

Dear Oak Forest Elementary Families,

While I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer, the OFE PTA is excited to welcome everyone to another great year at Oak Forest Elementary. We have new improvements on the campus and new faces to greet. And while there is a sense of “new,” I can’t help but thank everyone who has made OFE the great campus that it is today. During this school year, our PTA will strive to continue with that pattern in supporting the administration and teachers to ensure that they have what they need to keep OFE great.

As our community grows, OFE has continued to pass the test of time. Without a doubt, the success of our school is the result of the incredibly hard work of the administration and teachers with the support of the PTA. We know that this year will follow in the same path because our incredible faculty is talented and the 70 volunteers on the PTA Board are working to bring programs, community events, and collaborative communication to every family. I remember walking down the Rainbow Walk full of bubbly anticipation for the first day of Kinder and I cherish those memories along with all the special moments since then. So more than anything, I hope that your student has an excellent school year. But secondly, I hope that you decide to be a part of our PTA to help support our students and all the great achievements they will make throughout the year.

I admittedly love Oak Forest and I hope you can see that love throughout the year. Our family first moved to the area when I became a 2nd grade teacher at OFE. I like to think that I have a unique perspective in formerly teaching at OFE and now entrusting my children (Layne, incoming 4th grader; Jack, incoming 2nd grader) to this great school. During my teaching tenure, I was very fortunate to have the support of the PTA and I hope that our teachers now will be met with that same fortune. As your new PTA President, I understand how important OFE is to your families, and I want each of you as parents, to know that OFE has the same importance to me. I value the academic growth and relationships we build and appreciate that this community supports each other in the “new” and the great traditions.

This year our campus is embracing change as the modular building will be utilized to meet the ever-growing student population. Fifth grade teachers and administration have worked very hard this summer to get these new classrooms ready to welcome fifth graders to their new pod! We are also excited to break ground on the new Outdoor Science Lab and Classroom this fall that will provide teachers and students an amazing classroom space for hands-on learning, messy labs, and outdoor explorations. Watch the progress on Lamonte as the unused space transforms to our newest classroom! Stay up to date with Parent Square, our new communication platform. Download the app and calendar to your phone so you never miss an announcement or event! In addition to the traditional fun events like Fall Festival, Spirit Week, Bites With Bobby and Field Day, we have two new committees, Cultural Connection and STEM-Cats who will be adding to our calendar!

By way of background, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has a great tradition of advocacy for children as a group that is engaged and mutually challenged by the desire to meet the needs of our students. The OFE PTA is proud to support teachers and quality instruction by financing professional development and supplying materials and resources requested in the fall and spring grant cycles. When teachers dream and request, the PTA helps finance these dreams to make them a reality. Unique programming at OFE includes Writers In Schools where professional, published writers teach and inspire our students as they create their own portfolios of work. The Ready to Grow Garden program has students getting their hands dirty planting, tending, and harvesting the school gardens--salads have never tasted so delicious. The PTA has provided iPads, laptops, and headphones at a 1:1 ratio. Students are excited to engage with guitars, ukuleles, and drums in music. The list of how PTA supports OFE is long, but

the bottom line is simple: the daily collaboration between teachers, administration and parents is essential and we want you to get involved.

Please consider joining the PTA and being part of the team! You can join the PTA at [Join the PTA! – Oak Forest Elementary Bobcat Store \(oakforestpta.com\)](https://oakforestpta.com). Your support allows us to enhance each child's school experience and we would love for you to be part of our success! I look forward to collaborating with you this year and encourage you to say "yes" to getting involved. That "yes" can lead to impactful change for our school and your family as we all strive to make this a great school year.

Go Bobcats!

Best,

Lindsey MacLeod
OFE PTA President 2022-2023