year. The deadline for entries to be sent to the 15th District PTA is October 22, 2009.

Please work together to provide this wonderful opportunity for your students.

If you need additional information, contact Sharon Whitworth, 15th District PTA Reflections chairman, at 485-7450.

**Byck Elementary Receives Phoebe Apperson-Hearst Award**

Byck Elementary School qualifies for the Family-School Partnership Award of Merit for its parent involvement programs. This award is based on the PTA’s National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement. Research continues to show that when families are involved in their children’s learning at home and in school, student success increases.

Byck should be proud of its many accomplishments and should celebrate its commitment to making family involvement in school a priority.

Congratulations on this national recognition.

**Congratulations to duPont Manual High School**

DuPont Manual High School has requalified for the National PTA Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification for its outstanding parent involvement programs that are based on the PTA’s National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement.

Let us know if your school PTA has done something to be proud of.

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**15th District PTA Awards Banquet**

The 15th District PTA Awards Banquet was held on May 5 at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center. Many awards, scholarships, and recognitions were given out. Some of those who were recognized are listed below.

**Butler Traditional High School**
- Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
  - Largest Unit in Kentucky: 4,361 Members
  - Kim Rasche, PTSA President
  - Steve Bocko, Principal

**Welcome to Our New PTA**
- Ramsey Middle PTSA

**2008-09 PTA Membership Equaled 2007-08 PTA Membership**
- Anchorage School
  - Atkinson Elementary
  - Auburndale Elementary
  - Audubon Traditional Elementary
  - Ballard High
  - Barret Traditional Middle
  - Bates Elementary
  - Binet School
  - Blue Lick Elementary
  - Brown School
  - Butler Traditional High
  - Byck Elementary
  - Carrithers Middle
  - Carter Traditional Elementary
  - Central High School Magnet Career Academy (MCA)
  - Chancey Elementary
  - Churchill Park School
  - Dixie Elementary
  - Doss High School MCA
  - Dunn Elementary
  - duPont Manual High
  - Eisenhower Elementary
  - Fairdale Elementary
  - Fairdale High School MCA
  - Farmer Elementary
  - Fernsley Middle
  - Fern Creek Elementary
  - Field Elementary
  - Franklin Elementary
  - Frost Middle
  - Grotz Elementary
  - Hartstern Elementary
  - Highland Middle
  - Indian Trail Elementary
  - Jacob Elementary
  - Jeffersontown Elementary
  - Jefferson County Traditional MCA
  - Johnstown Elementary
  - König Elementary
  - Kennedy Montessori Elementary
  - Kenwood Elementary
  - Kerrick Elementary
  - King Elementary
  - Knight Middle
  - Lassiter Middle
  - Layne Elementary
  - Liberty High
  - Louisville Male High
  - McFarlan Preparatory Academy
  - Medora Elementary
  - Newburg Middle
  - Okolona Elementary
  - Olmsted Academy North
  - Our Angels Childcare
  - Pleasure Ridge Park High School
  - Portland Elementary
  - Price Elementary
  - Seneca High School MCA
  - Shacklette Elementary
  - Shelby Elementary
  - Smyrna Traditional Elementary
  - St. Matthews Elementary
  - Stonestreet Elementary
  - Stopher Elementary
  - Waggner Traditional High
  - Western MST Magnet High
  - Wheeler Elementary
  - Wilt Elementary

**200 Members Over 2007-08**
- Audubon Traditional Elementary
- Ballard High
- Barret Traditional Middle
- Farmer Elementary
- Fernsley Middle
- Fern Creek Elementary
- Hartstern Elementary
- Jeffersontown Elementary
- Pleasure Ridge Park High School
- MCA
- Valley Traditional High

**President’s Award (100 over the last year)**
- Audubon Traditional Elementary
- Ballard High
- Barret Traditional Middle
- Blue Lick Elementary
- Brown School
- Byck Elementary
- Carrithers Middle
- Central High School MCA
- Chancey Elementary
- Dunn Elementary
- Farmer Elementary
- Fernsley Middle
- Fern Creek Elementary
- Grotz Elementary
- Hartstern Elementary
- Jeffersontown Elementary
- Kenwood Elementary
- Newburg Middle
- Okolona Elementary
- Olmsted Academy North
- Pleasure Ridge Park High School
- MCA
- Schacklette Elementary
- Smyrna Traditional Elementary
- Stopher Elementary
- Valley Traditional High

**District’s Largest PTAs (based on the number of members)**
- Elementary—Audubon Traditional Elementary—1,486 Members
- Middle—Crosby Middle—1,453 Members
- High—Ballard Traditional High—4,861 Members

**District’s Top Percentage Increase**
- Schools (based on last year’s membership)

- Elementary
  - Okolona Elementary—367 percent
  - Hartstern Elementary—167 percent

- Middle
  - Fernsley Middle—105 percent
  - Carrithers Middle—105 percent
### 15th District PTA Awards Banquet

**June 2009**

**Butler Traditional High**
- Enrollment:

**Bowen Elementary**
- 100 Percent Membership (based on enrollment)

**Combined Churchill Park School**—18 percent

### Top Membership (based on percentage of current year enrollment)

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### Combined Membership (based on enrollment)

- **High Valley Traditional High**—2,860 percent
- **Western MST Magnet High**—330 percent
- **Liberty High**—330 percent

### Optional Cluster

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### School Services Center (FRYSC) Coordinators

- AmeriCorps Workers
- Athens Educational Resource Center
- Atkinson Elementary
- Audubon Traditional Elementary
- Barrett Traditional Elementary
- Bates Elementary
- Blue Lick Elementary
- Bowen Elementary
- Brandes Elementary
- Brown School
- Butler Traditional High
- Byck Elementary
- Carter Taylor Elementary
- Central Traditional Elementary
- Central High School MCA
- Chancey Elementary
- Chenoweth Elementary
- Churchill Park School
- Coral Ridge Elementary
- Crosby Middle
- Dunn Elementary
- DuPont Manual High
- Eastern High
- Elientower Elementary
- Farmer Elementary
- Fern Creek Elementary
- Field Elementary
- Foster Traditional Academy
- Greenhouse/Shryock Traditional Elementary
- Gutermann Elementary
- Highland Middle

### Reminder: Mark Your Calendars for These Events!

- **General Board Training**—June 16, 2–4 p.m. and 7–9 p.m., at VanHoose; contact Cheri Dimar at jdimar2@aol.com.
- **PTA National Convention**—June 26 through June 29 in Fort Lauderdale; for more information, go to www.pta.org.
- **Kentucky PTA Convention/Leadership**—July 16 through July 18 at Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center; early registration is $100, which includes three meals. Presidents should have received a mailing about this convention. Presidents need to pick up their packet for the new year. For more information, go to www.kypta.org.
- **Back-to-School With the 15th District**—September 1 at Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Gheens Academy; there will be all-day sessions highlighting the Kentucky convention and important information for local units, including sessions on finances and Reflections! More details will be included in the next newsletter and at the state convention.
- **Reflections Awards Ceremony/Winter Conference**—December 8 at Sallie Durrett Auditorium, 7–9 p.m., with a reception to follow next door at Gheens Academy in Flex Rooms A and B; light refreshments will be served.
- **Vendors Fair/Spring Conference**—March 4; this is an all-day opportunity to meet with local fundraising vendors and learn more about opportunities for your school. Door prizes will be given away.
- **Awards Banquet**—May 11; more information will follow, but mark your calendar for this important night of PTA recognition!
15th District PTA Executive Board 2009-10

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15th District PTA Awards Banquet

Thank you, Traci, for all of your hard work and dedication these past two years as president. Together, we made a difference. —2007–09 Board of Managers

15th District PTA Self Esteem Award Winners

Primary (kindergarten through third grade)
Nayya Martinique—Byck Elementary
Tala Luckey—Chenoweth Elementary
Avery Renner—Dunn Elementary
Carly deDomino—Jeffersontown Elementary
Blake Harris—Jeffersontown Elementary
Ansley Minor—Jeffersontown Elementary
Luke Carrs—St. Matthews Elementary
William Jackson—St. Matthews Elementary
Tyler Johnson—St. Matthews Elementary

Intermediate (Fourth and Fifth Grade)
Desha Horton—Byck Elementary
Sara Duncan—Chenoweth Elementary
Megan Carter—Dunn Elementary
Isiah Davis—Jeffersontown Elementary

Kentucky PTA Self Esteem Winners

Megan Carter—Dunn Elementary
Aaron Markert—Noe Middle
Tyler Johnson—St. Matthews Elementary

Kentucky PTA Rising Star Winners

Zachary Gibson—Dunn Elementary
Jaquail Levels—Jeffersontown Elementary

Kentucky PTA Student Scholarship Winners

Samuel W. Ellis—Pleasure Ridge High School MCA
Brooke Porter—Butler Traditional High
Rebekah Rasche—Butler Traditional High
Shelby Smith—Butler Traditional High
Shianne Williams—Butler Traditional High

Kentucky PTA Parent Scholarship Winner
Elizabeth King—Byck Elementary

National PTA Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence
Crosby Middle (6/03)
Dunn Elementary (3/03)
DuPont Manual High (12/05)
Greathouse/Shryock Traditional Elementary (3/04)
Hile Elementary (3/06)
Lowe Elementary (3/05)
Noe Middle (5/06)
Norton Elementary (10/03)
St. Matthews Elementary (11/04)
Wilder Elementary (2/04)