

LRES PTA

FAMILIES

WELCOME PACKET



2022-2023

WELCOME



Laurel
Ridge
Elementary
PTA

Hello!

We are excited to welcome you to our new school year. We are your PTA Executive Committee for 2022-23. We have had our share of challenges as we navigate the continuing issues with the pandemic, and changes in our school leadership. We are a strong community with families committed to the wellbeing of our students and our teachers and staff, and we know that our past challenges are only going to make us stronger. As always, we need your support to make this year a successful one.

Please [join or renew your annual PTA with a membership](#). Your membership will help us continue with the good work our PTA has done in the past years. We also need your help volunteering for one of our committees. We have a lot of good initiatives and activities, but those are not possible without your help. The work in these committees does not require an excessive time commitment, but it is really rewarding knowing the huge impact you will have on our kiddos' education and well-being. We invite you to review the list and plan to participate in at least one. Please feel free to email the Executive Committee liaison to get involved.

We are still using Memberhub for our online school directory and room parent communication. This year, we will ensure that all important news is shared, not only on our Facebook group, but also via Memberhub for those parents who are not on social media. To sign up for an account and input your family's contact information, [use this link](#) and follow the instructions. We also encourage you to sign up for our Eagle Flyer [newsletter](#).

Check out our [updated website](#) for news and important information. We wish you a great start to the year and look forward to working with you!

Maria Davila, Co-President
Amy Gibbons, Co-President
Laura Cline, Co-Vice president
Angela Ballard, Co-Vice President
Andy Stadnisky, Treasurer
Jarrett Jackson, Secretary

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ptacovicepresident@laurelridgeelementary.com
ptatreasurer@laurelridgeelementary.com
ptasecretary@laurelridgeelementary.com

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LRES PTA COMMITTEES 2022-2023

The Budget and Finance Committee ensures that the LRES PTA is a good steward of money. The committee proposes budgets, completes financial audits, and tracks the books. They also manage the teacher grant program, which allows LRES staff to apply for funds to help improve the school, and the teacher reimbursement program, which compensates teachers for spending money on classrooms. This committee especially appreciates volunteers with minds for budgets and accounting, and it offers involvement for those with limited time.

Committee Chair: Katie Miller

Executive Committee liaison: Andy Stadnisky (ptatreasurer@laurelridgeelementary.com)

The Building and Grounds Committee focuses on projects that beautify and improve our school grounds inside and out and support new learning opportunities for our students. Past projects include clearing debris from and painting foursquare and other activities on the blacktop, pressure washing the front of the building and walkways, deep cleaning and painting student bathrooms, planting flowers and spreading pine straw, and improving the greenhouse, garden, and pond in the courtyard. During regular school years, we hold quarterly workdays at the school for parent and community volunteers.

Executive Committee liaison: Angela Ballard (ptacovicepresident@laurelridgeelementary.com)

The Communications Committee links the PTA and the school community, primarily through the PTA newsletter, website, and social media. Additionally, this committee is in charge of working to ensure a clear line of communication between parents, teachers, and the staff of Laurel Ridge Elementary. The committee facilitates outreach to families who speak languages other than English in the home and acts as a liaison with local news media as needed. All volunteers are welcome, and this is an excellent committee for those with backgrounds in communications fields, as well as those who speak languages in addition to English, especially Spanish.

Committee Chair: Mandy Betts (PTACommunications@laurelridgeelementary.com)

Executive Committee liaison: Maria Davila (ptapresident@laurelridgeelementary.com)

LRES PTA COMMITTEES

2022-2023, CONT.

The Family Engagement Committee is behind all of the special events and activities that take place throughout the year. Many volunteers are needed from ongoing projects (like the yearbook) to our big events (like the Fall Festival)! This committee is perfect for many members who can do big or small jobs. Volunteer times are primarily after school or weekend hours. Some special events include our Back to School Picnic, International Night, Fall Festival, Walk/Bike to School, yearbook, and school pictures.

Committee Co-Chairs: Donna Troka (Familyengagement@laurelridgeelementary.com) and Janine Hanna

Executive Committee Liaison: Laura Cline (ptavicepresident@laurelridgeelementary.com)

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is a committee that will look at ways to ensure our parents and kids are aware and take action on the issues that affect all BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and differently-abled children. The committee will look for a way to gain the trust of all our families at Laurel Ridge, especially those not participating in school events or opportunities for lack of trust or ability. This committee will work on finding educational opportunities for our community and take us to concrete actions to make LRES a more equitable community.

Committee co-Chairs: Tarvis Evette and Brooke Dailey Morris (dei@laurelridgeelementary.com)

Executive Committee Liaison: Amy Gibbons (ptacopres@laurelridgeelementary.com)

Room Parent Coordinator: Room Parents are the primary liaison between your child's teacher, the classroom families, and the PTA. The room parent coordinator helps the room parents with training, tools, and information during the year and helps with disseminating information from the PTA Executive committee.

Room Parent Coordinator: Cassie Pasciuti (Ptaroomparents@laurelridgeelementary.com)

Executive Committee Liaison: Jarrett Jackson (ptasecretary@laurelridgeelementary.com)

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for generating income, soliciting sponsorships, selling merchandise, and hosting fundraising events for the Laurel Ridge Elementary PTA.

This committee allows you to have a significant impact on the school and especially needs great managers, organizers, and strategic minds.

Executive Committee Liaison: Maria Davila (ptapresident@laurelridgeelementary.com)

LRES PTA COMMITTEES

2022-2023, CONT.

The Staff Engagement Committee is responsible for supporting teachers and staff throughout the year with meals, treats, and other tokens of recognition. Major projects of the year include providing meals (some catered and some contributed by parents) during pre-planning, post-planning, and conference/curriculum nights. In the spring, our primary focus is Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, which requires lots of good ideas and parent power to recognize all staff daily. This is an excellent committee for people who can handle big or small-time commitments and who excel at planning parties and events!

Committee chair: Lauren Barineau (staffengagement@laurelridgeelementary.com)

Executive Committee liaison: Jarrett Jackson (ptasecretary@laurelridgeelementary.com)

The Student Engagement Committee is responsible for helping coordinate after-school activities and clubs, in-school programs, and cultural arts events. We also manage and organize donations to the Eric Hunt Care Closet. This closet assists with school supplies, clothing, toiletries, and food. Friday Food Backpacks are packed weekly to help assist over the weekend and school breaks. The closet is open to all LRES families. Volunteer hours can be during school, after school, or from home. This committee's notable projects include clubs and afterschool activities, the Eric Hunt Care Closet, Friday food backpacks, and assemblies at school.

Executive Committee liaisons: Laura Cline (ptavicepresident@laurelridgeelementary.com) and Angela Ballard (ptacovicepresident@laurelridgeelementary.com)

The Sustainability Initiative Committee is working with the LRES community to create mindful systems that promote a healthy, sustainable environment through reducing waste destined for landfills by increased composting, recycling, and the use of reusable materials. Volunteers with a passion for bringing recycling into the classrooms are appreciated! This committee could also use volunteers with a background in marketing, design, video, or photography.

Committee co-chairs: Anna Skold & Kristen Rivera (sustainability@laurelridgeelementary.com)

Executive Committee liaison: Laura Cline (ptacovicepresident@laurelridgeelementary.com)



CARPOOL INFO

We all want to be on our way as fast as possible, but patience is key when using the carpool lane, especially at the beginning of the year. For a successful, safe and stress free carpool experience, please follow these do's and don'ts:

DONT'S

- **If coming from Balsam, don't turn left into the carpool line.** Look at the map on the next page for more information.
- Please do not block the intersection at the 4-way stop of Laurel Ridge & Balsam Drive.
- Please do not enter the pick-up/drop off line until ALL buses have departed for the afternoon.
- **DO NOT get out of the car!** If you want to get out, park and walk your child to the entrance.

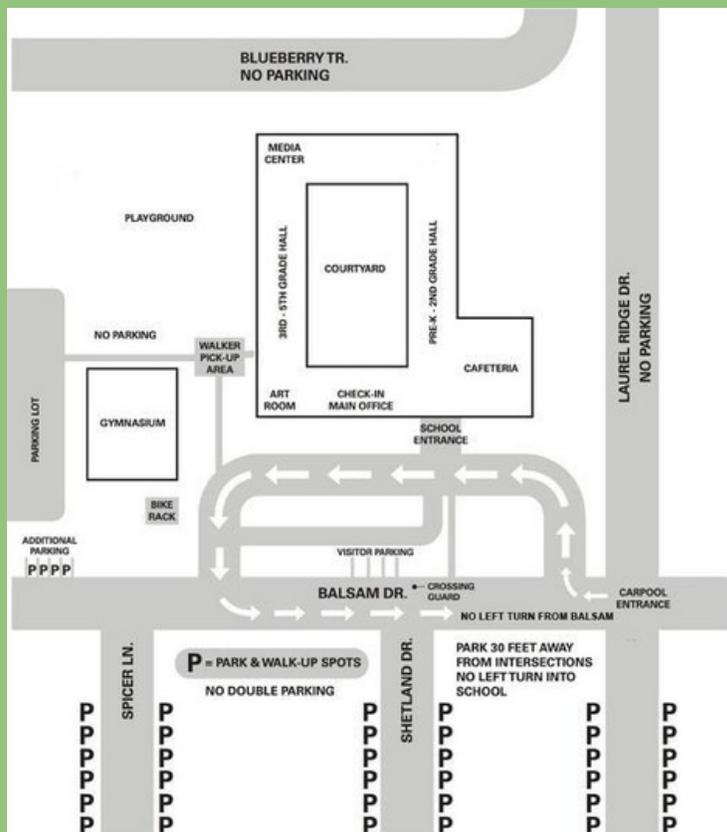
Other Important Information:

- Carpool line may be accessed from all three sides of the intersection of Laurel Ridge & Balsam Drive. (Be mindful of neighbors who are not part of our carpool line.)

DO'S

- Sit your child on the side of the car that they have to get out on and make sure they can open the door.
- Teach your kid how to unbuckle their seatbelt.
- Say goodbyes while you're driving up to the front of the line.
- Go through the line again if your child forgets something - be considerate and park to find the missing item.
- Please watch for those who walk or bike to and from school.
- Please be certain to adhere to ALL traffic laws at all times.
- Please be patient and attentive at all times to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, families, and staff.

CARPOOL MAP



IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



How to Keep informed of Events and School Activities

The PTA uses different ways to communicate with parents about PTA led activities. We also send parents reminders about school-led activities, by replicating information you receive from the school leadership via Dojo or email. The main communication tools we use are:

- **Facebook group:** closed group for current parents and staff.
Join at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LaurelRidgeElementaryPTA>
Please make sure to answer the membership questions.
- **MemberHub (for directory and email/texts):** Register in MemberHub to receive emails and texts that will keep you informed about activities. We will replicate news and events that are posted on Facebook.
<https://laurelridgepta.memberhub.com/join/j035f>
- **Eagle Flyer:** Sign up for our bi-weekly newsletter to receive the latest PTA news in your inbox.

Where to find information about the PTA, Including Committees, Meeting Info, and Other Details:

Go to our website at <https://www.laurelridgeelementary.com>.

How to see our PTA calendar and subscribe:

You can subscribe to our calendar in your own Google calendar, also located on our website, using this link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/r?cid=laurelridgeelementarypta@gmail.com>

How to join the PTA:

Go to this link. Please put the name of the member joining and write your child/children's name and classroom (if known) under the "Note to Seller" section before submitting the final payment. If you are paying for more than one membership, please do separate transactions or specify the member's names/children info in the "Note to Seller" section.

School Specific Information:

- You can find school information on their website at <http://www.laurelridgees.dekalb.k12.ga.us/>
- **Class Dojo:** ask your teacher about a code to enroll and receive communications about your specific classroom and the school. Sign up at <https://www.classdojo.com/>. If you are already enrolled, you may still need a code.
- **School Lunches:** create a new account with your child's school ID at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/register>.
- **Infinite Campus:** For grades and test results. Infinite Campus also sends communication from the district to you via email/text. Enroll at <https://campus.dekalb.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/students/dekalb.jsp>.

Other PTA Information

- **Laurel Ridge Elementary PTA Brochure:** <http://tiny.cc/7udmsz>
- **Ways to donate without using your money:** learn about the many ways you can donate to our school with your everyday purchases.