Welcome to 2020 – 2021 School Year

We are just days away from the beginning of the new school year and it will be a year like no other. As PTA leaders we have an opportunity to support our teachers, staff, administrators, students, and families as we all navigate these uncharted times. Just as our school leaders and families are changing routines and learning to find new ways to accomplish goals of educating and supporting the children of Garland ISD, PTAs will also need to find new ways of playing our part in the community. Garland ISD Council of PTAs and Texas PTA are here to work with all of you to plan and deliver quality events and programs for our campuses in the virtual and social distant world.

You are receiving this email as you are listed with Texas PTA as a contact for your school.

When life changed in March, many of our traditional PTA activities were put on hold as we all began to learn what life in a pandemic was going to be like. It is now time to catch up and begin planning and working on our new PTA year. I know across the district we have PTAs in various stages of the end of year / beginning of new year PTA tasks. Our Council PTA and Texas PTA Field Service support are here and available to help support you.

ELECTIONS

If your PTA was not able to hold elections in the spring, a first step is to conduct elections so that your new officers are able to conduct PTA business. A GISD Council Officer or Texas PTA Representative will need to work with you and conduct a special election meeting. **Please respond to this email if you need help with elections.**

OFFICER REPORTING

There are currently 31 PTAs with officers submitted to Texas PTA. If you have elected officers and have not input them in Texas PTA website, please do so. Each officer submits their own information. <https://www.txpta.org/submitting-board-member-information>

JOINPTA.ORG

Given the virtual start to the year, PTAs are going to need a way to get members in an online format. JoinPTA.org is available for all PTAs to use and the membership roster downloads directly into PTAEZ. There are 25 GISD PTAs currently listed on JoinPTA.org. You can add your information with this link <https://fs1.formsite.com/txpta/psm0u1ntln/index.html?1571772006272>

Even if your PTA uses another online format for membership, many of the community partnerships (Angel Members) use JoinPTA.org and having information there will allow more options for people to join your PTA.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

For the next few months, PTA meetings – both Board and Membership – will need to have a virtual option. Council PTA has purchased a Zoom Pro account that is available to each local PTA to use if you need. You can respond to this email if you are interested in using the Zoom Pro account.

Delegate Meetings for September and October will be virtual. A link will be sent to the PTA president and school principal a week prior to the meeting. They will be held on the regular day and time, the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am.

Guidelines for virtual meetings can be found on the Texas PTA website. <https://www.txpta.org/covid19>

Garland ISD’s Texas PTA Field Service Rep, Marni Kaner, summed up planning for PTA this year with these words ***“ It is not a year to just think outside of the box but we have to throw out the box and begin with a clean slate”***. Your Council PTA is here and ready to help make this a great PTA year even in the new world we are living in.