

## PTA Mission

To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;

To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and

To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this state.

## PTA Purpose

To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.

To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Howe Elementary

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>

## The PTA Difference

Founded in 1897, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a nationwide network of nearly 4 million families, students, educators, and community leaders working at the school building, district, state and national levels to improve education, health and safety conditions for our children. National PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

**The Mt. Lebanon Council PTA** is the umbrella organization over the 10 independent PTAs (7 elementary, 2 middle, 1 high school) in the Mt. Lebanon school district. Council PTA offers support and leadership to the individual units. Council PTA also meets with the MLEA, school board, and other school administrators each month to discuss items of interest to each group.

**Julia Ward Howe Elementary PTA** raises funds to support programs for Howe students and families, and to purchase educational materials for the students. Howe PTA also plays a key role in communicating important information through e-newsletters and connecting members via an on-line school directory.

**YOU BELONG IN PTA**

UNITE

SPEAK

ADVOCATE

CHAMPION

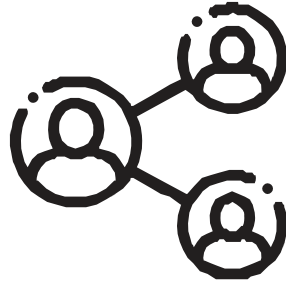
CONNECT

INVEST

## Why Join PTA?

### PTA Creates Connections

It takes a village to raise a child—and PTA is how you build that village for your child.



### PTA Supports Your Child

PTA gives you the tools you need to support your child's academic, social and emotional growth.



### PTA Amplifies Your Voice

As part of a national association, your PTA membership supports child advocacy efforts in our community, our state and the nation.

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PTA believes that together, we can make every child's potential a reality—but we need YOU. Will you join us? PTA Membership must be renewed annually so be sure to join this year. Sign-ups begin in August.

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## 2023-2024 Howe PTA Officers

### President

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

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### Historian

Aimee Danley

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Howe PTA has seven meetings, typically in the evening, from September to May. Be sure to read Mr. Rizzutto's weekly newsletter and visit the PTA tab on Howe's website for news and events.

## PTA Sponsored Programs and Events

### FAMILY EVENTS

- **Sunny Funny Fair** – Our main fundraiser, this is a carnival featuring games, art pavilion, food, prizes and raffle baskets open to the entire community.
- **Family Fun Night** – evening event featuring games or a movie to get Howe families together.

### SCIENCE/STEAM PROGRAMS

- **STEAM Fair** – students conduct projects and present their findings; then enjoy a science-themed performance.
- **Geode Man** – sponsored visit that enhances 3<sup>rd</sup> grade science curriculum.
- **Maker Space** – shared space stocked with upcycled materials and consumables for all teachers to use to supplement lessons/teaching.
- **Odyssey of the Mind** – a team-based, problem-solving competition supporting STEAM education.

### CREATIVE ARTS

- **Reflections** – an art competition organized by National PTA across 6 categories like visual, performance, & film.
- **Stairwell Art Murals** – permanent mural collections covering parts of Howe stairwells.
- **Permanent Art Collection** – student artwork selected and framed for display throughout the school.
- **Cultural Art Assemblies** – educational assemblies to expose students to performance art like dance or music.
- **Howe's Got Talent** – Talent show where kid showcase their talents ranging from music, dance, artwork & more.

### READING PROGRAMS

- **Spelling Bee** – National Script school bee for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Winner has a chance to advance to regionals.
- **Family Reading Night** – A celebration of reading event where kids create book-themed floats and cakes.
- **Read-a-thon** - Designed to encourage a love of reading. Kids track minutes read over 10 days to earn Super Reader medals presented at an all-school assembly.
- **Scholastic Book Fair & Monthly Orders** – Book sales whose proceeds provide funds for the school for books and classroom supplies.
- **Book Author Visits** – Kids meet children's book authors and strengthen their understanding of writing.

### BUSINESS SKILLS

- **Spirit Center** – 5<sup>th</sup> graders run a store - order, price, inventory, market and sell trinkets to Howe students.
- **Howe's About a Gift** – A two-day sale where students practice budgeting and math while selecting gifts for family and friends.

### HEALTHY MINDS & BODIES

- **Field Day** – Held in June, kids spend a day outside playing organized team games and activities.
- **Lunch Clubs**- short-term meetups for kids during lunchtime recess. Past clubs: chess, mindfulness, board games, yoga, fit kids.
- **OLWEUS Program** – PTA funds stress balls and fidget toys to support the school counselors' lessons on anti-bullying.

## ANNUAL TRADITIONS

- **Camp Guyasuta** – 5<sup>th</sup> graders develop team-building skills by participating in project COPE a mix of high and low rope courses during two separate day trips.
- **Pool party** – 5<sup>th</sup> graders celebrate the end of year at a local outdoor pool venue.
- **Yearbook** – Annual compilation of class photos and candid pictures available for all students to purchase.
- **Veteran's Day Assembly** – annual event to celebrate and honor Howe family veterans.
- **Spirit Wear** – Howe apparel like t-shirts & hoodies available for students and adults to purchase.

## SUPPLIES & SUPPORT

- **Kindergarten orientation** – Welcome new students and families to Howe.
- **Homeroom Parents** – (One per homeroom) to work with teacher to line up volunteers for field trips and parties.
- **Teacher & Staff Appreciation** – Activities, notes and gifts organized to thank and celebrate Howe staff.
- **Teaching Supplies** – work with Mr. Rizzutto to provide teacher-requested supplies and experiences to enhance student learning.
- **Angel Fund** – Supplies instrument repair and other activities for families facing financial hardships.
- **Library volunteers** – Work with librarian to restock books; plan special events (family reading night).
- **Weekly Newsletter** – Keep up to date on upcoming PTA, Howe and community events.

## Typical PTA Events Calendar

### August / September / October

5<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirts created  
Teacher's Welcome Back lunch  
PTA membership drive / Coffee & Kleenex  
Homeroom Coordinators form  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Guyasuta trip  
Sunny Funny Fair  
Odyssey teams form

### November/December

Halloween Parties & parade  
Scholastic Book Fair  
Family Fun Night  
Howe's About a Gift  
Winter classroom parties

### January/February/March

Lunch Clubs  
Spelling bees  
Valentine classroom parties  
STEAM fair  
Read-a-thon  
Howe's Got Talent

### April/May/June

Open House – Healthy Mind Fair  
Staff appreciation lunches  
Family Reading Night  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Meadowcroft trip; pool party  
Yearbooks delivered  
Field Day  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade clap-out