

Upper St. Clair
PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL
General Meeting Agenda
April 7, 2021 9:30 am

Call to Order

Opening Ceremony

Approval of Agenda- motion to approved

Reports

Executive Committee:

■ **President** – Kerstin Goodworth.

- Looking for new members to join the PTC board. If interested, please email Kerstin at uscptcpresident@uscscd.org.
- Going forward all PTC meetings will be held via Google meet due to the great attendance rates

■ **1st Vice President** – Gina Swanson

■ **Superintendent & 2nd Vice President** - Dr. John Rozzo-

- Phase 3 back to school model has been approved. Students will return 5 days a week with Wednesdays as half days to allow teachers time to plan for and produce full remote learning capabilities
- Dashboard is up and is updated daily.
- Staff vaccinations are in full swing. Currently, 250 staff and teachers are fully vaccinated. 150 are partially vaccinated.
- PSSAs are scheduled for May. Opted to complete them this spring so that next school year may proceed as normally as possible
- School district is moving forward with having as many end of school year events as safely as possible. Look for communications from individual school units coming in the near future.
- June 9,10, and 11th are the tentative high school graduation dates. Graduation will be held outdoors on the football field. 2 tickets will be available for each graduate. Event will be live streamed for all other family members who wish to view it.
- Prom will be held on June 8th at Heinz field
- High school musical will be live streamed as well

- Summer programming is currently being planned.
Look for communications coming soon.
- **Treasurer (and Statement of Treasurer)-** Yesha Katukota-
- **Secretary** - Laura Lisien.
 - The PTC will be holding a gratitude drive in the month of April for those essential school workers who have made this year possible for our kids. Those workers include nurses, nutritional staff, bus drivers, security guards and technology staff. Please visit: <https://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/domain/53>.
- **Board Advisor** – Batool Nulwala.
- **School Board Director** – Dr. Daphna Gans.

Unit Presidents:

- **Eisenhower** – Kristin LeBeau
 - **Arts in USC:** A record number of Eisenhower students submitted entries for the Arts in USC Art Contest this year – 39 students - with participants from every grade level.
 - **Spring Scholastic Book Fair:** The PTO will be hosting an online book fair April 19-May 2. A link to place orders will be sent to all families.
 - **Computer Science Workshop for 4th Graders:** The *Spark Girls into Science Club* at Upper St Clair High School is offering a free computer science workshop for 4th graders beginning today. There are 25 Eisenhower 4th grade girls and boys enrolled in the workshops. An email was sent to all 4th grade families with information about logging on for the class. We are grateful for this opportunity for our students and would love to see how we can facilitate collaborations with additional high school clubs in the future.
 - **Preparations for Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week:** Preparations are under way for the week of May 3-7. Info will be coming this week from the chairs about how you can contribute and participate. We look forward to expressing our appreciation for all of the extra effort our teachers and all of the staff have dedicated this year.
 - **Exploring Options for Field Day and 4th Grade Farewell:** We're considering ways that we might be able to adjust Field Day and the 4th Grade Farewell celebration. Committees are working on the usual 4th grade shirts and Memory Books. We'll keep families posted!
 - **Next General PTO meeting will be Friday, April 16th via Google Meet:** Dan O'Rourke, Boyce Principal, and Tonia Auteri, the incoming 5th grade's guidance counselor, will be participating in the meeting to speak about the transition to Boyce. Andrea Amorose, the Boyce PTO president will also join in to share info about committees and volunteer opportunities at Boyce. This meeting will be of special interest to current 4th grade families. A link and agenda will be emailed to all Eisenhower families. We'll also be doing Executive Board member nominations and discussing activities planned for the rest of the school year.
- **Streams** – Michelle Holzer
 - The Spring Spirit Wear sale has concluded - thank you to everyone for your participation. Orders are expected to be delivered in early May. Thanks to Jessica Mitchell for heading up the committee!
 - Creative Computing class is starting today - please reach out if you registered and need login information.
 - Virtual Book Fair will be launched on April 12 and run through April 25.

- Current contest/raffle running to win \$50 in Scholastic dollars before the book fair launches. To enter, turn in the coloring sheet to your homeroom teacher. Links to coloring sheets can be found in the 4/7 PTO email update. You can email us at StreamsPTO@gmail.com if you still need a copy.
- We are still evaluating options for activities throughout the remainder of the year to ensure student and staff safety. We will keep you updated when we know what events will be taking place.
- 4th grade committee is collecting photos for the 4th grade memory books. If you have not yet sent in pictures of your 4th grader, please email them to usc2029grads@gmail.com. Include your child's name in the email.
- Staff appreciation will be held May 3-7. We have voted to reallocate some budget to staff appreciation to honor all the hard work our staff has done this year. The staff appreciation committee has put together some fun themed days for the week and will be reaching out to parents with information on how you can get involved and help out.
- We are still seeking secretary nominations for next year. Please reach out to me (michelle.holzer@gmail.com) if you think you'd be interested so that I can let you know what the role entails!
- Next general PTO meeting will be held on April 13 @ 6pm. RSVP via the PTO calendar to receive the meeting link. We will be voting on next year's VP and hearing from a representative from the USC Children's library to learn more about their summer offerings.

• **Baker** – Jackie Barefoot

- Our annual Baker's Got Talent Variety Show premiered via a live streamed event on March 26th. We had over 40 acts of various talents. Each student went home with a bag of popcorn to enjoy the show with their family. It was a huge hit, and despite not being able to perform on stage this year the children were able to showcase talents they otherwise may not have been able to like ice skating, trampoline acts, obstacle courses for pets. We send big thank yous to the Baker Staff for the amazing annual performance that opened the show. And this event would not have happened without the work of Lindsay Beck, Brad Wilson, Ray Berrott, and Michael Binkley- many thanks to them!
- On March 12th our Staff Appreciation Committee set up a donation drive for store bought pies and provided each staff member with a pie to take home. Over 75 pies were donated by Baker families. In addition, The Pie Place donated a tray of sweet treats for the staff to enjoy during the school day. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible.
- Our Spring Spirit Wear Sale is complete. We sold over 150 items during this sale. Items are to be expected around the end of April. Details for pick-up/delivery to come.
- Baker's Spring Outreach Project is set to begin the week of April 26-30th. The Outreach Committee will be asking for donations of supplies to make blessing bags for individuals in need. The bags will be given to Kindergarten teacher, Mr. Erik Wiesemann who founded the charity Light in My City. Details and lists of needed supplies will follow in an email.
- Our next General PTA meeting via Zoom will be held next Thursday 4/15 at

10am. During this meeting we will propose the 2021-2022 budget, as well as the 2021-2022 Exec Board nominations. A meeting link will be emailed.

● **Boyce – Andrea Amorose**

- Author Day - We are excited about being able to offer a virtual Author's Day this year for the students. Best-selling author, Jennifer Nielsen, will be offering virtual sessions with the students on May 17th and 18th. Mrs. Husak will be putting together an order form if you would like to purchase a signed copy of Jennifer's books. Book selection and prices will be sent out soon!
- Spark Girls into STEM's first-ever virtual outreach program, run by a few high school students just finished up the end of March. There was a wonderful turnout and the girls performed STEM activities such as making a rainstorm in a bottle and lava lamps.
- The Panther Paw student newspaper is up and running again! If your child is interested in writing for the Panther Paw, please see Mrs. Husak, the Librarian for more info.
- Thank you so much to everyone who purchased spirit wear through our spring sale! Orders will be delivered by the end of April.
- Congratulations to the Arts in USC winners throughout the district.
 - Fifth Grade Winners
 - First - Vikrant Kamat
 - Second (tie) - Shirish Pradeep and Suhavi Singh
 - Third (tie) - Maddie Brunner and Gabe Gracie
 - Sixth Grade
 - First - Jhivyasaili Sahu
 - Second - Sahana Senthil
 - Third - Sophia Henderson
 - We are still collecting pictures for the 2020-2021 Yearbook. Please send your pictures of Boyce activities, including remote learning to yearbook4boyce@gmail.com.
 - Please visit www.yearbookordercenter.com code: 17867 to order your copy today! All yearbooks will be delivered to your house this summer. \$19 per yearbook with shipping included!
 - We have reached the time of year to plan for the next school year! If you are interested in joining a committee at Boyce for the 2021-2022 school year, please visit <https://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/12277> to check out our committees and sign up.
 - We have a few nominations for our open Executive Board positions of Vice President and Secretary. If anyone else is interested, please let me know asap at BoycePTOPresident@gmail.com.
 - The Boyce PTO Standing Rules and By-Laws are posted on the PTO page and we are asking that any PTO member, please take a look at the proposed changes and the Budget proposal for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Voting for Executive positions, Budget, Standing Rules and By-Laws will be emailed to families at the end of April. Voting will be electronic and run from April 30th - May 7th.
 - The April Boyce PTO meeting is Wednesday, April 14th, 9:30 am. Please register for the meeting at <https://forms.gle/vtwwLJq87bhRR9bc7> The Google Meet link will be emailed to you on Wednesday morning, April 14th.

● **Fort Couch – Siân Howell.**

- A staff appreciation event was run last month where a hibachi food truck came to Fort Couch and provided lunch for all staff. The weather held out for us and it

ended up being a great event and really well received.

- The PTSO is still looking for a Vice President for the 21/22 school year. If anybody is interested or would like information on what the role entails, please feel free to reach out to Sian FCPTSOpresident@gmail.com
- Next meeting is an evening meeting on Tuesday April 20th at 7:30pm via zoom. Registration required.

● **USCHS – Beth Thomas**

- Winter sports wrapped up, with many teams achieving well in the playoffs. Coach Holzer, boys basketball coach, was named this year's High School Sports Net coach of the year;
- Spring musical rehearsals have begun. Students will be performing *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, to be premiered in mid-May;
- The orchestra had a wonderful concert before spring break — we look forward to band and choral concerts in May;
- Students participate in the third and final survey for Natural Helpers / Penn State's Compassion Lab on Thursday — this is a partnership with Pitt and Penn State that kicked off this fall. Data will be helpful to our counseling department as we consider programming for students;
- Keystone Testing for Biology and tenth grade English will be May 19 and 26; Keystone Testing for High School Algebra I will be May 17 and 24;
- The next Principals' Advisory Council Meeting will be held on April 14 — a sign up link will be sent today (Wednesday)
- Looking for HS PTSO Exec board members...VP, Secretary, Membership

Standing Committees:

■ **Arts in USC** – Kathy Ginsburg. Arts in USC was a huge success. There were a lot of entries this year. Slide show of winning contestants can be seen on the PTC website.

■ **Caring and Sharing** - Leria Miles

■ **Directory** – Beth Huzjak/Stacey Friday- No update.

■ **GATE** – Penny Miller

The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Committee provides support to parents of gifted and academically talented children. On April 28 at noon, GATE will host a virtual meeting to provide parents with information about GATE programming in the USCSD.

GATE welcomes Cassandra Doggrell, Director of Special Education, and Lauren Madia, Director of Pupil Services, to discuss:

- What is gifted?
- Gifted education in Upper St. Clair
- Staffing

- The process for identifying and evaluating giftedness
- Resources for parents

An announcement and link to register for the meeting is forthcoming and will be posted on the GATE website (<https://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/Page/374>).

If you are interested in serving on the GATE committee or have information to share about GATE opportunities on the GATE website, please contact Penney Miller at gateuscptc@gmail.com.

■ **Open Mike** – Gina Swanson- No Update

■ **Partners in Education** – Katherine DelGrande-Zesch/Elizabeth Cochran

No update

■ **Performing Arts**- Shelby Wherry No update

■ **Spelling Bee** – Sarah Cranganu / Sunil Parchuri No update

■ **STEAM** – Suzanne Wynne

Thanks to the high school Spark Girls into STEM club, this year's Girls in STEM after-school program at Boyce was a great success. The club led 5th and 6th graders through a series of fun sciences experiments in small Google meet groups. Today the members of the Spark Girls into STEM club, led by Reshma Gudlar, kick off this year's Creative Computing Club at all three elementary schools. This three week virtual after-school club will introduce the fundamentals of computer science to 61 fourth graders.

This winter Reshma approached me about running these clubs and indicated that her club members were eager to do something to counteract the stress of this unusual year. I can't say enough about these young women. Special thanks to Reshma and her club members for making these amazing opportunities available and sharing the joys of science with a total of 84 elementary and middle school students in 2021.

■ **Welcoming Committee** – Kim Megonnell No Update

■ **Wellness Committee** - Libby Mascaro/ Hallie Snyder No UPdate

Reporting Organizations:

■ **Community Foundation** – Beth Erlanger/Daphna Gans No Update

■ **Odyssey of the Mind** – Laura Murtough/Meredith Markovitz

Having competed at the Western PA Virtual Regional Tournament on March 6, **eleven Upper St. Clair Odyssey of the Mind teams will participate this Saturday,**

April 10 at the PA Odyssey Virtual State Finals! Teams from Eisenhower, Streams, Boyce and USCHS have prepared virtual submissions to compete against teams from across the state. Submissions include a video performance with an accompanying team explanation video, along with paperwork and photos to support their work. The teams will be judged on creativity and risk-taking in their solutions. Advancing teams will have the opportunity to compete at the Odyssey World Finals which will have both virtual and in person options in late May and early June. We're so proud of the hard work our teams have put in during this challenging year!

On May 15, USC Odyssey of the Mind - in partnership with Axios Tutoring - will offer the ACT vs SAT Comparison Test for high school sophomores and juniors. This valuable practice test helps students decide which test is right for them. Look for registration details will be posted on our website (www.uscootm.com) in the next week or so.

After a hiatus last summer due to Covid, USC Odyssey of the Mind is also busy planning for the return of **Ingenuity Camp in June!** Details are forthcoming and will be included in next month's PTC board meeting report.

■ **Youth Steering – Amy Billerbeck**

Thanks to all who attended March “Share the Keys” presentation

New Youth Steering Committee web site: youthsteeringcommitteeusc.org

- Includes information on the committee (Mission, history, composition, members)
- Membership and volunteer info
- Upcoming events

April program:

Navigating Emotionally Intense Conversations with your Kids

- Speaker: Dr. Eran Magen, PhD. - Stanford psychologist
- His work is centered around the power of relationships; workshops are under the theme “Parenting For Humans”; mental health focus
- April 14, 2021 - 7PM via Zoom
- Register via school district or YSC web site or weekly communications from Tina V.

May program:

Presentation of USCHS Natural Helpers Survey Results

- By student leaders from the USC Natural Helpers
- May 12, 2021 - 7PM via Zoom
- Registration coming soon

Elementary PALS

- New mentorship program between USCHS and elementary kids
- YSC student representatives from USCHS have developed and are piloting at Streams - plan to roll out to all district elementary schools
- Original focus on helping kids who are struggling w/remote learning, pandemic-related issues
- Pairing kids based on interests, etc.

Old Business:

- Custodian Gratitude Update

New Business:

- Budget for 2020-21(pending completion)
- Nominees for 2020-21 PTC Exec Board
- Looking for new committee chairs and members for 2021-22. Please contact uscptcpresident@gmail.com if you're at all interested in getting involved! • **NEXT MEETING:** May 5th, 2021 @ 9:30 am

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

March

April

1-5: NO SCHOOL – Spring recess (*School resumes Tues., April 6*)

7: PTC meeting, 9:30 a.m., virtual

12: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.

13: Report Cards, Third Marking Period

13: Baker, [Spring Picture Day](#)

13: Streams PTO meeting, 6 p.m.

14: Baker, Spring Picture Day, Remote students

14: Boyce PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.

14: [Parenting for Humans: Navigating Emotionally Tense Conversations with Your Child](#), 7 p.m.

15: Baker PTA meeting, 10 a.m.

16: Eisenhower PTO meeting, 9 a.m.

20: Fort Couch, PTSO meeting, 7:30 p.m.

27: School Board meeting, 7 p.m.

30: USCHS Senior Picnic & Decision Day