

August 2016



Dear SMS Families,

On behalf of the Sebastian Middle School PTO, welcome back to school! The PTO is planning for a fun and successful year ahead, and invites your family to join us by filling out the enclosed membership form with your name and email address so that we can stay in touch with you throughout the coming year. If you are able, we also invite your family to make a suggested donation of \$10 or more to help kick start our fundraising efforts for the coming year. The homeroom with the highest percentage of PTO members by August 31 will win an Ice Cream Sundae party from the PTO!

As a PTO member at Sebastian Middle School, you will take pride in helping us build upon school improvement, student achievement, and parental involvement at SMS. Your contributions of time, ideas, and funding will be used to encourage and support student growth—with your help, we can provide the students and teachers at Sebastian Middle School with the necessary tools to prepare our children for high school and beyond.

In this packet of PTO information, you will find a variety of ways to get involved and support Sebastian Middle School—become a Business Partner, purchase SMS spirit wear for your student or yourself, and mark your calendar and plan to attend PTO meetings and events to help us raise much-needed funds for our school.

PTO funding provides the flexibility needed to make the difference for an excellent educational experience. For example, PTO funding this past year allowed SMS to:

- Support the newly instituted WEB program at SMS.
- Purchase subscriptions to online Media Center resources including National Geographic, Britannica Image Quest and Journey Back in Time (history database).
- Sponsor two art teachers to attend the 62nd annual Florida Art Education Association convention.
- Purchase IXL, progress monitoring software for the math department, which will allow students to practice specific math skills based on their needs.
- Purchase site licenses for ExploreLearning Gizmos, interactive online science labs.
- Provide academic planners, I.D. card lanyards and communications folders to each student.
- Honor teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Purchase incentives for various subject areas such as math to reward students for extra time and effort.

We hope to see you at our **kick-off PTO meeting on Tuesday, August 23 at 6:00 p.m. at SMS in the Multi-Purpose Room**. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us at PTOSebastian@gmail.com with your questions, ideas, comments and suggestions. We look forward to welcoming your family and getting you involved in PTO at Sebastian Middle School!

Sincerely,

Susan Connor, President
Jana Pearson, Vice President
Maria Carlson, Treasurer
Kathy Weed, Secretary

Caroline Mason, Business Partners Program Coordinator
Megan Kiker and Jenny Persson, Hospitality Co-Chairs

P.S. Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook – Sebastian Middle School PTO – to stay in touch with us through social media as well!