



Dear West Towson Elementary parent/guardian,

Welcome back to school! Within this packet, the West Towson Elementary School PTA has included several forms seeking your information, engagement and support. Returning families will notice a key difference in this year's requests.

This fall, our PTA is moving to a new model of fundraising that we hope will save families both time and effort, while allowing you to continue supporting the social, cultural and community-oriented programs that enhance your child's school experience.

In the past, our PTA has relied on parent-involved fundraisers to provide the bulk of the revenue for our programs, which foster and support our entire school community. Last year, PTA-sponsored activities ranged from organizing cultural assemblies and movie nights, to providing gym equipment and teacher-appreciation events.

This year, we are stepping away from the old model of fundraisers. **Rather than ask families to sell wrapping paper, tote bags and chocolates to support PTA programs and activities, we are asking for an investment of resources – aimed at the same result.** Other public schools in the area, including Dumbarton Middle School, and both Rogers Forge and Riderwood elementary schools, are now using this fundraising model, to great success.

We are asking each family to contribute \$40 per child. We will still hold our popular biannual Book Fair, but if we are able to match our previous year's fundraising totals, we will NOT ask for any additional money. (Your support is fully tax-deductible in accordance with the law, as we are a 501(c)(3).) **In addition, the PTA will give every family a school directory this year**, saving one more expense from previous years.

Our success depends on the timely support of all families in this extraordinary school community. A donation form is included with this packet, along with membership, volunteering and directory-contact forms. **Thank you for returning all of this information in your child's folder by September 12.** We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!

The West Towson Elementary School PTA

(Donation questions? Please contact WTES PTA Treasurer Christie Moag at Christie.moag@gmail.com.)