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| [District 12](http://clt.georgiapta.org/MAIN_District_Details.php?d=12) |
| Council Name: | [Area 3-Gwinnett Council](http://clt.georgiapta.org/MAIN_District_Details.php?pta=1289) |
| Local Unit Number: |  4366163 |
| Local Unit Name: | Discovery High PTSA |

***Ways that PTSA helps the school and the students include:***

* *Host Hospitality & Spirit Night events*
* *Provide effective communication between parents, teachers, students and the community.*
* *Provide support during Open House & Curriculum Nights*
* *Provide informative programs and activities*
* *Sponsor DHS Faculty and Staff Appreciation functions*
* *Sponsor The DHS Senior Breakfast*
* *Support DHS Homecoming Activities*

***Our goals for the 2016-17 school year:***

* Have 100% of the Discovery High School faculty to join the PTSA
* Increase the number of DHS PTSA members, by increasing the enrollment numbers of parents and students to support the educational efforts of DHS staff.
* Increase community awareness for DHS and its educational activities.
* Create Business Partnerships with community organizations to help raise funds for various DHS organizations and activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Everyone’s heard of the PTA, but do you know what it does as the nation’s largest child advocacy organization? Here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

What is PTA?

Given the longevity and universal name recognition of our organization, it’s easy to understand how “PTA” is commonly used to describe all parent groups, whether or not they are actually affiliated with PTA. Parents, teachers, and even administrators are frequently confused or even unaware of the differences between PTA and other parent organizations.

Simply put, PTA is the nation’s original parent group in schools, influencing millions of parents, past and present, to get involved in their children’s education. We are a national, nonprofit organization; neither the organization nor its leaders receive any financial benefit from PTA activities. We are composed of 6 million volunteers in 23,000 local units. We are run by volunteers and led by volunteers, and we are accountable to parents and schools. We give parents what they want—a way to help their children succeed. PTA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Other independent parent groups must either complete a complicated process to file for tax-exempt status on their own, or must file taxes on all revenues received.

Do local PTAs make their own decisions?

Each of the 23,000 local units selects the programs and activities that it will undertake to address the needs of its local school and children. While PTA’s national and state offices create many successful programs for local units to use, there are no PTA-mandated programs.

State and National PTA provide support to help the local PTAs succeed. For example, when working on local issues such as changing an intersection to make it safer, upgrading school water taps to remove the threat of lead contamination, enhancing reading standards, or other school or district concerns, PTA is a welcome resource. In most cases, we have probably seen the same challenges elsewhere in the country. We therefore can advise local PTAs on the best practices observed, issues surrounding the problem and the outcome, as well as provide them contact information for additional details.

What does PTA offer for schools and communities?

PTA programs are created to encourage and support parent involvement in children’s education. Our programs are created with leading expert organizations on topics of importance to our members, at the members’ request. The programs are user-friendly and are free to local PTAs. Within each of the programs offered, there are interesting activities, helpful evaluation tools, and tips to involve all the key players in a school community. No other parent group offers such credible and comprehensive programs to successfully engage families and communities.

Our programs help connect parents to schools and help them recognize their achievements.

Who can join a PTA?

PTA is an inclusive organization that is open to all adults who care about children and schools.

We have learned that the main thing parents want from schools is to help their child succeed academically, emotionally, and personally. PTA bridges the connection between homes and schools. By getting involved with PTA, the child who benefits most is one’s own.

We reach out to diverse communities to allow parents to more fully integrate their children into the life of a school. We actively invite all parents to be involved in their children’s education through participation in PTA. We work hard to bring mothers, fathers, teachers, school administrators, grandparents, mentors, foster parents, other caregivers, and community leaders into the association.

What about fundraising?

PTA believes the core value of a parent is more important than only serving as a fundraiser. Fundraising is a means to carry out the goals and work of PTA. Fundraising events provide a valuable service and involve more parents in the school.

PTA Fundraising Essentials is a guide we produce and distribute to every local PTA leader and public school principal across the country. It’s filled with ideas, suggestions, success stories, resources, and more to help PTAs organize fundraising activities, and at the same time, to support parent involvement initiatives.

What do my dues pay for?

Our members pay dues that include a small portion for the state and national offices. In return, local PTAs and members receive access to many valuable resources, information, and training programs.

As a local affiliate of a national organization, local PTAs may be eligible for discounted insurance for special events that are not covered by the school insurance. Non-PTA parent groups usually must purchase more expensive insurance policies to cover special events and liabilities or leave their members at risk.

Numerous benefits are available to dues-paying units and members. For dues payments, local units have access to financial, legislative, membership, leadership, marketing and public relations resources (also available online), subscription to Our Children magazine which includes a legislative section and reproducible newsletter in English and Spanish; electronic newsletters containing leadership tips; professionally designed public service announcements (PSAs) to aid in membership recruitment; leadership training workshops and e-learning opportunities; back-to-school kit containing recruitment ideas, and other materials to get the year started; Teacher Appreciation Week ideas; numerous mailings on parent involvement programs, fundraising, and working collaboratively; and much more.

When PTA gets involved, children benefit. When a member gets involved in PTA, his/her child benefits most. Great benefits of PTA membership for individual members include online resources including Our Children magazine that are full of parenting tips; electronic newsletters to keep you informed on parenting and legislative issues; special discounts and offers from FedEx/Kinko’s, Barnes & Noble, and many more; leadership training, such as electronic courses, annual convention, and leadership workshops; and much more.

Benefits of Membership

A PTA membership provides many benefits to a card-carrying PTA member.  National PTA and Georgia PTA offer a variety of PTA Member Benefits from businesses and organizations. Some are ongoing, while others are seasonal or event related. Use your PTA membership card to take advantage of these benefits.

Georgia PTA Member Benefit Providers

Chattahoochee Nature Center offers PTA members a 10% discount off a family membership.  Take a nature walk together.

Orlando Employee Discounts

Georgia PTA is pleased to announce that we have entered into a partnership with Orlando Employee Discounts! Georgia PTA Members will now be able to enjoy all Orlando has to offer while keeping some of their hard earned money in their wallet. Orlando Employee Discounts offers advantageous pricing on hotels and vacation homes in or nearby Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando as well as discounts on tickets for all Orlando Theme Parks (Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando, Sea World) and Attractions (Kennedy Space Center, Orlando Eye)! Just click on or cut and paste the following link into your web browser.

<http://www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com/member-login/?uname=georgiapta>

Zoo Atlanta

Zoo Atlanta Membership has extended its educator discounts to Georgia PTA members. Mention Georgia PTA when purchasing a Zoo Atlanta Membership by phone (404.624.5662) or in person to receive $10 off a Companion or Family Membership. [Click here for membership details](http://www.zooatlanta.org/1212/membership?ff_s=h-L6z), but please note that the discount is not valid for online purchases. The discount also applies to Rare Care Sponsorships made by phone or on grounds. Sponsorship levels and benefits are at [Animal Sponsorship for Schools and Groups Page](http://www.zooatlanta.org/home/sponsor_an_animal/rare_care_group_sponsors?ff_s=h-L6z), and funds raised by Rare Care help support the care and conservation work the Zoo provides threatened and endangered species.   [Click here](http://www.georgiapta.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Flyer_Field_Trip_Programs_Zoo_Atlanta.pdf) to learn about interactive field trip program.

Remember, Georgia PTA members always enjoy $10 OFF Zoo Membership!

National PTA Member Benefit Providers

[Visit the National PTA website](http://www.pta.org/) for information on their membership providers. These benefits are available to all local PTA and Georgia PTA members.

Georgia PTA Perks

[Georgia PTA Perks](http://www.gaptaperks.com/) is a benefit provider website which hosts our Community Alliance Partner (CAP) program powered by 247EConnect.com. The Georgia PTA Perks website provides our benefit providers with the ability to offer updated PTA member benefits and so much more. [Enter the website to learn more](http://www.gaptaperks.com/).

For more information or to sign up for CAP, contact: Randall Ware rware@247econnect.com.