

What's the PTA all about at
Washington Irving Middle School (WIMS)?



Have you ever wondered what the PTA does? Have you said "I don't have enough time to get involved with PTA." "The PTA is so much work." Well before the school year even begins we thought we would encourage you to join us by becoming a member next year and give a little information on just some of the fun things we do to support our children and the school.

The Hospitality Committee hosts the welcome back breakfast and two luncheons each year (a holiday lunch and teacher appreciation lunch). They also provide treats for the teachers through-out the year. We do this to encourage teacher participation in the PTA. Planning can be done at home. Volunteers are needed to help at the luncheons.

The Membership Committee encourages membership throughout the beginning of the school year. Each year our numbers are rising in membership and we are so pleased to see that. Data entry of all members can be done at home. (Completion by October)

Spirit Wear sales of T-shirts, sweat shirts and other logo materials for both students and parents alike was at an all time high last year. Ordering, sales and distribution is completed by November.

The Fundraising Committee is instrumental in our school. This committee will oversee and seek out beneficial ways to bring in funds that will benefit the students and school. These funds directly affect the education and social development of the students. Brain Stormers needed.

The Cultural Affairs Committee works with the Parent Liaison in hosting social cultural events.

Reflections Posters around the school encourage both students and teachers to use place creative entries into the FCPS Reflections competition. A reception with awards is held for all participants. (Entry deadline Oct. reception in March)

Odyssey of the Mind is another way to challenge the creativeness in students. Odyssey coach will meet with a team of 6 and follow guidelines for presentation to parent based judges on a remarkably exciting day. (Coach and team begin in Oct with presentation in early March)

Volunteer Committee Group of parents that can make phone calls and send e-mails to volunteers to set up dates and times for helping out at various activities throughout the year. (i.e. health screening, selling spirit wear, serving and luncheons, newsletter mailings)

Communications This group will type and edit the monthly Newsletter, prepare for mailing and send it to the post office.

Washington Irving is one of the best middle schools around. Get involved, have fun and see for yourself. Help our PTA grow and join a committee.

For more information, contact Linda Gould at 703-923-9866 swisskidlg@msn.com or Shelly Colandene 703-866-2303 colandenet@msn.com



PTA MEMBERSHIP FAQ's

Why should middle school parents belong to the PTA?

This question is often asked of PTA leaders. The reasons for joining an elementary school PTA are obvious. It is a great way for parents to become involved in their young child's school experience and the PTA is a source of volunteers that work the various school functions. Elementary school children are very receptive to their parents being in the school-often begging their parents to be involved.

By the middle school ages, children often discourage their parents from being involved at the school. But it is at this time of life when our youth need us to work *with* them in solving some of the complex problems facing home, school and community. By joining the PTA, you are joining a group of parents and teachers who work with our students to make a better school.

I have children in more than one school. Should I join each PTA?

Yes! Each PTA is a separate unit supporting its school. If you wish to participate in the decisions on budgets, fundraisers, projects and officers, you must be a member of that school's PTA. Each PTA depends on the parents of the children at that particular school for support through membership dues. Often when families have children in different schools, one parent joins one PTA and the other parent joins the other.

Should both parents join the PTA? Can other Join?

Yes! The PTA is not just for mothers - it is also for fathers, guardians, step-parents, grandparents - any adult who has an interest in a child attending the school can be a member of PTA. The Washington Irving PTA is not a PTSA, in which students are members also. PTSA's are usually represented in the high schools.