

2020- 2021 PTA WELCOME LETTER

Dear Jones Lane Families,

Greetings and welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Jones Lane Elementary School! I am Stacy Kravitz, your new PTA President. A little about me, I have three kids in K, 5th and 7th grade, so this is my 8th year as a parent at Jones Lane. I am so grateful to our new, outstanding PTA Board. We have worked together all summer so that we can collaborate and engage our community, kids and teachers in this new virtual world.

Typically this letter would tell you about the events that are lined up for the year, what to expect and how to get involved. However, this year is unlike anything we have ever lived through and we are choosing to rewrite our typical agenda in some really powerful and exciting ways to provide respite, entertainment, social connection and support to our Jones Lane community.

PTA will focus on Family Engagement, Teacher Support, Advocacy (National PTA's Mission is Every Child. One Voice), and Community Enrichment. Even though we are all separated right now we are determined to find engaging and creative ways to come together.

Some of our exciting new initiatives this year to keep us connected are :

- **Kindergarten - 5th Grade Buddy Program:** We will pair up students and/or families (one 5th Grade Mentor/Family, with one Kindergartner/Family) to provide extra support, as students and families navigate a new school. We will pair buddies on a rolling basis - so you can join at any time. Send an email to **Buddies.JLESPTA@gmail.com** to sign up.
- **PTA Tuesdays:** on Tuesday evenings, starting in October, the PTA will host virtual programming. The first Tuesday of the month will be our PTA Meeting. The following Tuesdays in the month will each have a different family friendly activity and guest speakers on a variety of parenting topics.
- **Yard Signs!** At school supply pick-up you should have received a yard sign "Jones Lane Jaguars Can Do Virtually Anything". Put the sign in your yard and stay tuned for some scavenger hunt games because our newest student, Flat Jag is going to be making visits to signs all around the neighborhood. More info coming soon! For now, put up your sign and take some back to school pictures. If you want to be posted on our social media, please send the pictures to **President.JLESPTA@gmail.com**.

How to be connected to PTA:

1. Follow us on social media:

- **Facebook:** Jones Lane Elementary School PTA
- **Instagram:** @JLESPTA
- **Twitter:** @JLESPTAofficial
- **Jones Lane PTA webpage:** www.JonesLanePTA.org

2. How to help & get involved

- **Room Parents:** During this time of virtual school we still need room parents. While there won't be parties to plan this fall we do need help with communication. Please consider volunteering to be a room parent.
- **Committees:** Our committee efforts will look different this year. Committee chairs will reach out to the community for help as needed. Please consider helping if possible.
- **Harris Teeter:** go to <https://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education>, log in, and select school code #1131. You can also link to JLES at the store register.
- **Amazon Smiles:** go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, register with "Jones Lane Elementary-Montgomery" and shop through Smiles

Important Dates:

- **Tuesday September 1, 2020 @ 7pm - 1st PTA Meeting of the Year** - details to follow
- **Tuesday October 6, 2020 @ 7pm - PTA Meeting**

How to Join PTA

- It is quick and easy to request or renew your PTA membership! It will only take a few minutes to enter or verify your household info for the directory and pay your membership dues through the A to Z Connect website: <http://login.atozconnect.com/>

Anyone in your child's life is welcome to join the PTA. PTA membership and dues supports your child by funding essential educational and curriculum needs, advocating on behalf of children and educators at the local, state and national levels; and, building an inclusive school community for all families.

I know this is going to be a challenging year for everyone in a number of ways. The PTA is here to support our Jones Lane community, and in turn I hope you can support the PTA by joining.

There is no right or wrong way to be involved; joining gives you a powerful voice to help support your child. Please reach out if you have any concerns, questions or ideas! In this new world we will need to look at things with a new lens. I am committed to making this an engaging and enjoyable year for everyone.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kravitz

PTA President 2020-2021

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