

Freedom Hill PTA Dictionary

The FHES Parent Teacher Association is volunteer-run. The PTA runs community-building activities and events that enrich your child's school experience and raises funds to help the school purchase necessary technology and supplies that the school's budget cannot otherwise accommodate. It can be overwhelming to process all the information you receive when you register your child for school. We hope this document can guide you through common terminology you'll hear throughout the year.

A-Z Directory: Secure, private digital directory allows access to the school directory from a smartphone, table, or computer. You can call, text, email, and get driving directions directly from the app. Typically released in October, alongside the paper directory. Printed directory available to PTA members.

A+ School Rewards (Giant): Register your Giant store card to be connected to our school. While the PTA collects the numbers and organizes this fundraiser, these funds do not go through the PTA, but directly to the school. Freedom Hill raises on average \$12,000 through this program.

Amazon Affiliates: Amazon Affiliates pays commission on a percentage of all click-through purchases back to the FHES PTA. Before you shop at Amazon, click through the link on the PTA Website or in PTA emails. Or go to <http://www.amazonfhes.com> before you shop.

Amazon Smile: Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the FH PTA. Amazon Smile is the same as Amazon.com, with the same products, prices, and service. To sign up, visit smile.amazon.com, select Freedom Hill Elementary PTA as your charity, and start shopping. You must log onto smile.amazon.com before you shop, though most Internet browsers will remember this URL in your computer's cache.

Back to School Barbecue: During the first weeks of school, the PTA hosts a barbecue to welcome students, teachers, and families back to school. This is a very popular event!

BINGO Night: A family friendly bingo night fundraiser in the Freedom Hill cafeteria. Freedom Hill staff members will entertain you with their number-calling skills while attendees delight in fun prizes they win during bingo. Pizza and concessions may be purchased at the event.

Box Tops for Education: Earn cash for our school by clipping and collecting Box Tops for eligible items. Your student will receive sheets on which to stick the box tops. Send them to school with your student or drop them in the marked bin in the FHES office. Information will be sent home in Tuesday folders and via e-mail announcing the various Box Top contests and deadlines. To participate in the contests, sheets must be marked with the classroom teacher's name and submitted by the contest date.

Family Dinner Out. A great way to support our school. The PTA partners with local restaurants to bring you fun and fundraising. Restaurants donate between 10-50% of the proceeds on these nights to the PTA. These social events are fun for the kids and give you a chance to meet other FHES parents and teachers. In the past, FHES has had restaurant nights at Potbelly's, Ledo's Pizza, Chipotle, etc.

Freedom Hill 5K. The PTA organizes a 5K run in Spring as a fundraiser and community building event. Events include a 1-mile Fun Run and a Toddler Dash. Runners get a t-shirt and the chance to win fantastic prizes. There are also refreshments, kids' activities, live music, and an awards ceremony.

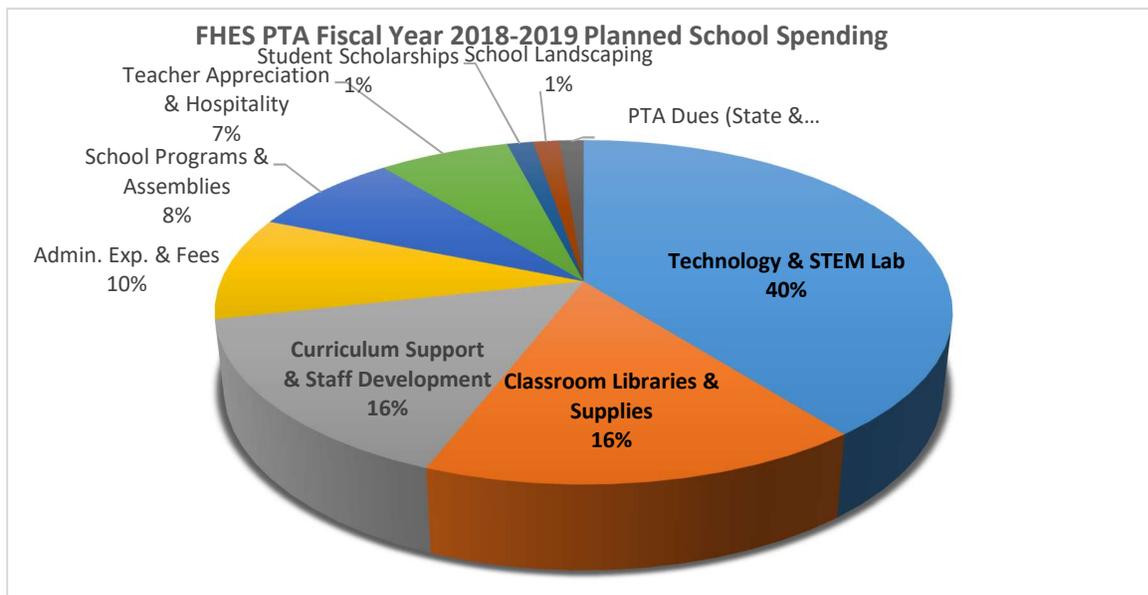
Halloween Fun Night: Halloween Fun Night is a community favorite event, with a haunted house, moon bounce, glow disco, fortune teller, games, face painting, nail painting, temporary tattoos, cookie decorating and SO MUCH MORE! Kids (and some of their parents) come dressed in costume. Pizza and refreshments can be purchased at the event.

International Day: Each year the PTA hosts an International Day event, giving our students the opportunity to learn more about the diversity of our school and community. Families can send in food from their countries and there is a parade of students representing our diverse community.

Pay 4 School Stuff. The Pay4SchoolStuff.com platform provides parents with the ability to register and pay for activities. The website is www.pay4schoolstuff.com. Set up your login to streamline any payments you'll need to make for activities, events, your PTA donation, teacher appreciation, etc.

PTA Budget: The PTA budget is supported primarily through donations. The PTA is a *LEAN* non-profit, meaning almost every single penny of every single dollar you contribute goes back into our school. We buy the technology our students need to maximize learning potential--technology that the county can't afford to give us. We pay for some capital improvements, fund curriculum materials, fund classroom wishlists for teachers, buy books for the school & more. Here is a snapshot of a typical FHES PTA budget.

PTA Donations: The PTA recommends in addition to the \$20 PTA Membership fee, a \$50 donation per child to help support the PTA, our school's technology, events, programs and activities. This is merely a guideline. Some donate less, and some donate more. The PTA Membership and Donation Drive is the biggest fundraiser the PTA does each year aims to raise ~\$15,000 to help the school. Your support is vital and builds a stronger community for our families together.



PTA Donation Corporate Match: Many of your employers will match your non-profit donations dollar for dollar. Please inquire to see if yours does! It doesn't cost you anything and the PTA Board will do as much of the paperwork for you as possible.

PTA Enrichment Activities: The PTA provides three sessions of programming before and after school. The activities change each session and have included running club, art, basketball, flag football, fencing, soccer, guitar, robotics, video game design, cheerleading, hip hop dance/Zumba, and chess club.

PTA Meetings: The PTA hosts meetings for parents and teachers to communicate information regarding past and future PTA events and business. School updates are provided by administration, teachers, PTA community chairs, and PTA officers, and there are sometimes guest speakers. Meetings alternate between morning and evening and last 60 minutes. Childcare is provided for school-aged kids.

PTA Membership: PTA membership is \$20.

PTA website: The FHES PTA website is www.freedomhillpta.org. Visit and sign up for the newsletter.

Read-A-Thon: The Read-A-Thon is a fundraising event where students read to get prizes and raise funds. On average, the Freedom Hill community raises \$10,000 and these funds go directly to the school.

Room Parents: Each class has a designated room parent(s) that helps the teacher with managing class funds, coordinating volunteers, plan class events, secure supplies and organize a teacher thank you gift at different times of the year. They are designated at the beginning of the school year.

Scholastic Book Flyers: Scholastic is a bookseller that has a wide range of books for every level and interest, all sold at discount prices and rewards go back to the classroom. Flyers come home via Tuesday Folders. You can make your purchases online or through the paper form.

School Supplies: The PTA selects an outside vendor to provide school supply kits for the following school year. Order forms are distributed at the end of the school year for the upcoming fall school year. Payments are collected in school and online. School supply kits are delivered to students' classrooms prior to the first day of school. This is a convenience provided by the PTA for FHES families, and not a PTA fundraiser.

Spirit Wear: The PTA creates and sells school spirit clothing to promote school spirit and pride. Short and long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, and sweatpants are available for purchase. Spirit wear sales take place a few times during the school year at PTA events.

Teacher Appreciation: The PTA recognizes the hard work our teachers and staff put into FHES. There are various events throughout the school year where we show gratitude for those that help our kids each day. This recognition includes our teachers, instructional assistants, custodians, cafeteria staff, and administrative staff. Events include a Fall breakfast, a Winter lunch, gifts for Valentine's Day, and Teacher Appreciation week—which includes a luncheon, a sweet treat day, and a gift raffle where every staff member gets at least a \$10 gift card.

Tuesday Folders: Every Tuesday, FH students bring home a folder with information about upcoming events and activities organized by the PTA, school, and county. Evaluated schoolwork may also be included. Room parents help classroom teachers organize Tuesday Folder distribution.

Yearbook: The Freedom Hill staff puts out a Yearbook keepsake each year. Parents are given the option to purchase a Yearbook for their child in the Fall and receive them toward the end of the school year.