

## **WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!**

"Hi!" and "How do you do?" from the Dodgen Middle School PTSA. We hope your rising 6th grader returned home full of excitement after their tour of Dodgen on Feb. 6th. We are excited to welcome them for the 2017-2018 school year!

If this is your first child to head to middle school, we're sure you have a myriad of questions. We look forward to helping the Dodgen administration and 6th grade teachers get all of your questions answered and aid you in settling in to the new school.

Our website, **[dodgenpts.org](http://dodgenpts.org)**, has valuable resources for you as you prepare for the transition. We invite you to go ahead and register your rising 6th grader in the **Dodgen Toolkit** now so you can receive communications about upcoming events and deadlines as you prepare for the start of middle school. If you have any questions, our Toolkit guru ([database@dodgenpts.org](mailto:database@dodgenpts.org)) is always eager to help.

Our **online calendar** will give you a heads up about upcoming events. Our calendars are subscribe-able so you can follow the instructions on our website to automatically update your Goggle calendar or iCal with our events. A couple of items to add to your calendar right now are:

- **May 4, 2017 at 6:00 PM - Rising 6th Grade Parent Night.** This will be an opportunity for rising 6th parents to learn about the school, administration, policies and procedures.
- **July 28, 2017 from 1:30-3:00 PM — Panther Day!** This is an opportunity to come in, meet homeroom teachers, have school pictures taken, drop off grade level supplies (like paper towels), buy spirit wear, and learn about clubs and other opportunities available at Dodgen. Watch for specifics via email, our website and our outdoor sign as this date approaches.

We also have a **Dodgen 101 Guide** and series of videos to help you and your future middle schooler prepare for everything from their first locker to their first Dodgen Olympics. The guide and videos can be found under Events & Programs/Dodgen 101 or directly at: <https://dodgenpts.org/membershiptoolkit.com/Dodgen101>.

Our online **Back to School Survival Guide** was created specifically to help parents navigate the first few weeks of school and everything you need to know and do to get off on the right foot. And one of those checklist items is to **volunteer** at Dodgen! We are already preparing our slate of officers and committee chairs for next year and we need **you**. Middle school's three years come and go in a heartbeat, and staying connected to your 'tween-to-teen can be a challenge. Volunteering is a great way to stay engaged in what middle school has in store for your child. A few of the roles we are working to fill include:

- **E-News Publisher Co-Chair** - Gather content and publish our weekly e-newsletter via Membership Toolkit. Toolkit training will be provided. This task can be done exclusively from home.
- **Copy Crew Co-Chair** - This co-chair will help organize schedules and train volunteers to work on the Copy Crew. The current chair is looking for an apprentice to learn during 2017-2018 and take over the role in the 2018-2019 school year.

## ***A Message for the Parents of Rising 6th Graders headed to Dodgen in 2017-2018***

- **STEM/Science Fair Co-Chairs** — Dodgen will be hosting its *first* science fair in the fall! This team will work with Dr. Giles to create a framework for a dynamic STEM event for our students.
- **Spirit Wear Chair** - This person will order spirit wear to be sold online and in the school store. This person will be busiest during the months June-August, and can do most work from home but needs to be available on Panther Day.
- **Environmental Education Chair** -This chair works with the Dodgen Environmental Club to Keep Dodgen Green.
- **Diversity & Inclusion Chair** -This position has been vacant and is in need of someone passionate about enhancing the Diversity & Inclusion in the Dodgen community. This is a priority in the Georgia PTA organization and will be an area of focus in the year ahead.
- **Education & Literacy Chair** - This position has been vacant and is in need of someone eager to enhance educational opportunities available at Dodgen. This is a priority in the Georgia PTA organization and will be an area of focus in the year ahead.
- **Reflections Chair** -This position organizes the Dodgen student participation in the Reflections contest. Fall is the busiest time for this role, with a few responsibilities extending into the spring.
- **Hospitality Co-Chair** - Make arrangements for refreshments for various events throughout the year. The current chair is looking for an apprentice to learn during 2017-2018 and take over the role in the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Staff Appreciation Event Chair** - This person will plan the Staff Back to School Breakfast, Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfasts, and teacher dinners during Open Houses.
- **Book Fair Co-Chair** - This team will plan and coordinate volunteers for the annual Book Fair. Availability to be at school during the day the week of the Book Fair is important.
- **Youth Services Chair** - This position handles Box Tops for Education submissions and serves as our Exceptional Children advocate. This role has brief busy times when Box Tops submission are due in the spring and fall.
- **Walton Liaison** - Will you have children at Walton and Dodgen next year? This person just passes relevant info from the Walton PTSA to the Dodgen PTSA.

If you are interested in serving in a leadership role next year or have questions about responsibilities for a given role, please **contact Wade Jones at [vicepresident@dodgenptsa.org](mailto:vicepresident@dodgenptsa.org)**. Additionally, opportunities to volunteer to serve on various committees (but not chair them) will be available in Toolkit as the 2017-2018 school year approaches.

We look forward to meeting all of you at 6:00 PM on May 4, 2017!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Bright & Cara Melenzyer  
Dodgen PTSA Co-Presidents  
[president@dodgenptsa.org](mailto:president@dodgenptsa.org)