

## ***The Magic of Beginnings***

### ***President's Letter***

Dear Oak Forest Elementary Families,

Welcome back to Oak Forest Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year! My name is Michelle Tabor and I am your PTA President for the coming year. On behalf of the OFE PTA, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Oak Forest family. We are thrilled to start this new year with you and embark on what I am sure will be magical year.

A little about me - this is my fifth year at OFE and my fourth year on the PTA board. My husband, Chris, and I have two children at OFE, Wolfgang, who is entering the fourth grade, and Scarlett, who is entering first grade. My husband is a Captain for the Houston Fire Department at our very own Station 13! My family is the joy of my life and I am truly blessed to be their mom and wife.

And blessed to be your President this year! You ask what does a PTA do? PTA stands for Parent-Teacher Association, consisting of parents and teachers working together to support and enrich all students. We support school staff, help promote student self-esteem, and assist in efforts to solve school needs through volunteering, fundraising and fun events! We are very student focused!!!! Here are a few programs that we have sponsored in the past: Writers in the Schools (WITS), Outdoor Gardening, the Arboretum and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives, Teacher Appreciation and Professional Development, and host fun events for our families such as Fall Festival and Spirit Week. I have no doubt that the 65 volunteers who sit on the PTA Executive Board working along with OFE teachers and staff will make this year just as successful.

The main way to help us achieve our goals for this year is to join the PTA and become involved in our school! Please consider joining the PTA and being part of the great plans we have in store to help us exceed our goals for this year. You can join the PTA at [Join the PTA! – Oak Forest Elementary Bobcat Store \(oakforestpta.com\)](http://oakforestpta.com). Your support allows us to enhance each child's experience here at OFE and we would love for you to be part of our success!

Each new school year typically brings excitement and anticipation, along with the promise of learning and growth. And this year, we continue to have the challenge of staying safe and connected, while helping our children succeed through a pandemic. Your school and PTA Board have been hard at work throughout the summer to prepare for this year, and I know our Bobcat family will get through the upcoming challenges as we always do—together.

Principal Casler and his staff highlight our “EMPOWER” values every school day for our kids. At Oak Forest, EMPOWER stands for Empathy, Motivation, Perseverance, Ownership, Wisdom, Effort, and Respect. Our EMPOWER values are at the heart of everything we do at OFE. And I am happy to say, also trickles into our families' lives outside of school campus. And for that... I am incredibly thankful.

I leave you with one of my favorite quotes: “Two roads diverged in a wood and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all of the difference. (Robert Frost)”. This quote reminds to keep adventure and joy at the heart of everything I do. And to dip my toe into this fabulous world, because my joy comes from every experience that I have with the world around me. Every person I meet, every

action I take, I do it knowing that happiness comes through connections, and connections lead to adventure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Tabor". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent vertical stroke for the letter 'M'.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Tabor

OFE PTA President

2021 - 2022