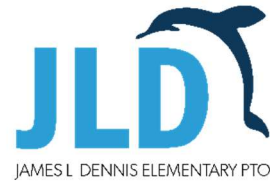


# REASONS TO JOIN THE JLD PTO:



## ❖ **STUDENTS BENEFIT ACADEMICALLY FROM PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN PTO!**

VOLUNTEERING MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE. RESEARCH CONSISTENTLY SHOWS THAT KIDS WHOSE PARENTS ARE INVOLVED IN THEIR SCHOOLS DO BETTER, FROM CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR TO STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES!

“Many parents are concerned with the quality of their child’s education and the outcome of their performance on standardized tests, and there’s one proven way to improve both areas: More involvement in organizations like the PTO. In study after study, researchers have shown that students who have more involved parents are simply more likely to get high marks on standardized tests. They’re also more likely to volunteer in class, get good grades on class tests and quizzes, and make more friends. In fact, these same studies showed that more involvement by parents equated to higher achievement by their students.” – *Early Childhood Education Zone*

- ❖ **YOUR HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED.** WHETHER IT’S HELPING RUN THE NEXT BIG EVENT OR PROVIDING SUPPORT IN THE CLASSROOM, THERE ARE ALWAYS WAYS TO PITCH IN. OUR SCHOOL DOES A LOT OF ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDES OUR CHILDREN WITH UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES – BUT NONE OF IT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT SHARED SUPPORT FROM OUR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY.
- ❖ **IT’S A MANAGEABLE COMMITMENT.** VOLUNTEERING CAN SEEM DAUNTING, BUT IT DOESN’T HAVE TO BE. SPEND AN HOUR AT THE CARNIVAL OR HELPING POP POPCORN! YOUR EFFORTS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. *AND REMEMBER, IT’S ALWAYS OK TO SAY NO WHEN YOU’RE BUSY!*
- ❖ **YOU’LL GET TO KNOW OTHER PARENTS.** IT’S POWERFUL TO CREATE A CIRCLE OF ADULT FRIENDS AROUND A SCHOOL, AND HAVING A SHARED INTEREST IS A GOOD PLACE TO START. PLUS, IT CAN HELP FOSTER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN FAMILIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
- ❖ **IT FEELS GREAT TO PARTICIPATE!** YOUR CHILD SPENDS A LOT OF TIME AT SCHOOL, AND IT’S GREAT TO SHARE SOME OF THEIR SCHOOL- RELATED EXPERIENCES WITH THEM. PLUS, MOST KIDS WON’T DENY HOW PROUD IT MAKES THEM TO SEE YOU AT THEIR SCHOOL HELPING.
- ❖ **IT’S FUN!** EVEN SIMPLE EVENTS LIKE SMOOTHIE DAY OR A CLASSROOM PARTY CAN ADD SOMETHING SPECIAL TO YOUR WEEK!
- ❖ **YOU CAN TAILOR VOLUNTEERING TO PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS.** WITHIN A PARENT GROUP OR SCHOOL COMMUNITY THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE, SOME OF WHICH ARE SURE TO COMPLEMENT YOUR STRENGTHS, INTERESTS, OR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS.
- ❖ **SHARE YOUR GREAT IDEAS.** VOLUNTEERING GIVES YOU OPPORTUNITIES TO GET YOUR IDEAS OUT THERE! WE NEED IDEAS AND WE NEED YOU TO HELP US MAKE IT A REALITY.
- ❖ **GET TO KNOW TEACHERS AND STAFF.** VOLUNTEERING PROVIDES ANOTHER WAY TO GET TO KNOW SCHOOL AND SUPPORT STAFF TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR NEEDS AND IDEAS.
- ❖ **VOLUNTEERING OFFERS TANGIBLE WAYS TO BE PART OF THINGS.** SOMETIMES WE MIGHT MEAN WELL, BUT OUR BUSY LIVES GET IN THE WAY OF COMMITTING. JOINING THE PTO WILL PROVIDE CONCRETE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED- WHETHER AT EVENTS, IN THE CLASSROOM, OR ON A COMMITTEE.



## **What is the PTO?**

**PTO is concerned, primarily, with connecting teachers and parents so that they can better discuss the nature of their child's education, the benefits and challenges facing the school, and how volunteer efforts (or any level of involvement) might benefit all stakeholders in a dramatic, dynamic way. Our mission is to help make the school a better place for the kids to learn. In turn, we do what we can to help the school in any way they need it.**

Many parents know of the PTO, but they're still on the fence about whether or not to "really" join the organization and dedicate some amount of time to it. With many households relying on dual incomes and plenty of time spent at the office, it can seem as if there just isn't any time to spare for involvement in this way. There are, however, plenty of reasons to join and plenty of opportunities even for the most time-constrained parents. Reasons to join range from academic benefits to personal fulfillment and beyond. Every parent wants the best for their child in the classroom, and PTO involvement can help parents make noticeable, long-term improvements on behalf of their child *and many others*.

## **PTOs are Not Nationally Controlled or Affiliated**

The terms PTO and PTA are sometimes used interchangeably, but they shouldn't be. PTO organizations are and have no national affiliation. That means they're less rigid, less structured, and more accommodating to the unique needs of parents in a given school or within a certain school district. In a world where it can be hard to schedule time to volunteer, this **INDEPENDENT** operation and more accommodating nature are an absolute essential. They're also a persuasive argument for joining the group and seeing exactly which opportunities are available.

## **PTO is About Organization, Not Solicitation**

Many parents fear that their role in a PTO group will be to solicit fundraising donations from community members -or- going door-to-door until a goal is reached. This just isn't the case. While parents are always welcome to offer new ideas for school fundraising campaigns, and we do our best to raise whatever we can to provide needed funds to the school...**BUT** that's not the primary goal of the PTO. Parents are not expected to be fundraisers. They're expected to be members, supporters, volunteers, and proud parents working for the benefit of all students.

# **Please Join Us!**

**Share your experience and knowledge to help us better tend to the needs of the school and kids.**

**We need you!**