

NEWSFLASH

Michigan PTA's Newsletter For Leaders

December 2020

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SEASON'S GREETINGS!

No matter how you celebrate, enjoy, be happy and stay safe. Michigan PTA needs you to continue to work on behalf of students and families.

Michigan PTA leaders and members give everything they can all year round not just at the holiday season. We see you and the work that you do. It has been a challenge but keep up the great work.

Children and families can not be put on hold, we need to keep up the fight. Talk to your principal, superintendents, school board trustees and other political electorates. They are making decisions and we need them to make the best ones possible. The need is great for them to work together, more than ever!!!

Your Michigan board of directors is here to be of help. Moving forward in 2021 is what we must do to protect our children and families.

Enjoy the holiday season,
Kathy
Michigan PTA President





Do They Have Stars on Thars?

Hey, when you log in to MemberHub, and access the Admin Console, what do you see? It's a list of your current officers! (Or it SHOULD be, ahem!)

And what else do you see
If you look really hard?
Their office, and name?
And that name—is it starred?

What does it mean,
This star-studded name?
Is it a meme, or an icon?
A symbol? A game?

Why, it means they're a member,
This leader of ours.
And members are special,
Cause members have stars!

Are your officers special?
With bright, special stars?
Or is something quite missing?
No stars upon thars?

Are your leaders not members?
Have they not paid their dues?
But your bylaws require it!
There's no time to lose!

Remind all your leaders,
The ones near and far:
They must all be members!
They must have a star!



Image source: drseussart.com/

-A nod to Dr. Seuss and PTA, Liz Jarvis, Michigan PTA Secretary

National PTA's Response to The Prom

PTA does not review or endorse movies. National PTA will be using the movie as an opportunity to educate audiences and shine a light on the work our association has done and continues to do to support and advocate for LGBTQ students and their families. We will also spotlight the strong relationships we have with organizations including the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), GLSEN and the Trevor Project.

As part of this effort, we've launched a webpage at PTA.org/LGBTQ, which features resources we have created, articles we have written, positions we have taken and other advocacy efforts to ensure the rights of LGBTQ individuals are protected and that LGBTQ students have safe, inclusive and affirming environments in which to thrive and learn. Among the pieces linked on the webpage, are our association's resolution on the Recognition of LGBTQ Individuals as a Protected Class, position statement on Harmful Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts and position statement on Inclusive Curricula in K-12 Education, as well as a press release detailing our association's involvement in an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Gavin Grimm in the case of *G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board* and a recent episode of our Notes from the Backpack podcast on How to Help LGBTQ Youth Thrive.

In addition to the webpage, National PTA President Leslie Boggs authored a blog post on our association's support of LGBTQ students. Further, in the coming weeks, we will be sharing on social media some myths vs. facts to correct the portrayal of PTA in the movie. Finally, we are discussing other potential next steps with our public relations firm Edelman DC, which helped us develop our PTA For Your Child membership marketing campaign.

Our work to support and advocate for LGBTQ students and their families is part of our association's broader work and commitment to improve diversity, equity and inclusion throughout school communities nationwide as well as to rise to correct the inequities and injustices that permeate our country. As part of this work, National PTA's Board of Directors adopted a position statement this summer on Addressing Systemic or Institutional Racism.

While we want to right the wrong, it is important to remember that the movie is a fictional story. It may be tempting to want to respond and publicly call out the movie, the director and the celebrities who are in it, but it is also important to remember that they are just playing a role they were selected for and we don't want to look strident like the character played by Kerry Washington. We do know, however, that these types of portrayals do have a real-life impact on interest in PTA. We also all know that, in reality, PTA would actually be the one leading the fight for the student's rights, as we do for all students and as we have done for more than 120 years. As such, we believe the movie is an important opportunity to leverage and highlight our strong support of LGBTQ students.

National PTA encourages all PTA leaders and members to also use the movie to shine a light on the work you have done and are continuing to do in your states and communities to support and advocate for LGBTQ students and families. We also encourage you to share with your audiences our webpage as well as any resources your own PTA has created. Additionally, we urge you to amplify from your social media accounts President Boggs' blog post and the myths vs. facts we share on our social media accounts.

In addition to this guidance, please find below talking points you can use that speak to PTA's support of LGBTQ students. Please also find below sample social media posts and graphics you can use too.

Talking Points on PTA's Support of LGBTQ Students

- National PTA and its constituent associations have long believed that every child deserves to go to school excited to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, without the fear of bullying, violence or discrimination—including LGBTQ youth.
- It has always been and remains a top priority of National PTA and PTAs nationwide to make sure all children have a safe, supportive and positive environment in which to thrive and learn.
- PTA has taken a stand and taken action to push for policies and protections for LGBTQ youth to make sure they have positive school experiences.
- PTA has also educated and empowered parents and families to help build safe and inclusive school environments for all children.
- PTA remains committed to working with policymakers and education leaders at the federal, state and local levels to strengthen protections for LGBTQ and all children and improve education.
- National PTA and PTAs across the country will continue to advocate for and support policies and programs that create a climate of acceptance and inclusion for all students and ensure LGBTQ youth have every opportunity to thrive at school, at home and in their communities.

Good Standing? Update

As PTA units subsidiary to Michigan PTA, all PTAs across the state are required to be in Good Standing. This means every unit must complete their Standards of Affiliation. Your tax-exempt status is based upon this.

Many units have already completed their SOA items, and have received their Letter of Good Standing. A special Thank You to the PTA Councils across the state. Your help has been invaluable, in encouraging your units to complete their SOA items. Hoobah!

Those units who still need to complete their SOA items, or who are not sure where they stand, should contact MiPTA for assistance and guidance. This is an important part of being PTA in Michigan, and we want to help you be successful at it. If you think you have completed all the items, and do not have your letter uploaded to MemberHub yet, call MiPTA. We will figure out where things stand, and make sure your PTA is in compliance.

Liz Jarvis
Secretary, Michigan PTA



Congratulations

to Nichols Elementary-Middle PTA in Detroit for being a recipient of the STEM + Families Science Festival Grant Sponsored by Bayer



Coming in 2021!

Michigan PTA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Student Involvement PODCASTS

- Featuring topics in:
- ❖ Inclusive & Diverse PTA Boards & Units
 - ❖ Special Education
 - ❖ Identity Acceptance
 - ❖ Remote Learning
 - ❖ Student Transition Planning
 - ❖ Cultural Diversity
 - ❖ Motivating Students
 - ❖ Supporting Teachers and Parents

And more!

PARENTING IN A PANDEMIC

In more ways than one, 2020 has been the year of the change. Every part of our society is directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic, inclusive of families, friends, employers, government, and all working sectors. Within this grouping are children. Each of our respective groups advocates for why they need more attention and understanding than the others. The truth of the matter is that each demographic needs support. The degree to how much is required is relative, and as such, this is where equity comes into focus.

Parenting on a singular basis is a rollercoaster ride and doing so during a pandemic is the equivalent of a theme park. Some attractions are scary, some are fun, some are boring, and some may leave one to wonder what the point was. Through it all, each person's experience may be similar to another but not the same. Parents who are working remotely may find that it is easier to say no to their children than to their respective employer or organization's stakeholders. This could potentially lead to feelings of guilt, frustration, and sadness.

Families of various backgrounds, including single-parent (regardless of gender), dual-parent, grandparents raising grandchildren, same-sex parents, parents who work outside of the home, and those who work remotely or at home encounter the same struggles they parent children during a pandemic. Thankfully, employers are beginning to grant flex time for their employees as a strategy and not a benefit. The viewpoint is that taking time to be with your family or for yourself should not be a reward. It should be part of the model of what makes your place of employment run on all cylinders. Unfortunately, not all employers have this mindset.

With this in mind, PTA's ongoing collaborative partner, Child Mind Institute, has a wealth of materials to assist all families regardless of background, demographic, status, or access. Helpful, inclusive topics include but are not exclusive to the following:

- **Coping with the Coronavirus Crisis: Supporting Your Kids**
 - Holidays During the Pandemic
 - How to Help Siblings Get Along
- **Coping with the Coronavirus Crisis: Addressing Specific Concerns**
 - Giving Kids with ADHD Support and Structure During the Coronavirus Crisis
 - Screen time During the Coronavirus Crisis
- **Coronavirus Crisis: Taking Care of Yourself**
 - Parenting Disagreements During COVID
 - Single Parenting During the Coronavirus Crisis
- **Autism and the Coronavirus**
 - Resources for Families of Children on the Spectrum
- **Remote Learning**
 - Modifying an IEP or 504 for Distance or Hybrid Learning
 - Family Resources for Remote Learning
- **Managing Anxiety**
 - Anxious Stomach Aches and Headaches
 - How to Avoid Passing Anxiety on to Your Kids
- **Discipline and Behavior**
 - When Siblings Won't Stop Fighting
- **Dealing with Loss**
 - Helping Children Cope With Grief
 - How to Handle Holidays After a Death in the Family



For details visit <https://childmind.org/coping-during-covid-19-resources-for-parents/>

As 2020 draws to an end, the Michigan PTA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Outreach and Student Involvement Teams will continue to provide content to assist our valued members. We are currently developing podcasts centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion that will begin in 2021. For those who celebrate, have a wonderful holiday season and a restful and safe new calendar year!

By Jennifer Johnson, Michigan PTA VP of Student Involvement and Chairperson, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Outreach



LEGCON 2021



Apply for PTA
ADVOCACY AWARDS
by Jan. 4



National PTA is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Advocacy Awards! [PTA.org/AdvocacyAwards](https://pta.org/AdvocacyAwards)

The Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advocacy Award will be presented to one local, district, council or regional PTA that through their dedication, leadership and efforts positively affected legislative and/or regulatory policy aligned with National PTA's DEI Priorities.

The Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award is presented to an individual PTA member who, through their leadership and advocacy efforts, affected federal policy priorities within PTA's annual Public Policy Agenda.

Other awards include Outstanding Youth Advocate of the Year Award, Outstanding State PTA Advocacy Award, Outstanding Local PTA Advocacy Award and PTA Congressional Voice for Children Award.

Sign Up for National PTA e-Newsletters!

Be the first to hear about National PTA's advocacy efforts, grant opportunities and parenting advice.

- **Advocacy Insider:** Receive monthly news about legislative issues affecting education, National PTA's policy priorities and activities!
- **Leadership Briefing:** Receive monthly updates with the latest PTA programs, resources and leadership training!
- **Our Children Magazine:** Get the latest parenting, wellness and family fun articles from National PTA's magazine!
- **Weekend Update:** Get weekly updates with announcements, offers, deadlines and grant opportunities!

member.pta.org/Member-Login/Email-Signup

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Advocacy means supporting and speaking up for children – in schools, in communities, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. If you have ever spoken with your child's teacher or principal regarding an issue you were concerned about, you are an advocate. PTA advocates speak not just for their child, but for all children in the class, in the school and in our communities. There are many ways to be an advocate.

- Request that advocacy be on the agenda at every PTA meeting. Share what you're learning with your board and general membership. This is a great way to spark interest and find committee members and/or your successor!
- Attend school board meetings and city council meetings when education issues are on the agenda. Invite other members to attend with you, and speak up in accordance with PTA legislative positions.
- Take action on legislative alerts: When you receive an action alert from Michigan State PTA or National PTA, take action yourself and ask your leaders and members to do the same.

All PTA MEMBERS ARE ADVOCATES

You are engaging in advocacy whenever you:

- Speak up for your child. Advocacy is happening every time you reach out to a teacher or school administrator to address a concern about your child's education. This could be as simple as attending a parent-teacher conference, checking in with the teacher about a low test score, or requesting a meeting with your principal and other school staff to discuss your child's disability and how the school can help.
- Take action to improve conditions for all children at your school. A group of concerned parents might write a letter or request a meeting with school administration to discuss a safety issue affecting children on their route to school. Your PTA might organize a "town hall" meeting about school lockdown procedures, dress codes, or nutrition in the cafeteria, ask to review the principal's continuous improvement plan, or request a seat on the school's parent advisory committee.
- Call on your community to respond to an urgent public policy matter. Occasionally, your state or National PTA will issue an alert that a pending piece of legislation has serious implications for public education. Local PTA leaders are in a unique position to educate and mobilize their members to speak up for children's needs.


AUTHORITY TO ACT

PTA members at the unit, council, district or state level must have PTA authority in order to advocate in the name of PTA. • PTA establishes authority for action through the association's bylaws, the purposes of the PTA, position statements adopted by the Michigan State PTA Board of Managers, and through the legislation platform and resolutions approved by delegates at the Michigan State PTA Annual Convention. The legislation platform is reviewed and approved by the membership every two years at the state convention, and is the framework for PTA action on legislation and statewide ballot measures. The areas and scope of the legislation platform are guided by resolutions adopted by delegates at convention, position statements adopted by the Board of Managers, and by resolutions, position statements and directives from National PTA. Local advocates must research PTA authorities prior to taking action. Check to see if Michigan State PTA already has taken a position regarding your concern or a closely-related issue. If there is an adopted PTA position on an issue, that position can be used as authority to advocate in the name of PTA.

shoppta.com

ShopPTA.com sells official PTA and PTSA logo customizable apparel, membership items, awards, gifts and more.





2021 VIRTUAL STUDENT ARTS SHOWCASE

 JOIN US ON **YouTube**

[YouTube.com/NationalPTA](https://www.youtube.com/NationalPTA)

Jan. 26 | 7 p.m. EST

Make Your PTA *Virtual!*

PTAs are needed now more than ever to help families, schools, and communities connect with each other.

Many PTA resources are available to help grow your membership in a virtual world. Included you'll find videos, training, and handouts to help you along. To find information about the topics below please visit pta.org/local-leader-kit/membership/virtual-membership-strategies

Mini-Membership Training Videos

These short, 15-minute training videos (with accompanying handouts) cover several topics to help you better manage membership while respecting your limited free time.

Building a Virtual Membership Campaign

You don't need a building to PTA! Learn strategies to promote membership and communicate the value of PTA outside of the traditional school setting. Follow along with the handout and a sample communications plan to jump-start your local campaign.

Effective and Engaging Virtual Meetings

Don't miss these ideas to help engage and grow your membership by holding effective virtual meetings. Many of the tips provided also work for face-to-face meetings.

Beyond the Building: PTA the Virtual Way

Check out these additional ideas to virtually engage, empower, and grow membership in a virtual world for the K- High School community.



For even more membership resources visit:

pta.org/local-leader-kit/membership/templates-tools-resources
pta.org/home/run-your-pta/membership-campaign

Michigan PTA Membership Challenge!

This is the opportunity to help your unit to earn the
\$250 MEMBERSHIP STRIDER CHALLENGE GRANT!

CRITERIA: Your Local Unit must have 75% of its total membership from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020, for entry.

The **FIRM DEADLINE** for this opportunity is **MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021.**

Submit your information today!
bit.ly/MIPTAMembershipChallengeSTRIDER

Questions? Contact, Brian L. Johnson, Michigan PTA VP of Membership
membershipvp@michiganpta.org

We want our children to learn and have fun through technology, and at the same time, stay safe. The Smart Talk provides an interactive experience that guides kids and parents through a series of questions and conversations about topics such as safety, privacy, screen time, social media, texting and cameras. After agreeing on healthy limits together, a personalized, official family agreement can be stored on the computer or printed and posted at home.

Visit TheSmartTalk.org to get started



Important Dates to Remember

Unit and Council Renewal and Officer Updates Begins June 1, 2020
in MemberHub (for 2020/21 this deadline is extended to Oct.1st)

Submit Board of Directors
Speaking/Visit Requests for Fall 2020 September 15
and Founders' Day Schedule

990 filing date with IRS (for most Units/Councils) November 15

Standards of Affiliation (SOA)* deadline
(Dues, Audit, Budget, Copy of 990, Officers, Bylaw, Insurance) December 1

Submitting Board of Directors January 15
Speaking/Visit Requests for Spring/Summer 2021

Submitting Resolutions for
consideration at Convention March 1

Fran Anderson Scholarship
Deadline April 1

Michigan PTA Awards Deadline April 15

Satisfying Standard of Affiliation allows Units/Councils to participate in all State and National Awards, Grants and Programs.

Please note that when a Unit/Council applies for a National PTA award/grant/program, Michigan PTA is contacted before the award/grant/program is dispersed and if the Unit/Council has not satisfied the Standards of Affiliation (SOA), that entity will be disqualified for the award/grant/program, per Michigan PTA's affiliation agreement with National PTA.

Mailing Address
Michigan PTA
P.O. Box 510535
Livonia, Michigan 48151

734.975.9500
michiganpta.org

Helpful Information

Tik Tok Tips For Parents: pta.org/docs/default-source/files/programs/pta-connected/tiktok-toolkit-2019-2020/tiktok-guide-for-parents-revised.pdf

Your Community:

pta.org/home/programs/mental-health

Special Offers For PTA Members:

pta.org/home/run-your-pta/marketplace/Save-Money-with-Member-Offers

Scholarships from the National Center for Learning Disabilities: nclld.org/what-we-do/scholarships/

Connect With Michigan PTA!

Website: michiganpta.org

Facebook Page: facebook.com/everychildonevoice/

Facebook groups by interest:

- Michigan PTA Advocacy
- Michigan PTA Reflections Network
- Michigan PTA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Michigan PTA Membership/Memberhub
- Michigan PTA Leadership Community

We're Here to Help

Although Michigan PTA does not have a physical office and no staff at the moment, volunteers are still available to help answer questions. How you can reach us:

734-975-9500

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