

## PTA Leaders share their answers to "Why Join PTA?"

*From a sharing session at the National PTA Convention – June 2008*

I am not asking you to join your mother's PTA. I am asking you to join with your fellow parents and create your school's PTA. Parents, teachers, students and administrators meet, discuss and act together – speaking for every child and all children – diverse, united, speaking with one voice.

We all have a stake in educating our children, since our children are our future. Why join PTA? Join to become an active participant in developing that future; to ensure that every child's voice is heard.

PTA serves all our children, not just my child and the children at my school. Share your talents and your time for our children; be a voice for our future.

PTA provides the opportunities and structure for all individuals to become an advocate for children and families in their own communities. Combining the voices of millions of members allows PTA to be a powerful force in ensuring the health, well-being and education of every child.

There is a need for a powerful voice for all our children. Our children need our support for their schools and their education. PTA provides an organized family and community component at the school.

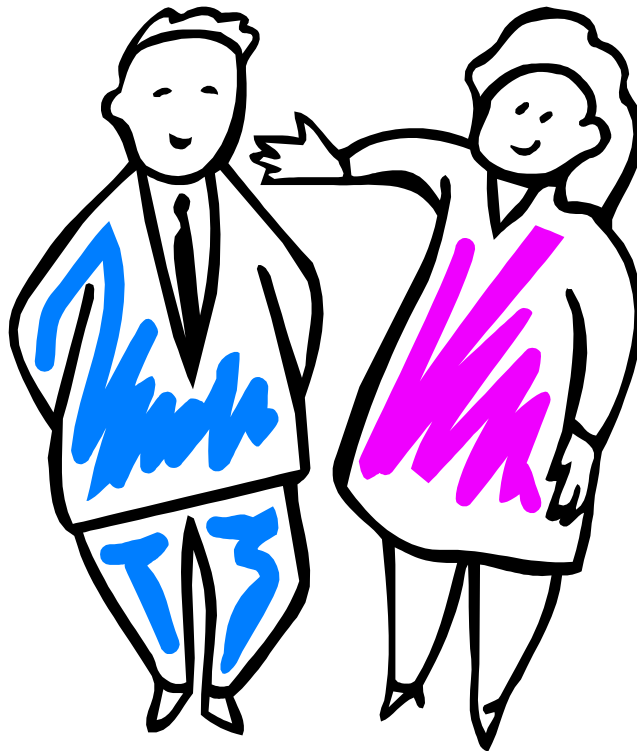
As a parent like me, do you want to be a powerful voice for your children and other children? Do you also need relevant resources and tools to do so? You are not alone! We are not alone! Join PTA – be part of the strongest advocate for the education and well-being of every child!

PTA provides loving relationships, meaningful work, and faith in something larger than myself.

Be an "agent of change" – voice your concerns and ideas with a group of like individuals who have a similar vision and hope for children, for education and for our community.

You should be a member of the PTA. We are all volunteers committed to working on issues that affect children and families. Your voice is so important to us, and we need your help.

We all have a responsibility to make our world better for children. That is PTA's mission, and that is why I joined PTA.



Do you believe in kids? PTA provides us with a powerful voice; it provides a resource for families and communities and allows us to advocate for the education and well-being of all children. PTA speaks for every child with one voice.

PTA is the oldest child advocacy organization in existence that gives all parents a voice in their children's education. PTA continues to be relevant as it advocates for ALL children and provides opportunities to make a difference in the life of kids.

PTA provides leadership opportunities for everyone. While a person may choose to join PTA for the benefits to their own child, they will quickly learn that their involvement in PTA provides benefits to ALL children. PTA volunteers become advocates for children everywhere.

PTA is a great way to influence your child's public education. Did you know that children improve academically when their parents are involved?

PTA provides each of us with an opportunity to collaborate with other committed people within an organizational framework that is accountable, and respected and recognized for its integrity.

Joining PTA is the right thing to do. It sets a good example for your children and your community.

Parents are their children's first and best teachers. PTA provides support for parents, resources and skills on parenting, and an avenue for parents to socialize and network. PTA cares about all children and has a global perspective on issues which directly affect our youth. I'm proud to be part of an organization where diversity is our strength, membership is our foundation, and we speak with one voice for every child

# SHARE WITH OTHERS... "Why Join PTA?"

## Develop your passion for PTA into a short speech.

As PTA leaders, we find ourselves throughout the day in multiple situations where we can share our enthusiasm for the good works of PTA. Use these opportunities to share your passion and educate others about PTA; its history, its current programs, but most of all, its value.

The key is to be brief, but pack a punch. Develop your own talking points in what can be referred to as an "elevator" speech or a "waiting-in-line-at-the-store" speech.

If you wear a PTA shirt or have PTA paraphernalia, you might even be asked for some information about PTA, and it's important to be prepared.

Be personal. Consider what PTA has accomplished for your child, your family, and your community. You will be surprised how infectious your passion can be!

## Did you know?

A National PTA parent survey found the top three reasons members join PTA:

- ☆ To be involved in their children's education
  - ☆ To work with teachers, and
  - ☆ To be a positive role model for kids.
- ☆

## Did you know?

A National PTA parent survey found the top three things parents say PTA does best:

- ☆ Is effective in improving their children's education
  - ☆ Works to make schools safer for children
  - ☆ Has a positive impact for all children, not just their own.
- ☆

## Just Ask!

The No. 1 reason people state they are not PTA members is that they have never been asked.

The only wrong way to ask people to join is not to ask at all!