On behalf of the Cabin John Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), I would like to welcome everyone to the 2019-2020 school year! The PTSA is busy gearing up for another great year. We are very excited to continue the great programs we have offered in the past and with the administration’s help we will improve and expand our support to the students, teachers, and staff.

Listed below is some very important information on the CJMS PTSA and how you can support our efforts. We can’t do any of this without your help via membership, donations, and participation!

Some of the ongoing programs supported by the PTSA

**Back to School Picnic and Parent Social** – See old friends and meet new ones; learn about after-school activities! Watch for the additional details, and save the date **Friday, September 13th!**

**After-School Programs** – The PTSA helps support activities like Model UN, First Lego League, Odyssey of the Mind and is working to augment our after school offerings through Flex Academies. Please see the additional information in this mailing detailed many of the planned after school programs throughout the year.

**Outdoor Ed** – 6th grade – The PTSA provides funding for evening entertainment (DJ and reptile show) and assists with students who need financial support.

**Poetry Workshop/Gayle Danley** – 8th grade students learn to write original poetry in this enriching workshop guided by a professional poet.

**Teacher Appreciation** – We provide special meals and treats for the teachers during the school year to show our appreciation for all the do.

**Principal’s Teas** – The PTSA hosts meetings with Mr. Taylor to provide informal discussions of issues you care about!

**Incoming 6th grade Welcome Bag** – We welcome our newest students with a drawstring CJMS logo bag to use all summer, and containing essential information for new students.

**School Meetings** – The PTSA hosts general meetings open to the whole school where we feature speakers, offer a movie night, and feature presentations from the school on current and breaking issues.

**No Place for Hate** – The PTSA and CJMS will be partnering over the next year with the Anti-Defamation League to designate CJMS as a “No Place for Hate” school, providing resources for students, staff, and parents to help ensure a welcoming learning environment.

**Step Afrika!** – The PTSA is planning to bring the dance troupe for Black History Month to entertain and educate!

Some NEW initiatives requested for 2019-2020

Through our efforts last year, the school was able to support a major upgrade of the TV Studio and it is now a modern, updated system to benefit the students and the school.

**Updated technology for the school** – The school is scheduled for a tech refresh from the County but not all of it is covered. The school needs support for new Chromebooks, computer upgrades, and a 3D printer.

**Curriculum changes and assistance** – Novels are part of the new curriculum but the County only provides for in school books. Additional funding is needed to enable books to go home with the students. In addition, the PTSA supports student financial aid requests and Instructional Aid support.

**Science Greenhouse** - Cabin John would like to start raising funds to support the construction of a science greenhouse, similar to other middle schools in our area.

Upcoming Events

Do not miss these upcoming events! Check out the PTSA school calendar at [www.cabinjohnptsa.org](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org)!

- **Thursday, August 29th, 8:15am- 9:30am** - PTSA Mini-day Social – meet administrators and PTSA board members, hear about the school, ask questions!
- **Thursday, Sept. 4th, 6pm-8:30pm** - PTSA Back to School Night
  - 6:00pm-6:30pm - PTSA membership table, afterschool activities, school store, spirit wear and more
  - 6:30pm-6:50pm - PTSA meeting and administration welcome
  - 7:00 pm-8:30pm - follow your child’s schedule, getting a brief overview of the curriculum and teachers
Drop in to the Media Center for support with myMCPS and Google Classroom

- Friday, September 13th, 6pm - PTSA Welcome Back Picnic
- Monday, October 14th 8:15am - 10:45 am Open House – Attend morning classes at CJMS with your child!
- PTSA General meetings at 7pm in the CJMS Media Center – December 10th, March 10th, May 12th

How You Can Help Your School!

☞ **Join the PTSA** - Your membership pays National, State, and Local PTA fees plus helps with our basic operating expenses and is a primary mechanism to fund the above initiatives. **ONLY PTSA members receive a copy of the printed student directory as well as the electronic app.** For an additional $10 your student can also join the PTSA. Joining the PTSA allows you to vote in elections and receive early access to SSL events and other activities.
  - Join through our website link at [www.cabinjohnptsa.org/membership/](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org/membership/)
  - You can also join the PTSA, donate and verify your directory info via AtoZ (to [https://atozconnect.com](https://atozconnect.com))

☞ **Donate to the PTSA** - We don't have an aggressive fundraising campaign and rely on our membership drive for much of our support to the school community. We don’t want to sell trinkets or charge admission for our picnic, movie night, international night, and other PTSA-supported programs. We ask each of our families to donate, in addition to the membership, what they can ($75/child suggested) to aid in providing all the support our school needs to be the best it can. Please give what you can, comfortably, as we are striving for 100% participation!

☞ **PTSA E-Mail List (Cougar Clips) and Facebook:** We are trying to streamline our communication efforts as we are all weighed down with too many emails. Please sign up for our weekly PTSA news and learn more about upcoming events -- stay connected to your child’s school! To sign up for Cougar Clips, go to [www.cabinjohnptsa.org/cougar-clips/](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org/cougar-clips/). We also have a Cabin John Middle School PTSA Facebook page, so like us on Facebook and get the latest updates, news and pictures of school events.

☞ **Volunteer Opportunities!** There are so many ways you can volunteer to assist to fit what might work in your schedule. The school needs parents for Committee Chairs, School store, event support, Financial Park, Career Day, Outdoor Ed, and more. They welcome help in the school during lunch or pride. The PTSA has several key roles waiting to be filled that will give back to our community while providing rewarding interaction with our school. Your level of commitment can be as little as one afternoon, one event, or a year-long commitment. Please see the following link to open Committee positions [http://cabinjohnptsa.org/leadership/](http://cabinjohnptsa.org/leadership/) or email pres.cjms@gmail.com to match you with a volunteer position.

☞ **Use CJMS Partners!** Sign Up and Use Amazon Smile with your existing Amazon account! – A percentage of all of your purchases, at no additional cost to you, will benefit your student! Register Your Grocery Bonus Cards — Register your Giant Bonus Card and your Harris Teeter Card to benefit CJMS with each grocery purchase!

☞ **Attend PTSA meetings:** We host informative and social meetings with dynamic speakers. We will have updates on the changing aspects of our school from Mr. Taylor. We will also host a movie night. You do not need to be a PTSA member to attend meetings.

☞ **New Families to the CJMS area** – If you didn’t matriculate from one of the feeder elementary schools (SLES, SMES, BMES, CSES), go to [https://atozconnect.com](https://atozconnect.com) and select “Join as a new family.” Your completed submission will be approved promptly, after which you will be able to join the PTSA online and access the directory app.

Sincerely,

Nicole Di Resta
Cabin John Middle School PTSA President 2019-2020