

Baltimore County Council



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PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc. | Established 1950

<https://www.bcptacouncil.org> Free State PTA: <https://www.fspta.org> National PTA: <https://www.pta.org>

JANUARY 2024 | BULLETIN

President's Letter

Happy 2024! We hope you had a restful break and are ready to jump in to the second half of the school year!

First, some finance-related housekeeping. We hope that your unit filed its **IRS 990 form** (due on November 15) and **Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act filing** (due on December 31). Both are crucial to keeping your corporation "in good standing." Please reach out if you need help!

We're excited to announce that our next **General Meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 25 at 7pm via Zoom. After a brief business meeting, we'll receive a Legislative Update from PTA Council Advocacy and Legislation Committee Chair Beth Jarrett and a presentation on The Student Handbook: Reading Between the Lines from Dr. Kevin Roberts and Dr. Kim Ferguson from the BCPS Division of School Climate and Safety. The rest of the session will be an open-ended "Ask Us Anything; All Things PTA" Roundtable. We know that PTA business can be complicated; our board will be available to discuss any and all issues you raise! See page 6 for more info.

It's an election year for PTA Council. Elections will be held at the April 25 General Meeting. A Nominating Committee will be in place very soon. If you're interested in serving on the committee or in running for a position, please reach out to us! For the committee, the goal is to have 5 members from all 5 geographic areas. Regarding elections, all positions are open: President, First VP, VP for Leadership, Area VPs for 5 geographic areas, Secretary, and Treasurer. The slate will be announced at our March General Meeting.

Thank you for all you do to help "make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

Feel free to contact me or any of our board members for **ANY HELP YOU NEED!**

Sincerely, President Leslie Weber, president@bcptacouncil.org 410-227-7631

PLEASE NOTE:

Our new BCPS Interoffice Mail Address is:
PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc.
c/o Sue Hahn, Office of Family and Community Engagement
Greenwood Campus, Building A

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Leaders' To-Do List

JANUARY

- Pay FSPTA and NPTA dues
- Review Council awards packet (will be emailed and on our website soon)
- Review bylaws to determine date and process for selection of local PTA Nominating Committee
- Start thinking about filing MD Annual Report and/or Personal Property Tax Return (see <http://bcptacouncil.org/personal-property-taxes/> for details)
- If not yet done, file 990 and MD Charitable Solicitations Form (for help, contact Treasurer John Ryan; forms must be filed to retain status as active PTA and fundraise in Maryland)

FEBRUARY

- Pay FSPTA and NPTA membership dues
- Review Council awards packet
- 990 form due if extension was filed in November

Standards Of Affiliation (SoA)

In addition to paying member dues and providing officer contact information to Free State PTA (FSPTA), you must take care of the following:

- ✓ **BYLAWS:** Bylaws need to be reviewed at least every 3 years and submitted to FSPTA for approval. All units should have submitted bylaws to FSPTA by 6/1/23. If you still need to do this, use the template here: <https://www.fspta.org/bylaws>
- ✓ **FINANCIAL REVIEW (AUDIT):** All PTAs must conduct an annual financial review (due 10/30) and email a copy to FSPTA at soa@fspta.org. Refer to Free State PTA Financial Guide (where) in the Finances section of our website for a sample report.
- ✓ **INSURANCE:** Every PTA unit in Maryland must have insurance coverage through AIM. Enrollment forms were emailed to all PTAs. Coverage ended 6/30/23. See the PTA Council website's Finances/Insurance section for details.
- ✓ **IRS 990:** Every PTA must file annually by 11/15. If annual gross income was \$50,000 or less, you can submit the 990 e-postcard. Provide a copy of the 990 filing to FSPTA at soa@fspta.org. More details here: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>
- ✓ **MARYLAND CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS ACT UPDATE:** As a charitable organization soliciting in Maryland, your unit must file documents with the Office of the Secretary of State. Registration is required prior to the commencement of solicitations (for new units) and an annual update is required.

<https://sos.maryland.gov/Charity/Pages/Registering-Charity.aspx>
- ✓ **INCORPORATION/MARYLAND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RETURN:** All local PTAs must be incorporated in Maryland. To maintain your incorporation status, a Personal Property Tax Return must be filed by April 15 each year if your PTA owns any property or not. Send a copy to FSPTA at soa@fspta.org. Check your status here: www.dat.state.md.us. If your unit is not incorporated or the incorporation needs to be revived, contact FSPTA.

For all shared documents, be sure to keep copies for yourself!

FSPTA strongly encourages units to submit SoA documents via GiveBacks (formerly MemberHub)!

New Junior Achievement Maryland Finance Park Volunteers Needed!

Junior Achievement Maryland has started a new program for 7th graders – the JA Finance Park (financial literacy) fieldtrip! It's a small pilot program serving a number of BCPS middle schools; the program will expand next year.

In this simulation, middle school students receive a life scenario and work to design a balanced monthly budget. Volunteers assist students within JA Finance Park storefronts, helping them to explore budget categories and allocate their earnings.

- JA needs approximately 12 volunteers for the simulation in JA Finance Park.
- Approximately 5.5-hour time commitment.

Volunteers can register online using the JA VolunteerHub platform: <http://jamaryland.volunteerhub.com/>

Please consider volunteering and sharing the information with your members and community!

BCPS Parent University FACEtime Newsletter

The BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement is a strong PTA Council partner. The office has designed an invitation for PTA leaders to use to personally invite parents and/or community members to join their boards.

There are English and Spanish versions, and more languages will follow.

You Belong on our PTA Board – Will You Join Us?

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

Parent University Newsletters are available here: [My Newsletters](#) | [Smore](#)

PTA COUNCIL AWARDS

We will honor the people and programs that make local PTAs shine at our **annual Awards Celebration, "A Night of Shining Stars," on Thursday, April 25, 2023, location to be announced.** There will also be a General Meeting and Council Elections at this event.

PTAs having paid Council dues can submit nomination forms, which will soon be available on our website and emailed to units.

- **Unit of Excellence Award** – honors each PTA/PTSA demonstrating performance beyond the Standards of Affiliation (SoA).
- **Recognition Award** – to give each PTA/PTSA the opportunity to have one of its members, parents, teachers, staff members or volunteers receive recognition for doing a great job. Each unit may **nominate ONE individual** for recognition, which is awarded at three levels (PTA Council Awards Committee determines which level is warranted).
- **"Top Program" Award** – to give each PTA/PTSA the opportunity to showcase its programs and partnerships. We will recognize units which have established strong family, school, and community partnerships.
- **Outstanding Educator of the Year Award** – to give each PTA/PTSA the opportunity to recognize a member of its school's staff. There will be one primary and one secondary Educator of the Year Award presented for the entire county. (Note: This award is based on performance during the 2023-24 school year, not a lifetime achievement award.)

The awards packet will be updated very soon and emailed to presidents and posted on our website.

NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 22! For more information, email awards@bcptacouncil.org or visit our website: <http://bcptacouncil.org/awards/top-program-awards/>

PTA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer scholarships to BCPS high school seniors; selections are made in May based on the following factors: Student's membership in a Baltimore County PTA in good standing; Essay; Academic Record; Student Resume

In addition to regular scholarships, PTA Council grants two special scholarships:

The **Georgie Clevenger Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating senior planning on a career in nursing

The **Marilyn Ryan Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating senior with exceptional volunteering or community service

Application due on 4/25/2024! The application will be posted on our website soon! <http://bcptacouncil.org/scholarships/>

Watch for a flyer and application link via email and for info on social media. The application will also be shared with BCPS Guidance Departments.

TURF FIELD DANGERS, DRAWBACKS

Ever wonder if that pretty green turf field has any downsides?

There are 5 things every parent should know about synthetic turf!

Read the details here!

<https://bcptacouncil.org/health-and-safety/>



National PTA Legislative Conference

Join PTA members and other passionate advocates for National PTA's 2024 Legislative Conference (LegCon) in our nation's capital March 5-7 to:

- Network with fellow PTA advocates
- Get an update on issues impacting children, families and schools
- Hear from members of the Administration and congressional champions
- Learn how to make an impact on policy decisions
- Speak with your members of Congress about issues important to students, families and schools at Hill Day

Get all the information you need [HERE!](#)

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (FSCP)

Chair Ramona Basilio (familyschool@bcptacouncil.org)

The PTA Council's FSCP Committee recently created an important subcommittee, the Multilingual Community Partnership (MLCP). The MLCP was thrilled to take part in the ESOL Family Engagement Event that took place at Franklin Middle School on December 6th! The MLCP created an amazing partnership with the FMS PTA (thanks to President Amy Hott) and the FMS World Language and ESOL Department. The MLCP is so grateful to have such strong and positive community connections. MLCP Student Ambassadors were also present and working with enthusiasm! Thanks to Ramona and MLCP Committee member Edwin Perez (an educator at Parkville High) for representing the MLCP with motivation and support during the event.

Families attend this informational event to learn about ESOL supports and services, take part in multicultural activities, and visit the BCPS ESOL Mobile Welcome Center.

Read more about it the new ESOL Mobile Welcome Center here:

<https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2023-11-22/new-mobile-welcome-center-brings-language-support-to-baltimore-county-families>

More from the MLCP:

At the Council's December board meeting, Mr. Perez presented on *The Credit for All Language Learning (CALL) Act*, which will be voted upon during Maryland General Assembly's 2024 legislative session. The goal of the bill is to ensure that higher education institutions in Maryland recognize students' work in English language learning classes equally with comparable work in college world language classes. The CALL Act would award equal credit for equal work and expand pathways for diverse students to transfer from community colleges to Maryland colleges and universities.

Link to the Credit for All Language Learning Act Letter of Support

<https://forms.gle/9FtcA5kFjnLLGUTy7>

Link to one-page policy brief

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n-u7fCM6yaPjm2AFkkMSq-TKoTddAVIx/view?usp=sharing>

Link to the related Baltimore Banner editorial "Maryland higher ed should credit all language learning"

<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/opinion/community-voices/college-language-multilingual-english-learners-KQHN46SARZEBFDD2S2L5M7RG4/>



Update from PTA Council's Reflections Chair

Local unit PTA submissions are at the county level for judging and will be submitted to FSPTA in late January. FSPTA announces recipients in March; NPTA announces recipients in May. Thanks to all units that took part in the program!

The PTA Council Reflections Ceremony is planned for

Sunday, March 17 at 2pm, location to be determined.

Slogan: "Reflect, Create, Celebrate!"

Website:

<https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/reflections/>
with link to <https://sites.google.com/view/bcreflect/home>

Facebook: @bcreflect ~ **Twitter:** @bcptareflec

Hope Metzler, reflections@bcptacouncil.org.

HEALTH & SAFETY/ADVOCACY & LEGISLATION NEWS

The Be SMART framework is designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety, reduce the deaths, injuries, and trauma that result when children gain access to unsecured firearms, and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries. Together we can protect kids using these "SMART" steps:

- **Secure** all guns in your homes and vehicles;
- **Model** responsible behavior around guns;
- **Ask** about unsecured guns in other homes;
- **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide;
- **Tell** your peers to Be SMART

Be SMART is a non-partisan educational program that is neutral on the topic of gun ownership; it does not encourage or discourage individuals from owning guns. It also does not advocate for changes to gun laws. Rather, it emphasizes the power of each and every adult to take agency over the safety of children and teens. This program emphasizes that secure storage is always the adult's responsibility.

For more information, see the flyer on our website:
<https://bcptacouncil.org/health-and-safety/>



2023-24 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR

General Meetings and Special Events (virtual or in-person, to be decided based on BCPS policy and health conditions)

- January 25, 2024: Meeting/Program, 7pm (virtual)
- March 17, 2024: Reflections Ceremony
- March 21, 2024: Meeting/Program, 7pm
- April 25, 2024: Meeting, Awards, 7pm
- June 10, 2024: Officer Training, 7pm

Board of Directors' Virtual Meetings

First Thursday of the month @ 7pm (if interested in attending, please request a link):

- February 1
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6



PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 @ 7PM VIA ZOOM

Following a brief General Meeting, our program will feature:

- The Student Handbook: Reading Between the Lines
Dr. Kevin Roberts, Dr. Kim Ferguson
BCPS Division of School Climate and Safety
- Legislative Update from PTA Council Advocacy and Legislation Committee Chair Beth Jarrett
 - Ask us Anything; All Things PTA Roundtable

Our meetings are open to the public; you don't need to be a PTA member to attend! Only voting delegates (up to 4) named by a PTA/PTSA unit president may vote in the business portion of the meeting, however.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3948082958>

To RSVP, email president@bcptacouncil.org by 1/24/24!

Information from Free State PTA

Registration is now OPEN for **Legislative Advocacy Day** (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) AND the **Legislative Advocacy Reception** (6:30 pm-9:00 pm) to be held on **February 15th** in Annapolis.

Join fellow FSPTA members to advocate in Annapolis directly with your state legislators! More details below.

Please Note: There are 2 registration links. You are invited to attend the day-time, evening, or both!

Advocacy Day: <https://www.votervoicenet.com/FSPTA/Events/7630/Register>

Advocacy Evening: <https://www.votervoicenet.com/FSPTA/Events/7619/Register>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Laura Stewart at LStewart@fspta.org.

PTA Council Leadership Contacts

Officers:

President: Leslie Weber, president@bcptacouncil.org

VP for Leadership: Jayne Lee, baltimorecountyppta@gmail.com

Area VP Northwest Area: Ryan Coleman, avpnwnc@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Southeast Area: Will Feuer, avpsenc@bcptacouncil.org

Secretary: Andra Broadwater, secretary@bcptacouncil.org

Treasurer: John Ryan, treasurer@bcptacouncil.org



Committees:

Advocacy & Legislation: Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org

Awards, Recognition & Scholarships: Open

Communications: Hope Metzler, communications@bcptacouncil.org

Curriculum & Instruction: Open

Exceptional Students Subcommittee: Jason Dowell, exceptional@bcptacouncil.org

Extension: Emory Young, extension@bcptacouncil.org

Family, School & Community Partnerships: Ramona Basilio, familyschool@bcptacouncil.org

Health & Safety: Andra Broadwater, health@bcptacouncil.org

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: Tyrone Bullock, Jr., diversity@bcptacouncil.org

Nominating Committee: Vacant

Reflections: Hope Metzler, reflections@bcptacouncil.org

Representatives:

Baltimore County Student Councils: Toyosi Dada

Baltimore County Public Schools: Sue Hahn, shahn2@bcps.org

Teachers' Association of Baltimore County: Kelly Olds