



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Oh, how I miss OFE!! If this were a typical year, I would have already worn a path between my house and the school meeting with other volunteers and administration, separating supplies, spoiling our teachers, and planning for our fall events. I feel the disconnect as we meet now on virtual platforms. However, I am positive that we will move forward and make connections as we plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

A little about me —This is my sixth year at OFE and my fifth year on the PTA board. My husband, Sam, and I have two children at OFE, Jackson, who is entering the fifth grade, and Spencer, who is entering third grade. I can tell you from experience that our PTA does amazing things. I have no doubt that the 70 volunteers who sit on the PTA Executive Board working along with OFE teachers and staff will make this year just as successful.

At Oak Forest Elementary School, your child and family will gain a community, a village and a forest of supportive family and friends, advanced education, motivating enrichment and guaranteed growth. I understand the uncertainty that comes with our new virtual environment, but our PTA mission remains the same—to create community and support for our OFE families. We are incredibly lucky to have such a strong relationship between PTA and school administration and staff. This connection ensures that our kids receive the best educational experience possible.

The OFE PTA has made way for amazing programs that invigorate learning such as Writers in the Schools (WITS), Outdoor Gardening, the Arboretum and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives. OFE PTA is still strong and going even during a pandemic! Parental support is the reason our school and PTA is so successful. We need and welcome new parents, new energy, and new ideas to both OFE and the PTA.

Your PTA has been working all summer to make changes for a virtual world to and to ensure another successful and productive year. Please continue to utilize the PTA Website (oakforestpta.com) and the Living Tree platform as your main information sources. You can also find additional information on our Oak Forest PTA Facebook page and Oak Forest PTA Instagram feed. We update social media daily.

Every year, we coordinate with community businesses to have “Spirit Nights” to raise money for the PTA. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have chosen to have “Pay It Back Spirit Nights” to help those community businesses that have supported us along this journey. At these Pay It Back Spirit Nights, we will invite OFE families to a school spirit night to highlight and support their business without expecting donations back to the school. This is one of the many ways that we can “pay it forward.” I hope you will join us at these spirit nights. More information will be coming.

Even in a virtual learning environment, we need you to make all the PTA programs and goals a reality! The easiest way to get involved is to contact your teacher to be a Room Mom or sign up to be Garden Parent – we would love for you jump in feet first and volunteer at the school when you are able, and we will be there to help and support you and this tight knit community. I have met some of my best friends volunteering at Oak Forest Elementary, and I know you will, too.

Principal Casler and his staff encourage our kids to have “EMPOWER” values: Empathy, Motivation, Perseverance, Ownership, Wisdom, Effort, and Respect. I think we could all use the values this year as we embark on a new virtual normal. Let us continue to have a positive impact on our children and community.

We do not know exactly what this year will look like, but we will continue to work together to make it Oak Forest Elementary great! I hope you will be part of our team.

Sincerely,

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OFE PTA President

School Year 2020-2021