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### **What is PTA?**

The letters “PTA” stand for Parent Teacher Association. An association is a group of people who come together to work toward a common cause. In the case of PTA, that common cause is to positively impact the lives of all children and families. Most members of PTA are parents and teachers and principals. But to put it very simply, anyone who wants to work with others to better the lives of children in their community can join PTA. To do so you submit a membership form and pay a yearly membership fee (also called dues).

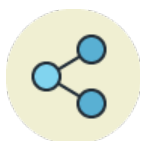


### **What does PTA do?**

Nimitz PTA is an example of a local PTA unit, which are connected to neighborhood schools. Local PTA units coordinate with school principals to provide services that kids needs. At Nimitz, some examples are Recess 101, Soul Shoppe, 5th Grade Science Camp, Music for Minors, and playground equipment.

Local units also organize community building events. These are opportunities for the community to come together with friends and family. At Nimitz, some examples are our Back to School Social, Harvest Festival, and Movie Nights.

In order to fund all this work, PTAs run fundraisers to collect money. At Nimitz, we have the Direct Donation Drive and other small fundraisers throughout the year. Your PTA membership dues get combined with donations and fundraising dollars to fund all of our programs.



### **What are State and National PTAs?**

There is a whole hierarchy of PTA. Local PTA units, like Nimitz PTA, have a huge impact on their local school communities. District PTAs support the local units by organizing training sessions. State PTA members are often the teachers at those training sessions, sharing their expertise and advice with members. State and National PTAs also develop programs and advocate for legislation that is good for kids.

When you pay your \$15 membership dues to Nimitz PTA, about \$2 go to the California State PTA, about \$2 go to the National PTA, and about 50 cents go to the 6th District PTA.



### **I just became a PTA member. What do I do next?**

The shortest answer is that you don't have to do anything more. By simply being a member, and making no further commitments, you are already making a difference for our kids. You can be proud of your membership and be confident that your dues are making a difference at the local, state, and national levels.

If you have the desire to do more, there are several ways to get further involved. You can attend Associations Meetings to participate in decisions about the programs we deliver. You can be a Room Representative and build stronger family-school partnerships. You can join a Committee to help organize one of our events. You can volunteer to make one of those events come to life. Any of these steps will get you more involved in your child's education, and bring you closer to your school community. There is so much we can do together!