

Put an 'S' in your PTA

PTA is an organization where ONE SIZE FITS ALL. The ALL includes students, and there is much to be gained by including students in the PTA. Including students benefits both young people and adults. These benefits are one reason students should be encouraged to join PTA, and why parents and teachers should invite students to become active members of the association.

What are the benefits?

1. Students work together with parents and teachers as a team; developing skills as advocates and community leaders.
2. Students play a valuable role and offer significant insight into the issues facing them and are eager to be involved in implementing positive change.
3. Inviting students to join PTA/PTSA is an excellent way to encourage their support and participation as stakeholders in their school community.
4. PTA programs are positively affected as young people become involved. An effective collaboration of students, parents, and teachers helps to ensure that PTA/PTSA programs are relevant and serve the needs of the students and the school community.
5. PTSA public relations improve because the mass media takes notice when young people become involved in working on their own problems and the needs of their school and community.
6. PTA memberships frequently increase. This happens not only because students join, but because more parents are willing to take an active part when their young people are interested and involved.
7. Improved human relationships are another advantage of youth participation. As adults and young people work together on committees and projects, the generation gap narrows. This in itself is of tremendous value to family life, the school system and the entire community.
8. Community service can be upgraded. With the added enthusiasm, zest and energy of active, dedicated young people, many improvements can be brought about in the community. Attention can be focused on such areas of concern as drug problems, job opportunities, smoking, health, alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, environmental problems, learning disabilities, and educational needs.

