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Dear Ranger Families,

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year at Deep Run Elementary! I am excited to serve as your PTA President again this year. A little about me... I have 2 children: Maya (4th grade) and Aidan (7th grade) who are active in gymnastics, ju jitsu and swim. I've been involved as a DRES PTA parent since my eldest started at DRES. I work full-time at a large marketing agency leading our learning & development operations. In that precious spare time, I enjoy cooking, gardening, reading, and being outside with the family .

I welcome Jessica Baker as our new Vice President! Jessica has a rising first grader this year, and another daughter who will call DRES her school in a few years. Please check out our new website to learn about your PTA officers.

As I embark on my second year as your PTA President, I am uncertain of what this new school year will look like and how PTA will be supporting the needs of our students. What I do know, is that the need for the support is still there. Now more than ever our students need PTA advocates in their corner.

As we all know, this year will have its challenges. Starting virtually with distance will look different than it did as we ended last year. Please know that PTA will be here to offer our support. It is our goal to make sure that there is still a strong school-community platform no matter. We will miss hosting many of our annual events like Bingo, Holiday Shop, Trunk or Treat, and Restaurant Spirit Nights.

Meanwhile we will be seeking feedback from parents on how PTA can help assist this school year. We look forward to working closely with our DRES Title I and Family Involvement Teams. Some of our ideas include:

- Guest speakers at PTA meeting events covering topics related to distance learning and tools, family support, and other topics TBD
- New online hubs that will enable families to connect with other families in their child's grade
- Fall fundraising where all products will be shipped direct to you

Access to school is restricted to staff only at this time. This means that many of the programs and events PTA typically sponsors will need to change.

Membership

This year, we will be using MemberHub to join PTA, collect donations, distribute information and create a DRES community online. Joining MemberHub will then allow you to join PTA. There are a few easy steps to follow:

1. Visit <https://deeprunpta.new.memberhub.store/store>. This will take you to the DRES PTA Store.
2. You will see icons to Join PTA as a member or to make a flat donation.
3. Select the appropriate options, enter your information, and complete payment. All payments will be made online and there is a small fee for credit card processing.



4. Return to your MemberHub Dashboard, and find, “Join Hubs.” You are automatically part of the PTA Everyone hub, but we have created hubs by grade level to help you connect with families in those grades.

PTA membership and dues support your child by funding parent programs, cultural arts programs, STEM activities, and more. By joining DRES PTA, you automatically become part of the Maryland PTA and National PTA – both of which advocate on behalf of children and educators (state and national levels).

I invite you to join PTA. There is no wrong or right way to be involved — anything you can give, whether it’s time or money, will support your child’s potential.

Meetings

Our PTA Meetings will all be held virtually via Zoom while we are in distance learning mode. While this is different than what we are used to, I am excited to be able to welcome many parents, grandparents and caregivers who may not, under normal circumstances, be able to attend. Our meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15th via Zoom. Zoom details will be provided in the Deep Run Digest for confidentiality purposes.

Budget

Our bylaws state all officer and budget votes need to be done in person. We were lucky to be able to hold a safe socially distanced meeting in early August. Thank you to those members who helped us reach our minimum membership votes!

There are many activities that we would typically fund but are not possible this while in distance learning mode (e.g., Bingo, Holiday Shop, Trunk or Treat, Restaurant Spirit Nights, Movie Night). Our budget has been revised due to this, and to reflect the expected drop in fundraising.

We hope to still be able to provide virtual activities, and family events assuming the Spring semester allows for it.

I am confident that our Deep Run community will come together to make this an amazing school year! I look forward to meeting you all as we work together to support our children and the staff at DRES.

Sincerely,

Patti Sanders
PTA President
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