

# Merrill Middle School PTA



Merrill Middle School  
DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## ***PTA Meeting Minutes – Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm in the Library***

Attendees: Channan Timm, Mrs. Freeman, Claudia G. Brown, Mrs. Austin, Sarah Witt, Jen Chedester, Kristen Erickson, Kari Taylor, Kate Mead, Emily Peterson, McB McManus, Jill DeLancey, Susan Stringer, Ben Spadt, Amber Adams, Nana Coleman, Rose Green, Emily Shields, Brett Lawson, Rachel Formaro, Shana Harder, Jenna Madison, Christy Stroope, Jodie Lee, Mrs. Panek, Mr. Luft, Michelle Gartner

### **Welcome and Introductions - Michelle Gartner**

- Everyone in the Merrill Community is automatically a part of the Merrill PTA.

### **School Updates - Principal Panek**

- Thanks for being here tonight.
- All call out snack donations. Thank you!
- New track, gaga ball pit. Field. Basketball hoops
- Teacher Appreciation already. Thank you for supporting teachers.
- Outdoor project. Waiting for rain and cool temps for sod to be planted.
- 670 students. Up from last year. 28-32 kids per class sizes.
- Mustang PROUD. Building reinforcement system. Kids get Merrill Moolah for supporting PROUD to be a Mustang.
  - P – be Prepared
  - R – be Respectful
  - O – take Ownership
  - U – be Understanding
  - D – Dream big
- Clubs and activities are going strong. Tell your kids to listen to the announcements.
- No school on Friday the 22nd or Monday the 25th.
- Looking at conferences by advisory teacher.
- Thanks for communications. Please reach out if something is different with your child.
- Encourage kids to get involved in clubs and activities.

- Thank you to Brooke Austin, Office Manager; Mr. Luft, School Engagement Coordinator; and Simone Freeman, Community School Coordinator

## Club Updates & Possible Trivia Night - Mr. Luft

- Clubs and activities are posted in Mustang Alley. As clubs form, they grow on that list. Encourage kids to talk to teachers about forming clubs. Goal is 100% participation in clubs and activities.
- Trivia Night, benefitting clubs and activities.
- Either the 9<sup>th</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup> in February 2024.
- Willow on Grand for location.
- If you have any ideas for Trivia night, please contact Mr. Luft.
- Flyer coming out in October.
- 50/50 contests and Rock, Paper, Scissors. Possible raffles.

## Possible Fundraiser – Mrs. Freeman

- Possible Fundraising idea from a group that is new to the area.
- The product options that would fit best for Merrill are cookie dough, and Coffee/Trail mix/Popcorn.
- Everything they do is done through their digital platform called launch. Students and administrators can keep up to date on the progress of the fundraiser as a group and for individuals as well.
- Their incentive prizes are unique and exciting to help engage kids and promote participation throughout the sale.
- With about 670 students at Merrill, you can expect to profit anywhere from \$13,000 to \$15,000 for your school!
- They have the option to do the fundraiser with the entire feeder program.
- Company will come in and teach the teachers how to use our platform about a week before we kick off the fundraiser. I will then come back and help the students get everything set up.
- We will make a Spanish copy of the flyer to accommodate for your ELL students and their families.
- Proceeds could go to either the registration fee and transportation cost for students to attend the Iowa State University Go Further STEM Conference for girls. Estimated cost for 21 students to attend \$847.00. AND/OR
- The cost of Meals from the Heartland to come and set up a service project for our students where the whole school participates. The cost is \$1.50 per prepared bag. Estimated cost for 1,000 meals \$1500.00.

## Committees and Opportunities

- 2023-2024 Merrill PTA Committees:
  - Helping Hands – Community: Assist with providing items, clothing and food as needed for Merrill families. An email will be sent out to all volunteers when there is a need.
  - Helping Hands – Classrooms: Help supply classrooms with items as needed throughout the year. Needs vary by grade. An email will be sent out to all volunteers when there is a need.
  - Teacher and Staff Appreciation: Sign-up (on sign-up genius) to receive emails to help and/or contribute to monthly special forms of appreciation for our teachers and staff.
  - Rising Riders 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration: Work together in the spring to plan an end of eighth grade celebration.
  - Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Night: Help as needed welcoming new students and families at Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders night in May.
- 2023-2024 Merrill PTA Board Opportunities:
  - Secretary: Take minutes at PTA meetings, approve final minutes with Mrs. Panek and send to Website Coordinator to post.
  - Treasurer: Track expenses and budget for the PTA, maintain and share report at PTA meetings. Sign checks as needed.

Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A82FA6F8C34-merrill#/>



Or Scan SCAN ME

## Parking Lot

- PTA vs. PTO.
- Possibly becoming a 501(c)(3).