

September 2021



Dear Arleta Families,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year, from **Arleta School PTA**. We are a group of volunteers comprised of Arleta parents, whose mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. We do this by sponsoring and coordinating student activities, school improvements, and events that bring our community together, as well as celebrating Arleta teachers and staff. **Our vision is to create a robust and inclusive organization that reflects the diversity of our community.**

To this end, we continue to pledge our commitment to being an anti-racist organization. We want the Arleta PTA and its Board to reflect the diversity of our students, families, teachers, and staff. We want to work to make sure everyone feels welcome, make sure everyone has a voice, and make sure we amplify BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) voices that have traditionally been silenced. *Here is our commitment to our community for the 2021-22 school year. We will:*

- Actively invite BIPOC families, teachers, and staff to join the PTA and to join our Board.
- Seek out ideas and feedback from our BIPOC families, teachers, and staff.
- Learn about and celebrate the different cultures represented at Arleta.

By supporting our BIPOC families, teachers, and staff we will be lifting up our entire community. We hope you will join us in this effort so we can listen, learn, and make positive change together. We also encourage our BIPOC families to join the Facebook group intended to create a safe and authentic community of Arleta BIPOC parents and guardians, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/arletabipoc>.

If you would like to help support the work of Arleta PTA, please join our monthly meeting and bring your ideas to the table. **Our meetings are usually in the evening on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.** We will meet online at first, due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we hope to meet in person soon!

Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, but you must be a PTA member to vote on budget priorities and for elected Board positions. This year, **we are sponsoring membership for one member of every Arleta household!** (Membership dues are usually \$10.) Check out the next page to learn more about what the PTA is, what it means to be a member, and how to sign up.

Our first PTA meeting of the year will be **September 14, from 6-7:30pm**. We'll spend time meeting each other, presenting our vision and proposed budget for the year, answering questions, and hearing from Principal Horn and other staff. We'll post the meeting link on the "Arleta School and Families United" Facebook page ([@ArletaK8](#)), on our website ([ArletaPTA.org](#)), and in the Dolphin Digest weekly newsletter (which you should receive from the school via email).

Connect with us anytime via email at ArletaSchoolPTA@gmail.com. Here's to a great year!

Your Arleta PTA Board Officers

Heather Rose Pearson & Carrie Bowers (Co-Presidents), Jarod Jacobs (Vice President), Tracy Hulleman (Secretary), Melissa Rinehimer (Treasurer), Denise Castañon (Member-at-Large)

What is the PTA?

The Arleta Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a group of parents, teachers, staff, grandparents, caregivers, and any community members with an interest in supporting Arleta School. The PTA is run by a Board and is a non-profit 501c(3) organization. The PTA is under the umbrella of the Oregon PTA and National PTA, whose mission is to *make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children*. Many schools have a parent/teacher-led group to help with fundraising, advocacy, and family engagement activities to fulfill that mission.

Why should I join the PTA?

There are A TON of benefits to joining the PTA. Here are some top reasons:

- Create the village that helps to raise kids and strengthen schools and communities.
- Your voice is amplified and included in our collective advocacy in support of students and teachers.
- Meet other parents, caregivers, and teachers.
- You get a say in how the PTA prioritizes its projects and spends money.
- Stay engaged and informed.

What does the Arleta PTA do?

Traditionally, the Arleta PTA has spent most of the time organizing in-person school and community events to encourage family engagement. Covid-19 has created challenges to navigate, but we still hope to bring our community together in creative ways. It is more important than ever to stay engaged and make sure families, teachers, and staff have what they need to be successful. Here are our initial plans:

- Create safe family engagement opportunities, including cultural celebrations.
- Keep you informed. We communicate information through the Dolphin Digest newsletter, on Facebook [@ArletaK8](#), and on our website at [ArletaPTA.org](#).
- Host online listening sessions between families and staff.
- Host online guest speakers to help inform, educate, and empower families.
- Meet monthly to share information and ideas, and set goals.

What is the cost to join?

There is no cost to attend or participate in PTA meetings and activities. To be a voting member of the organization, you must join the organization. This year, Arleta PTA is sponsoring one membership per household. Again, *one member per household can become a voting member of the PTA for FREE*. (Dues paid by Arleta PTA for these sponsorships are \$9.50 per person, with \$7.25 going to Oregon PTA and \$2.25 going to Oregon PTA for national and statewide advocacy.) See below for sign up information. Email ArletaSchoolPTA@gmail.com with any questions.

We hope you'll consider becoming a member of the Arleta PTA to help advocate for our school and support our community during these unprecedented times. You may scan the code below with your phone's camera to join online, or visit <http://www.arletapta.org/ways-to-help--join.html>, or email ArletaSchoolPTA@gmail.com to request a membership form.

Scan this code with your phone's camera to be taken to the PTA membership link >>>>

