

**Poolesville High School**  
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August 2009

Welcome to all of our new and returning students and families of Poolesville High School!

We are off to the start of a brand new academic year, one which promises to be fantastic beginning with the opening of our new science/technology addition. This addition is the first new construction our school has seen since 1979, and is actually the beginning of what will eventually (in the not too distant future we hope) be our newly built school. You will have a chance to visit and see for yourself how wonderful it is at one of the upcoming Open Houses that are scheduled for August 27, September 4, September 17, and October 12. The October 12 date is traditionally a parents visiting day in Montgomery County Schools and is a tradition that the PTSA would like to resurrect this year. As our children get older we all tend to be less involved with the PTSA, but we plan to reverse that trend this year and involve as many of you as possible in the Poolesville High School PTSA. This year the school will have its largest enrollment, approximately 1,250 students, and we need your help to advocate for all of our children.

There are many opportunities to volunteer, and many of them are as simple and non-committal as making phone calls from home or addressing post cards. Please, call or email me if you would like to get involved this year. We meet the third Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Media Center, except for September which has Back-to-School Night on September 15, 2009. Belonging to the PTSA is a fabulous way to meet other parents, become familiar with your child's school and its programs, and to feel empowered by the process of being an advocate instead of a bystander. The cost of PTSA membership is small and has not gone up as so many other things have. Yet, it supports so many activities and programs in our school.....Post Prom, the Senior Citizens Prom, Graduation, Cultural Arts assemblies, reimbursement to teachers for many out of pocket expenses for classroom activities and staff appreciation to name a few.

We are trying something new for Back-to-School Night. The PTSA will be sponsoring a dinner for all new and transfer students and their parents/guardians. The dinner will be from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and should be a fun way to meet other "new to Poolesville High School" parents/guardians in an informal setting....and who can refuse pizza, pasta and great company? The staff and PTSA are hoping to plan throughout the school year other events like this one for the other grades, but we definitely need your input and help to pull it off.

Please, make PTSA membership a priority this year. As a parent of four kids and someone who has been personally involved with the PTSA for the past eighteen years, I can honestly say you will not regret your commitment. I look forward to meeting all of you at Back-to-School Night.

Faithfully yours,  
Stephanie R. Egly  
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