

# Why Should I Join PTA?

By Tisa Franklin and Shannon Rivers, Co-Chairs, East Cobb County Council of PTAs' Membership Committee

School is back in session, you've made it through Meet and Greets, Open Houses, and the stress of the first two weeks of homework. Your child has a new lunch box, back pack, set of binders, and money in their lunch account. Your calendar is filling up, and your checkbook is dwindling due to checks written for everything from sport uniforms to yearbooks. But . . . have you written a check for your PTA membership?

Every year, we hear someone say "why should I join PTA?" Let us tell you why! First of all, PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. It consists of parents, teachers, community members, cafeteria workers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, students and many more individuals working towards the goal of advocating for children and improving their lives. Today, PTA continues the tradition started over 100 years ago -- wishing for every child to be represented by one voice.

By joining PTA, you can benefit greatly and provide your child and other children with additional opportunities for growth throughout the school year. Here are a few highlights of PTA Membership:

>Get Connected and Discover Great Resources. There is no better way to know what is happening in your child's school! PTAs often have websites and/or newsletters that keep you apprised of things going on in school, including ways you can volunteer and programs being offered to benefit the family unit, not just the children. Some schools have "Lunch and Learn" programs for parents while others do "Parent Education Nights". Take advantage of these opportunities! Connect with other parents and use the resources offered to learn about today's youth and the challenges they face.

>Speak up and Watch Yourself Grow. PTA is a forum where your ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Positive change in a school can be the result of a simple idea. Also, by sharing ideas and volunteering at your child's school, you will be able to put your hobbies and skills to use in a positive way for not only your child, but for the benefit of all children in the school and the community. By joining PTA you will join members in Georgia and the country that have our children's best interest at heart and together we do make a difference.

>Witness Improvement. You are a part of the solution by being involved in your child's school and as such, you will be able to witness improvement first hand. Your child's PTA offers educational, social and family programs aimed towards bettering the lives of children. By joining PTA and volunteering, you will be able to see just how the programs PTA provides have a positive impact in your child's school. PTA sponsored programs can allow children to explore other countries, experiment with healthy eating and exercise, explore science in different and unique ways and offer many other opportunities that these children may not otherwise have.

If the opportunities listed above do not appeal to you, let us tell you about additional benefits. PTA is known as a powerful voice in the community and as such, is able to partner with many local businesses. East Cobb businesses offering benefits to our members this year include Chick-Fil-A, Aspens, Papa Johns, Subway, Turnin' Hedz Barber, Young Chef's Academy, E.nopi, Chocolate Jewels, Three 13, Domino's, Huntington, Gap, Safe America, and Momo's Special Toys. The community definitely supports East Cobb County Council of PTAs and the members!

So, now that we've given you a multitude of reasons why you should be involved in PTA, please consider joining the next time you are in your child's school. PTA strengthens family, promotes healthy habits, encourages parental involvement, supports safe schools, and advocates for ALL children. When PTA gets involved, children benefit!

For more info on East Cobb County Council of PTAs and benefits offered, please visit [www.ecccpta.org](http://www.ecccpta.org).



◀ Tisa is married to Deon Franklin, Sr. They have two children: Christopher, a fourth-grader at Blackwell Elementary School and Deon, Jr., a freshman at Sprayberry High School.



◀ Shannon is married to Kelvin Rivers. They have two sons who attend Tritt Elementary School. Jordan is a fourth-grader and Jackson is a kindergartener.

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