

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

How can I help my child to get the most out of their education?

How can I be a positive role model for my child?

How can I be more involved?

Making every effort to partner with your child's school will increase the likelihood that your child will be successful. Schools recognize the various perspectives on what it means to be "involved" with your child's education. Therefore, communication with the school is important in determining the type of involvement that best fits you and your child's needs.

Here are some quick facts on volunteering at the school:

- ⊕ Most elementary schools offer a PTA (parent-teacher association) or PTO (parent-teacher organization) to help parents get involved and have a voice when it comes to their child's education.
- ⊕ The goals of the PTA/PTO are to get more parents involved in their child's education, to make the school a better place, and to improve communication between parents and faculty.
- ⊕ Some benefits to joining the PTA/PTO are: the rewards of volunteering at the school, being informed about all "happenings" in the school, meeting other interested parents, helping with the decisions about fund raising, interacting with faculty, sharing ideas and concerns, chaperoning field trips, and boosting your child's self-esteem through your attendance.
- ⊕ Volunteering at the school gives parents a chance to be creative in developing ways to be involved inside or outside the classroom.
- ⊕ Parent volunteers can often participate as "home-room" mothers and fathers, at after school events, and activities held during school hours.
- ⊕ Before joining the PTA/PTO parents/volunteers must have a criminal record check and criminal abuse clearance on file with the school.
- ⊕ Most schools do not offer babysitting at the time of meetings; however check with your school before the first meeting.
- ⊕ Most elementary schools hold the meetings in the building where your child attends Kindergarten.

When registering your child for school, be sure to ask about PTA/PTO parent organizations and who to contact.

