

Dear Langston Hughes Middle School Parents and Families,

The LHMS PTA wishes to welcome all our new and returning families. We look forward to a rewarding and challenging academic year!

As ever, the primary goals of the LHMS PTA are to **facilitate communication between parents and the school, increase parent/family involvement in the school, and encourage school excellence**. This year the LHMS PTA will organize and execute a number of exciting initiatives to include:

- Parent workshops and Principal chats
- Student recognition programs such as BUG (Bringing Up Grades) and Langston Hughes Stars
- Hospitality events for Hughes families and staff, to include staff recognition events and award ceremony receptions
- Community service projects and opportunities
- Cultural and arts programs, to include Multicultural Fair, poetry slam & contest, the PTA Reflections program and the annual student art exhibit at USGS
- School community/spirit events such as Skate Nights, Dining for Dollars at local restaurants, and the annual student/faculty basketball game against Herndon Middle School
- In-school support – providing parent assistance for special events like Career Day, Touch Base Day, Parade of Stars and Back to School Night

Another key mission of the PTA is **to keep parents informed of “Hughes happenings” throughout the year**. If you want to be “in the know”, here’s how!

- Read our monthly **PTA newsletter** – included in the monthly Hughes News newsletter and also posted on the PTA website (when you sign up for Keep In Touch you will receive a notice that the newsletter is available, with a link to the website).
- Check out the **PTA website** at www.lhmspta.com or from the link on the LHMS website. The website includes information about PTA activities, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities and is updated regularly throughout the year
- Receive **weekly PTA announcements** sent via **Hughes Keep In Touch**, an automated email service. Remember, *you must register to receive KIT messages!* Don’t wait – register today by visiting <http://fcps.medianext.com/hughesms/start.html> or clicking the Keep In Touch 24/7 link on the Hughes homepage
- **Student Directory**, which contains student contact information as well as school/staff information and a student handbook. The

directory will be distributed (one per family) sometime during the fall. Extra copies can be ordered on the Green All In One form.

In addition to these activities, the PTA **provides funding for a variety of important school enrichment activities**, to include field trips, staff development, team awards, student subsidies, teacher mini-grants, student recognition programs, eighth grade celebration, Fall Fun Run, Multicultural Fair, Panther Field Day and the Student Directory.. To raise money for these worthy undertakings we sponsor a number of fundraisers throughout the year - please give them your support!

- PTA membership drive (our primary source of funding - *every* family should join the PTA!)
- Friends of Hughes (donations made to LHMS PTA)
- Panther merchandise sales – T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, pins, LHMS Panther car magnets
- Merchant discount card sales
- Bulb Sales
- Refreshment & Pizza Wednesday sales
- Events such as the annual Basketball game against Herndon Middle School and Skate Nights
- Dining for Dollars at local restaurants
- Grocery rebate programs (Giant, Safeway & Harris Teeter), Target card rebate program & Box Tops for Education. Also please designate LHMS when you make any Office Depot purchases.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE LHMS PTA!

- **Become a member** – Fill out & return the membership flyer included in this mailing and also found on the PTA website.
- **Become a volunteer-** Review & return the Volunteer Opportunity Form included in this mailing.
- **Attend the first PTA meeting of the year** – Thursday, **September 6**. This 7:00pm meeting will be preceded by a Volunteer Information Session at 6:30 pm – the perfect opportunity to find out more about volunteer opportunities at LHMS.
- **Attend PTA meetings throughout the year** - Generally the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the LHMS library/media center (check the PTA newsletter or website for actual dates). Meetings will be preceded at 6:30pm by workshops, Principal Chats and special receptions for students involved in PTA sponsored activities.

Welcome and looking forward to a great year at Langston Hughes.
Joan Burkhart (PTA President) president@lhmspta.com