



WILLOW PTA NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back Willow families!

Things may look a little (A LOT!) different this year, but the PTA is still here. The Willow Elementary PTA'S mission is to, "make every students potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and our community." We know all our Willow families and staff have been presented with quite the challenge this fall and just as you all are rising to the occasion, we are doing our best to do the same!

While we are unable to plan any in-person, on-campus events at this time, the PTA is working hard with school leadership to determine what we can do for all of you (and your children) while working within the new DPS engagement guidelines. At this time, we will forgo the usual in-person monthly general meetings and replace them with a monthly newsletter which will go out the same third Wednesday of each month. Included in this newsletter will be any upcoming events as well as pre-recorded parent education video(s) that we hope can support you during this difficult time. This month we are so grateful to have Willow Elementary staff members Cybeles Onuegbulem and Misty Schroeder presenting some wonderful advice regarding emotional support for children during remote learning. Video and slides can be found at willowelementarypta.com/news/. We are also planning giveaways for students during future supply pick-ups. Look for more information in the Willow weekly update and our PTA monthly newsletter.

Due to the generous donations of our Willow families, communities and corporate donors, we were able to raise over \$100,000 during the 2019-20 school year despite being unable to host our annual auction. These donations fill in the gap between the funding DPS provides and additional support we desire for our students such as para-professionals and additional staff that have been able to serve as second

classroom teachers during online learning. The PTA has also funded technology, instruments, playground equipment and so much more!

In past years we have hosted fundraising events throughout the year both on campus and off site. We realize the hardship the pandemic and remote learning has placed on our Willow families and staff. For this reason, we have decided to forgo any formal fundraising until we are able to return to in-person schooling. Our donation link is still active on our website and we welcome all donations, however, we will not be formally soliciting donations at this time. We hope that Spring will bring another "new normal," one that allows us to be social beings once again without the threat of illness. And formal fundraising can return. We will have less time to reach our donation goals, but if 2020 has shown us one thing, it is that anything is possible. Save the date for our annual auction on April 10, 2021, at Balistreri Vineyards.

We hope this newsletter provides you a warm welcome to the PTA. Please see the QR code below to visit willowelementarypta.com/join/ to become a member today. Member benefits include a unique Willow PTA t-shirt, meeting voting rights and an End of Year member family party. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please take a moment to reach out to us at president@willowelementarypta.com. We welcome ideas regarding how we can support you and your families as we all try to make our way through this uncharted territory. We look forward to meeting all of you (in-person) when our students return to school. Thank you for your continued support as both volunteers and donors.

Sincerely your PTA Co-Presidents,

Emileigh Chod
Elizabeth Kwarta

BOARD MEMBERS

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Nominating

Kari Lohaus

Communication

Todd Masten

Gardening

Cindy Lowery-Graber

School Store

Stephanie Anderson

Room Parents

[open]

JOIN



DONATE



EVENTS

OCT – PTA Newsletter in lieu of in-person meeting (COVID-19)

OCT 13 – Willow Fundraiser Night @ Mici's Italian

NOV – TBD live/video meeting (COVID-19)

DEC – TBD live/video meeting (COVID-19)

APR 10 – Annual Auction @ Balistreri Vineyards