



everychild.one voice.®

the VOICE

President's Message,

Are you a volunteer that has a passion for a specific type of service? Communications, Programs, Advocacy, and more? I started my service to PTA as an organizer of a reading event. I worked my way up through different positions, but my favorite was volunteering as a committee member/chair. Why, because it was specific. I had a specific passion for that committee. Please go to www.vapta.org and see what positions you can help us out with. We need you and your passion, but most of all our children need you.

Donna

New Charter in Northern Virginia

Congratulations to Dorothy Hamm Middle School PTSA on becoming the newest PTA in Arlington. The parents and staff at the school are engaged along with the Principal Ellen Smith. Their new Board will not only bring information and valuable resources to their school and members, but will be a valuable addition to the Virginia and National PTA family.



Is Your School Participating in the 2019 Commemoration Schools Challenge?

2019 Commemoration Schools is a yearlong challenge to incorporate the **spirit of 2019** into your school community and classroom environments. Thousands of Virginia students and teachers have already accepted the challenge. Which school divisions can achieve 100% registration before April 1st? Check the [#2019Schools interactive map](#) to see if your school is registered, and to sign up your school today. Registered schools received a **free resource kit** with engaging materials for students and staff. Another [#2019Schools](#) opportunity you don't want to miss: [Our American Story](#) is a digital student storytelling contest open for 8th-12th graders. Up to **\$9,000** in cash and tech prizes are up for grabs. Students can leave their mark while winning big for their school. Contest closes March 15th. Learn more [here](#).



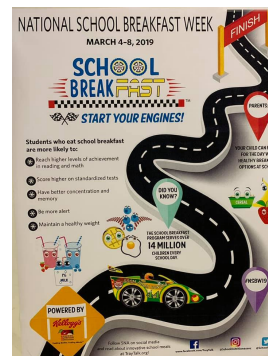
Seeking 2020 Citizenship Essay Theme

Citizenship Essays have been submitted and we anxiously await the results of this year's contest! In looking forward to next year, we would love for you to share your ideas for next year's Citizenship Essay Theme.

If you have a great theme to suggest for next year's contest, please submit it to Sharon Abernathy, Virginia PTA Secretary, at secretary@vapta.org **before April 19, 2019**. The winning theme will be announced at the end of April. The winner will be awarded a \$25 gift certificate to the Virginia PTA Store.

Healthy Lifestyles - Programs | National PTA

The Healthy Lifestyles Initiative provides PTAs with education and tools to partner with schools and advocate for healthy changes in nutrition and physical activity. Find out what PTAs can do to establish a "[healthy school](#)."



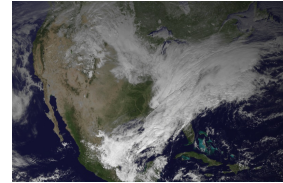
National PTA Public Policy Agenda and Legislative Checklist

National PTA is pleased to announce the release of its [public policy agenda](#) and [legislative checklist](#) for the 116th Congress. The public policy agenda outlines the policy priorities National PTA and its constituent associations believe are critical to ensuring all children reach their highest potential. The public policy agenda features priorities around family engagement, federal investments in education, safe and supportive schools, gun safety and violence prevention, child nutrition along with other child wellbeing and education priorities.

National PTA is committed to working with the 116th Congress and the Administration to enact legislation and policies that provide children with access to a high-quality public education in a learning environment that is safe, healthy and secure.

Fun With STEM - What Is a Polar Vortex?

A polar vortex is an area of low pressure—a wide expanse of swirling cold air—that is parked in polar regions. Sometimes the northern polar vortex, full of cold Arctic air, heads southward. This can cause some pretty wild weather and sub-zero temperatures in the United States. SciJinks' mission is to inspire and engage students in weather, satellite meteorology and Earth science. Find fun articles, games, and videos on their [webpage](#).



Dates and Details - Summer Leadership Training

Summer Leadership Training (known as SLT) is an annual event designed to provide training and programs to all local PTA members, helping them to establish grassroots advocacy in their schools and preparing them to be key leaders in their education community. Held on a school campus, Summer Leadership is casual and fun.

Attending summer training is a fantastic way to learn the essentials for any officer or committee chair position in your local PTA!

Save the Date! - Plan to Attend.

- July 13, 2019 - Roanoke
- July 20, 2019 - Chesterfield / Richmond
- July 27, 2019 - Northern Virginia
- August 3, 2019 - Portsmouth / Hampton

More details will be available on www.vapta.org.

Visit our Website

Virginia PTA | (804) 264-1234 | (804) 264-4014 | info@vapta.org | www.vapta.org

STAY CONNECTED

