

August 2017



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:

- Provide professional development training to teachers across all disciplines and grade levels on project based learning to create a more collaborative and creative learning environment for students.
- Purchase a much-needed high quality portable sound system for use during special events in the gym, cafeteria, auditorium, and outside on the athletic fields.
- Bring speakers like Polly Holyoke, Sunshine State Young Reader Award winning author, and “Odd?Rod”, an African-American poet, to SMS to connect with and motivate our students.
- Support student incentive programs in reading, math, and positive behavior.
- Provide academic planners and communications folders to each student.
- Honor teachers and staff throughout the year with special occasion receptions and luncheons.
- Support for teachers and students who were most negatively impacted by Hurricane Matthew.

We hope to see you at our **kick-off PTO meeting on Tuesday, August 29 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
Maria Carlson, Vice President
Jenny Persson, Treasurer
Kathy Weed, Secretary

Caroline Mason, Business Partners Program Coordinator
Megan Kiker and Cam Thompson, Hospitality Co-Chairs
Doris Flaherty, Box Tops Coordinator
Kishna Patel, Eagle Store Coordinator

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!