



The Home and School Association  
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[www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/pennalexander/hsa/htm](http://www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/pennalexander/hsa/htm)

Summer 2016

Dear Penn Alexander Families:

The board members of the Home and School Association (HSA), along with the faculty and staff of Penn Alexander School (PAS), warmly welcome you to the 2016-17 school year, which begins on September 7 for grades 1–8 and on September 14 for kindergarten. We would like to take this opportunity to extend an enthusiastic welcome to our new principal, Mr. Michael Farrell!

Thank you to everyone for your contributions of time, financial support and community involvement during the 2015-16 school year. You were an integral part in making it an incredibly successful one. With your help, we look forward to building on this success and continuing to move PAS forward in the 2016-17 school year.

Students and their families are invited to attend the annual **Welcome Back Ice Cream Social** on **Thursday, September 8 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Complimentary ice cream (including non-dairy and vegan options) will be served on the blacktop outside the school cafeteria. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled to Monday, September 12. We hope you will join us to connect with old friends and welcome new ones to the PAS community.

The HSA strives to keep you informed of ongoing events and happenings at PAS. Please consult these valuable and informative resources for up-to-date information:

**HSA website:** [www.pennalexanderschool.org](http://www.pennalexanderschool.org)

**E-news:** Sign up by emailing [pasenews@gmail.com](mailto:pasenews@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Please email [pasfacebook2@gmail.com](mailto:pasfacebook2@gmail.com) if you would like to join this group

**Twitter:** Follow PAS HSA on Twitter @PennAlexander

There will be a gear sale and used uniform swap on **Wednesday, August 10** and **Wednesday, August 31** at 428 S. 45<sup>th</sup> Street from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. to help you get that dreaded school uniform shopping off your back-to-school to-do list. Used items are sold for \$1/each! Donations are needed to make this event a success. Please set aside clothing now to bring to the event. Each donated item is worth \$1 shopping credit.

We are fortunate to be part of a thriving school. Despite the ongoing funding challenges facing the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), last year was an incredibly successful one for PAS, as evidenced by the numerous accomplishments of our students and staff. In order to continue this tradition of high student and teacher achievement, we need the support of the entire community. Please consider helping PAS in whatever way you can.

Support can take the form of financial contributions, which allow the school to participate in enrichment programs that would otherwise not be possible. Thanks to your donations, PAS has maintained a rich arts and music program. In addition, first graders raise chicks; fifth graders learn the art of ballroom dancing; and middle school students can participate in the Student Diplomat Program and robotics. HSA funds are used for computers, teaching aids and software for reading, math and science. These monies are also used for less exciting but critical costs not covered by the SDP such as broken windows and copy paper.

Your financial donations help make Penn Alexander an exceptional school, but **the donation of your time is just as valuable**. Teachers welcome parent volunteers in the classroom. Volunteers are also needed during lunch. Chaperones are needed on field trips, and participation in school events is always appreciated. Your involvement in school fundraisers helps raise money and connects you to the PAS community. The first HSA meeting of the school year is a great time to learn more about what's going on and how you might get involved. We hope you can attend, and that you will do whatever you can to continue the tradition of excellence and family involvement at Penn Alexander.

School volunteers are required by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania law to have current child abuse clearances and criminal background checks on file with the school. Please visit the links below to obtain these clearances before school starts. (Clearances are valid for 60 months.)

<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS/Public/Home>

In addition to fundraising, the HSA strives to increase participation in school-wide events and HSA meetings. Please consider becoming a **room parent** so that you can help share information with other parents in your child's class. This is a great way to meet other parents. Room parent responsibilities include communicating with parents about school events, organizing responses to teacher requests for support and actively encouraging participation in HSA activities. If you are interested in learning more, please fill out the attached room parent interest form and return it to the school office. There will be an initial room parent meeting in September, with the time and place announced in the PONY (weekly school-to-home communication).

Please also consider volunteering to help with one or more of the following HSA-sponsored events for the 2016-17 school year. More information, including specific dates, will be available at the **first HSA meeting on Monday, September 19**.

- Picture Day (November, school day event)
- Raffle Event (Winter fundraising event, December weeknight)
- Skating Party (January or February, Friday or Sunday evening event)
- Afterschool and Weekend Running Clubs (January - June)
- Family Bingo & Spaghetti Dinner (March or April, weeknight event)
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation Lunch (May or June, school day event)
- 5K Run and Walk (June, weekend event)

If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please reach out to us. We thank you in advance and look forward to a great year!

#### Penn Alexander HSA

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|---------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|
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