PARENTS AS TEACHERS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

Follow us on social media!
Scan the QR code to begin.

Facebook: BlueValleyParentsasteachers
Twitter: @BlueValleyPAT
Instagram: parentsasteachersbv



REFLECTIONS FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hello PAT families,

As a valued participant in our PAT program, we want to keep you informed of significant budget challenges that the Blue Valley School District is facing that will impact our program beginning in the fall of 2027.

These budget challenges are the result of several factors, including declining student enrollment, limited state reimbursement for special education services, and increasing operating costs. As a result, the district is evaluating budget reductions across various programs and services. Unfortunately, Parents as Teachers is among the programs that will experience significant reductions for the 2027-28 program year.

This news is difficult as we see firsthand the difference home visiting services make in the lives of children and families. From supporting healthy child development and strengthening parenting skills to connecting families with valuable community resources, we believe these services play an important role in building strong foundations for lifelong learning and success.

Parents as Teachers is a grant-funded program that relies on a local financial match to access state funding. In simple terms, for every $0.50 the district contributes, the state provides $1.00 in matching funds, up to the maximum grant award. We are actively working with the district to explore potential community partnerships and additional funding opportunities that could help fulfill the local match requirement. Our hope is to secure the full state grant award and minimize the impact of these budget challenges on the services we provide to families.

If you would like more information about the district's budget challenges, click **HERE** to access a website where you can watch a video explaining the district's budget challenges and the adjustments they are making, a webinar with the superintendent and school board members where they address community members' questions, and other communications that have been sent out. The Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA will be watching the video together, and then Kendall Burr and I will be available to answer questions at the general members meeting **tonight at 6 pm in the Hilltop lobby** for anyone who can join. The school board will also be discussing the budget at their next **school board meeting on November 9th from 5:30-7:30 at the school district main office**, 15020 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223.

We recognize how valuable your partnership with Parents as Teachers is, and we remain committed to supporting you and your family. We do not anticipate any reduction in services this program year. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your family's journey. We will continue to share updates as we learn more and work toward solutions that protect these important services.

With appreciation,

Michelle Kelly

Program Coordinator
Blue Valley Parents as Teachers

DECEMBER PLAYGROUPS

We're excited to welcome families back to the BV PAT playroom!
Playgroups are a fun way for children to play, learn, and make friends while parents connect with other families.
Playgroups meet once a week for **2** weeks, and each group will be limited to 10-18 children.
You may sign up for **one** of the following playgroups:



- Baby Play
- 1-Year-Olds
- 2-Year-Olds
- Multiage (1's & 2's)
- Saturday
- Evening



DECEMBER Playgroup **SIGN-UP link** will be emailed on **NOVEMBER 17th** at **noon.**

Please note:

- One adult may attend with each child. A grandparent or nanny is welcome to attend in place of a parent.
- No siblings are allowed in Baby, 1-Year-Old, or 2-Year-Old playgroups. Siblings under 36 months may attend the Multiage, Evening, and Saturday playgroups. Non-walking babies are always welcome.
- A valid state-issued photo ID or passport is required to enter any Blue Valley building. Please bring it each time you attend.
- Strollers and car seats are not allowed in the playroom. Please carry or wear your baby when not playing on the floor.
- If a playgroup is full, join the waitlist. Waitlisted families receive priority registration the following month.
- If **two** consecutive sessions are missed, your spot will be offered to the next family on the waitlist.
- Please stay home if you or your child is feeling ill.

BABY PLAY

Tuesdays 9:15-10am:
12/1 & 12/8

Thursdays 12:15-1pm:
11/5, 11/12, & 11/18

1-YEAR-OLDS

Wednesdays 10:15-11am:
12/2 & 12/9

Thursdays 9:15-10am:
12/3 & 12/10

2-YEAR-OLDS

Tuesdays 10:15-11am:
12/1 & 12/8

Wednesdays 9:15-10am:
12/3 & 12/10

1 & 2 YEAR OLDS

(For children 9 to 36 months of age &/or families with more than one child under 36 months)

Thursdays 10:15-11am:
12/3 & 12/10

SATURDAY

No Saturday Plagroup

EVENING

Wednesday 5:30-6:15pm:
12/2

NOTES

NO Playgroups:
Dec. 14th - Jan. 1st

WINTER BREAK!

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE



"I can choose to Respond instead of React"

Click here to view the Conscious Discipline home visit topic video for November

See below for additional resources



FRIENDLY REMINDER



With daylight hours getting shorter and winter just around the corner, we kindly ask that you **turn on your porch light** for your Parent Educator during evening home visits.

As the weather gets colder, please also remember to **shovel and salt your sidewalks** when needed to help ensure a safe walkway for your Parent Educator. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe during the changing seasons!

WELLNESS POLICY

We work hard to keep our playroom clean, healthy, and safe for all our little ones! We appreciate your help in keeping germs at bay. **If your child mouths a toy, please place it in the designated tub so we can sanitize it before it's used again.**

To help protect all our families, we kindly ask that you keep your child home from the playroom if they are feeling unwell, have had a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea within the past 24 hours, or have colored nasal discharge.



Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone healthy!



Let's Fill the Shelves Together!

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

BLUE VALLEY PARENTS AS TEACHERS

FOOD/SUPPLY DRIVE





FOOD INSECURITY AFFECTS SO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY, BUT TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP ALLEVIATE HUNGER

We are hosting a Food & Supply Drive to collect essential items for local families and individuals in need. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference and helps provide the necessities our community needs. Thank you for your generosity and support!

What We're Needing

- Diapers Sizes 5, 6, 7
- Pull-Ups any size
- Powdered Formula
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Wash/Bubble Bath
- Safety-Proof Items
- Pouch Baby food

Where to Donate

Drop-off Location
Hilltop Learning Center
PAT Playroom
7700 W 143rd. St., OP, KS 66223

Collection Dates
November 2nd - 20th

Learn more at
BVSD Food Pantry

PTA NEWS

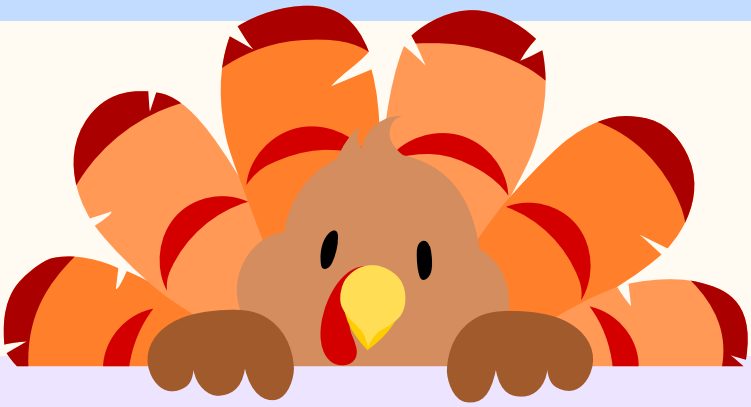
Hello PAT Families!

In addition to supporting our Hilltop staff, PTA membership also gives you access to additional playroom playgroups (led by our very own Parent Educators!) and fun outings!

Our November outing is on the 13th at 9:00 AM, and we are headed to Dozer to play in the sand! :) They are opening their doors to us for FREE. We would **LOVE** to have you join us!

Click **HERE** to join the PTA. Your annual fee is $30 and runs through June of 2027.

Please email our Treasurer to confirm your enrollment, and we will make sure to send the information your way ASAP to bvecptatreasurer@gmail.com



PTA NEWS

Stock the Breakroom!

Help restock the breakrooms of our incredible teachers, educators, and staff. Whether you have a child in the EC program or participate in the PAT program, this is a great way to thank your educator for their support. Please click **HERE** to sign up to bring one or two items. You can drop them off with your Parent Educator or the next time you attend a playgroup. You can also donate to the PTA Website under "staff appreciation," and the funds will be used to purchase an item from the list.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL RESOURCES



Click here for resources for families aligned with the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social-Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children.

These items are designed for busy families and include visuals, strategies, and quick one-page articles on common topics.

VISUAL SUPPORTS

Ask our Hilltop staff to name the number one strategy they recommend most, and you'd likely hear the same answer - Visuals!

Using visuals can be at least as effective for parents as it is at school. Click the links for some resources to use at home.

Visual Supports for Routines, Schedules, and Transitions

Visual Countdown Timer App

Program to quickly make visuals



SCRIPTED STORIES



Another favorite strategy that can be super helpful for families? A scripted story can be a great resource to help your child prepare for an upcoming change or learn a new routine!

Click here for a tip sheet to create a scripted story for your own child. Want more resources for scripted stories or would like to see some samples?

Click here and select Scripted Stories for Social Situations.

futures first NURTURING YOUNG LIVES

Conscious Discipline Family and Caregiver Workshop

Free Four Week Series

Thursday Evenings, 6:00-7:30pm
Oct 22-Nov 12, 2026



Futures First is offering a free series of parenting and caregiving workshops based on Conscious Discipline, a research-based, evidence-backed program focused on safety, connection, and problem solving.



Participants will learn how to increase self-regulation and positive behavior management. The faciliator will provide information, encourage discussion and offer resources for building resilient, emotionally safe, and healthy families.

Questions: djohnson@futuresfirstkc.org

- session 1:
  Brain States and Composure
- Session 2:
  Cooperation and Connection
- Session 3:
  Tantrums and Big Feelings
- SEssion 4:
  Consequences and Problem Solving

Register:

Scan or **click here**



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UCS United Community Services of Johnson County