

MAGRUDER HIGH SCHOOL PTSA COLONEL CONNECTION

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR PARENT, TEACHER, & STUDENT ASSOCIATION

26AUG2020



The 2020.21 MHS Parent, Teacher, & Student Association (PTSA) welcomes all our students, staff, families, and community partners to the new school year. This will be a school year like no other, but our mission as a school, community, and a PTSA remain the same...the best for every student (and their families). Although PTSA will be virtual too, we will still work to celebrate and support our students and staff, provide key information for our families, and most importantly communicate with the Magruder community.

Meet your 2020.21 PTSA Board

We are fortunate to have a great team who has been working very hard since July to put together MHS PTSA for this school year.

Dr. Lee Evans: Dr. Evans is entering his 13th year as MHS principal. We are lucky to have his depth of leadership and experience as we move through these challenging times.

Lisbeth Argueta [Recording Secretary]: Lisbeth is a Senior parent, and brings great connections from our Middle Schools. Please thank Lisbeth for providing our Spanish translations.

BB Avila [MCCPTA Delegate]: BB brings nine years of PT(S)A experience, and is a 10th grade parent.

Leah Bradley [MCCPTA Delegate]: Leah is a 10th grade parent, and very involved with social services in MoCo.

Randall MacGill [President]: Randall is an incoming freshman parent, and has been involved with middle and high school PT(S)A the past several years. Randall can be reached at rmacgill@verizon.net, 301.828.5843.

Cesar Ruiz [Treasurer]: Cesar is an 11th-grade parent. We are lucky to retain Cesar for his 3rd time as MHS PTSA Treasurer. We are also fortunate since he has provided excellent translation services for our summer townhalls.

Carla Tuite [1st VP]: Carla is a Senior parent. We are doubly fortunate because Carla too has stayed on from last year, when she was recording secretary.

Virginia 'Ginger' Twombly [Staff Liaison]: Mrs. Twombly has been at MHS the past 5 years (18 total with MCPS), and has graciously agreed to be our staff liaison. We can't be a PTSA without 'Teacher' representation.

We are working on student representation for the board [hope to update soon]. We also very much need a Membership/Memberhub chair. If you have tech experience, and looking for a way to get involved, please contact Randall.

We must also thank Michael Smith, Ellen Hudson, and Dr. Stephanie Schwinn for all their support. So very much appreciated.

2020.21 Themes for the year

As we continue in a pandemic environment, and the first semester being virtual...it can be easy to lose sight of the larger whole. To help focus our efforts, the MHS PTSA proposes two guiding themes for the upcoming school year:

- **The Magruder Community...remaining connected even in a virtual environment. This is easier together!!!**
- **Social and Emotional Health...**Academics of course remain a critical focus and goal for all of us, but the physical distancing can be difficult. We as a community, need to keep the social and emotional health of all (students, families, and staff) as a priority. **A healthy student is a better student!!!**

PTSA Meetings

The MHS PTSA has hosted two Townhalls running up to the start of this school year; [13Aug2020](#) and [26Aug2020](#). Both dates contain links to the recorded meetings. Recording will be available through [15Sep2020](#). Please note student MCPSMD email accounts (#####@mcpsmd.net) are blocked from accessing this external content (sorry, please use a personal account to access).

PTSA general meetings will continue to occur the third Tuesday of most months at 7:00 PM, albeit virtually for at least the 1st semester. We are working on fall programming and welcome input and ideas. Historically, PTSA speakers have covered topics important to teens and their families such as college admission tests, mental health & depression, substance abuse, cyber-security, and cultural equity. Our first PTSA meeting will be on Tuesday, 15 September. Zoom meeting details will be provided closer to the meeting.

2020.21 Membership Campaign

Our PTSA membership campaign has now begun. The membership form is now available on the MHS website at this [link](#). Furthermore, we are busy implementing an online membership.

The PTSA is sensitive to the fact these are challenging times for all, but more so for some. For this year, we have a pandemic membership at just \$10. This is an honor system, please join at full membership levels if possible.

As noted above, we are actively recruiting for a Membership Chair who can also help with our online platform. Please contact Randall if you are interested.

Importantly, although membership is important, PTSA is for everyone regardless of membership status. **Please participate and take advantage of our programs whether you join PTSA or not.**

If using paper forms, completed forms and payment can be sent to:

MHS PTSA Membership, c/o of Randall MacGill, 3416 Colonial Ct, Olney, MD, 20832.

Due to limited access to the school, mail is being directed to officer home addresses temporarily.

Thank a Teacher, Please

The 4th quarter of last year was a tremendous challenge also for our teachers and staff. They rapidly pivoted to online teaching in short-order so our students could remain engaged in education. The first semester of the coming year will be even better, learning from the lessons of last year. **We encourage our students and parents to please take a moment and thank a teacher.** They are working really hard to make this all happen.

Class of 2020 Facebook Group

There is a [Class of 2020 Facebook Group](#) (link text), lead by Lisa Harrington. Although this is not sponsored or supported by MCPS, MHS, PTSA, we are happy to encourage communication throughout our community.

Thoughts on the coming year

As noted above, this will be a year like no other. However physical distancing does not equal, nor have to mean socially isolated. We are all in this together, as the Magruder Community, working together to provide the best opportunities for all in our school. Between students, staff, and parents, there are about 5,000 of us facing this challenge. This means there are at least 5,000 good ideas. Let us come together to talk, share, and support each other...then come out stronger on the other side. We encourage everyone to participate in upcoming townhalls, and the PTSA general meetings (noted above). Also feel free to contact Randall MacGill at rmacgill@verizon.net.

Easy Support for MHS PTSA

Amazon Smile - You can easily support the PTSA while buying the items you would purchase anyway! Shop online <https://smile.amazon.com/> [same as Amazon, but through their charitable arm]. Please make sure to select **Col Zadok Magruder PTSA** as your charity. A percentage of sales will be donated to our PTSA.