



Hello, new and returning Gunn families. Welcome to a new school year! PTSA works closely with Gunn administration to serve students, staff and families. This letter details the programs and school supports that PTSA provides, with the hope that you will join us as a member, donor, and/or volunteer. We believe parent/guardian participation strengthens the Gunn community and enhances everyone's experience at school. Your donation, membership and time ensures our PTSA remains strong and relevant. Look for us in the new online Back-to-School packet www.tinyurl.com/GunnBackToSchool (or paper packets in the Gunn Office) beginning August 5th.

What does Gunn PTSA do? Why & How to get involved?

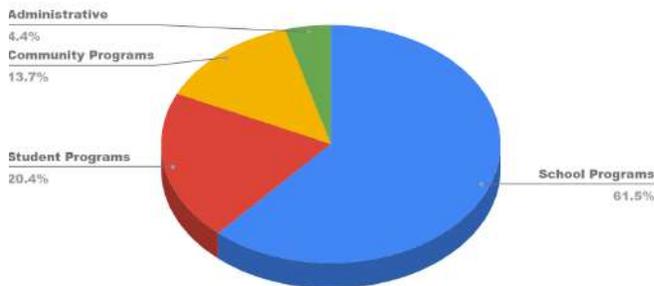
The National PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is a non-profit with a 120 year history and mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Gunn PTSA is part of the largest student-advocacy organization, with over 800,000 members in the California PTA and over 4 million members nationwide. PTA advocacy in the 21st century means providing kids with nutritious meals, keeping them safe from violence, protecting students' personal and academic information, and ensuring that they are college and career-ready upon graduation from high school. (Read more on National PTA and California PTA.)

Research shows that a child does better in school when parents participate. Each year, the Gunn PTSA requests your voluntary membership along with a one-time donation to our Annual Giving campaign, and/or your support by volunteering. Your PTSA donation will fund school materials, programs and community-building events that are vital to Gunn; your support also enables you to be part of our community through PTSA communications, Parent Networks, and Parent Education events. So, get involved however you can!

- (1) **JOIN PTSA:** Your \$10 membership fee matters. Gunn PTSA is a non-profit whose affiliation with both the National and California PTAs provides insurance for PTSA events, governance, and advocacy. Membership in Gunn PTSA enables you to vote on PTSA activities, and provides reinforcement of a large and powerful voice for advocacy and changes to public policies that benefit all students and their education. We encourage participation from both families and Gunn staff, and our membership continues to grow.

- (2) **DONATE:** Over 90% of PTSA's income comes from family donations and employers' Corporate Matching programs. The success of our one-time Annual Giving campaign means we conduct no other fundraising activities the rest of the year. Our suggested donation this year is \$300 per student, but please give any amount that is comfortable. We value your contributions.

PTSA Spending



- * **School Programs:** Grants for teacher-requested programs and materials; schoolwide improvement; professional development; health & wellness

- * **Student Programs:** Student-led events and programs (Oracle, TedX, Animal Assisted Happiness); ReCYCLED; Sources of Strength; Gunn Foundation; student scholarships; health & safety; student appreciation

- * **Community Programs:** Turkey Feast and International Week (proceeds to charities); grants to YCS; Parent Education; Parent Networks; staff & volunteer appreciation

- * **PTA Administrative:** State & local PTA fees; insurance for school events; taxes & fees; website, directory, office support

As you can see, PTSA donations fund materials, and pay for programs and events that directly benefit Gunn students, parents, and staff. This complements PiE (Partners in Education) which funds school staff such as guidance counselors, electives teachers, and classroom aides. You can request a copy of this

year's Gunn PTSA budget by contacting treasurer@GunnPTSA.org.

- (3) **VOLUNTEER**: Your time is valuable, appreciated, and helps make work easy and fun. Gunn relies on volunteers for occasional events and on-going PTSA and school-led programs. There is a job (big or small) for anyone who wants to help. For example, we need food servers at community and staff appreciation events, assistants for departments like math, science, language and CTE, and help in offices like Student Activities, College & Career, or the Academic Center. Check our volunteer opportunities here: <https://gunn.paloaltopta.org/volunteer-at-gunn/>

How can I stay connected at Gunn?

<https://gunn.paloaltopta.org>

We use an online UpToUs directory for volunteer sign-ups and communication (answer "Yes" during the District's Annual Data Update to be contacted by PTSA). Parents also get together for school wide events and meetings.

Gunn Connection (eNews)

PTSA's primary communications is our newsletter, published weekly on Fridays and sent by e-mail. Gunn staff and students may also announce important information through our eNews. Gunn student volunteers translate eNews into multiple languages to make information accessible for all families.

Parent Networks by Grade-level

Parent Network Groups are led by supportive PTSA volunteers at each grade-level. They share information and strategies around issues like school transitions, parent-child communication, emerging independence and social life. Periodic emails and face-to-face meetings with Gunn staff and other guest speakers (including experienced parents and students) update parents on what is meaningful and relevant by grade.

General Association Meetings and Principal's Coffee

PTSA schedules coffees for parents throughout the year with our Principal, Kathie Laurence as part of our General Association Meetings. Come to chat, ask questions, and meet others. Coffee is served.

Gunn Parent Facebook Group

PTSA volunteers moderate a two-way social media page on Facebook where parents can ask questions and share events and updates relevant to our Gunn community, including Gunn Boosters and Club news.

Gunn High School Titan Talk

Weekly communication to parents from the Counseling Department with upcoming events, tips and tidbits.

Gunn High School Student Activities Weekly Update

Weekly updates from the (SAC) Student Activities Center via Schoology on upcoming student-centered activities.

Gunn High School Calendar & Website

The Office staff maintains a schoolwide Google calendar at <https://gunn.pausd.org/> with PTSA, parent, student and staff events. Also see <https://gunnathletics.com/> or contact (650) 354-8200 with questions.

We're all in this together! So let us know if you have ideas or suggestions.

2019-2020 Gunn PTSA Executive Board

Kimberly Eng Lee, President
Lili Nova-Roessig, Executive Vice President
Jennifer Schultz, Eva Dobrov* & Jenny Chang, VPs Communications
Elisa Yu & Heewon Park, VPs Community Events
Joy Hinton*, VP Ways & Means
Karrie Chen & Claudia Yu, Treasurer
Karen Shuler & Claire Kirner, Secretary
Paul Sakuma, Historian
Xin Liu, Auditor

*Pending appointment in August 2019