



The Cottonwood School Parents' Association

Mission Statement

The mission of the CSPA is to enhance students' learning environment through increased parental involvement by:

- planning, carrying out, or assisting with a variety of school and CSPA functions and fundraisers that benefit the entire community;
- fostering a strong all-inclusive community among the parents, students, faculty and staff;
- advocating for the school's mission statement; and
- providing an opportunity for the parents of Cottonwood students to exchange opinions and information concerning matters of interest common to all parents.

Structure



Meetings

- General Membership – min 2x per year:
 - All parents, guardians of currently enrolled students are members
 - Fall Meeting – Annual planning
 - Spring Meeting – Announcement of elected positions for following year
- Council – Monthly
- Executive Committee – Monthly
- Committees – tbd by Chair/Rep as needed



Dear Friend of Cottonwood School,

Many people think of parent groups as being all about bake sales. Or they think of power-tripping moms ruling their domain, like *Desperate Housewives* and *Harper Valley PTA*. Well, that's good TV, but it's not us.

The Cottonwood School Parent Association is about men and women working together toward a common goal. That goal is to be a valuable resource in helping the teachers and staff to create a fun, nurturing environment and an amazing educational experience for our children. We strive to help create an atmosphere where teachers and administrators can do their best work—and so can our children.

In recent years, we have:

- Coordinated fun family events like Movie Night, Year-End Celebration, and 5k Bosque Bolt Fun Run
- Provided breakfast burrito comfort while helping to generate funds for new playground equipment, field improvements, and other school needs,
- Donated some time and many talents to fix up some of what needed fixing, spruce up our wonderful campus, and provide transportation so our kids could enjoy field trips
- Helped to show our appreciation for our amazing staff with a delicious home-cooked luncheon
- Supported our specialists and our rich and vibrant arts curriculum for the Student Art Show, drama performances, and steel drum concerts

There's a lot more to be accomplished, and we need your help. Despite what you might see on TV, our parent group is not a bunch of crazed, power-hungry moms. We are moms and dads, uncles and aunts, grandparents, and friends who care about children and education. We are welcoming and friendly. We are your neighbors, and we share many of the same concerns you do.

But that's not the only reason to take part. There have been more than 500 independent research studies about parent involvement. The results are startling. When parents get involved in their children's education, grades go up, test scores go up, children become more likely to pass and to attend better schools after high school, they have fewer discipline problems, and they're less likely to use drugs and alcohol.

Participation doesn't mean a huge time commitment. An hour or two a semester makes a big difference. And we have jobs to fit your time schedule and interests. We even have tasks that don't involve coming to the school at all.

Won't you join us? Just fill out the accompanying form and return it to the school. It's easy—and it really makes a difference!

Thank You for helping our Parents' Association!

Cottonwood School Parents' Association (CSPA)

We'd Love to Help You Get Connected!

It's our #1 goal -- *we'd like to make sure that every parent who'd like to get involved can do so.*



If you'd like to find a spot to get connected that **fits your interests and availability**, simply fill out the below information and we'll get in touch to help you find a great event, committee or effort to help with.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Student(s)/Grade(s)/Teacher(s): _____

Special talent or area of interest: _____

Committee and Volunteer Interests: *Please also indicate if you have an interest in chairing a particular committee.*

Friends of the Library

Organizes and maintains the CS library as an enjoyable and valuable resource for the community. Also helps to coordinate the annual Scholastic Book Fair.

Hospitality

Coordinates back-to-school get-togethers, welcomes new families, coordinates special Staff appreciation activities.

Publications

Assists with creation of school publications (yearbook, directory, calendar, website).

Art Program

Assists with annual student art show, Art in the Community Program, and student artwork entries for community arts & crafts fairs.

Drama / Music

Assists with set design, costume making, and refreshments for student performances.

Phys Ed

Assists with health/exercise programs desired by staff including the annual 5k Run in the Streets for a School in the Woods and the Run 4 the Zoo.

Security and Safety

Works with the community to provide a safe environment for Students, Faculty, and Parents, including Safe Routes to School and Disaster Preparedness.

Spruce up our Cottonwood

Coordinates small-scale campus spruce-up projects (cleaning, painting, gardening, etc.), and potential larger projects depending on available resources.

Services & Sales

Supports general fund fund-raising activities throughout the year (Annual Auction, Burrito Brigade, etc.), helps to develop fundraising materials, and solicit donations from alumni and community groups.

Events

Plans or assists with school-wide events, e.g.: Teacher Appreciation Week (first full week in May), Harvest Festival, Peace Concert Pot-luck, Family Movie Nights, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Event, ...

Environmental Education

Assists with the garden and the Green Team (reduce/reuse/recycle on campus).

Section Support

Assists with coordinating activities common across multiple classrooms, including Field Days, Science Fair, Parent Work Nights, etc.

Our family would love to share its talents! Please call us for the following:

Cooking, Baking

Materials Prep-Copying, Laminating, Printing

Musical talents

Desktop Publishing

Carpentry

Gardening

Landscaping, Grounds Maintenance

Photography

Videography

Accounting

Legal

Sewing

Information Technology

Fill in this form and place in the CSPA mailbox in the MPR or send to school office anytime with your child.

Questions? Comments? Email CSPA at CSPA@cottonwoodschool.org .

Equipment We Can Loan to the School:

Truck, trailer

Tent, canopy

Power tools

Landscaping machinery/equipment

Gardening

Painting

Ladders, Scaffolding

Other:

Is there another way you'd like to help?



Cottonwood School Parents' Association



10 Reasons To Get Involved

1

Your child benefits.

More than 300 independent research studies show that when parents get connected to the school, children do better.

2

We make a difference.

Our mission is to create the kind of school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work—and so can our children. We provide resources they need and help to build the kind of supportive, caring atmosphere that makes school fun.

3

We pledge to honor your time constraints.

People are often reluctant to participate because they're afraid they'll get pulled into a black hole of never-ending time commitment. Here, an hour or two a semester really makes a difference. And we won't push you to commit more than you want to or are able to.

4

We have fun.

Volunteer work shouldn't be drudgery. We accomplish a lot, and not everything we do is easy. But we know we're not balancing the national debt, either. We don't take ourselves too seriously, and we try to enjoy ourselves along the way.

5

Meet nice people who share your concerns.

We all have a common bond. We care about creating the best possible educational experience for our children. We are neighbors and peers who share many of the same experiences. And many friendships have developed as a result of those connections.

6

There's a lot to be done.

These days, schools are asked to do more with less. Our help is needed more than ever to fill the gaps.

7

We can match jobs to your interests and abilities.

The work we do covers a broad spectrum: administrative, planning and executing events, writing and editing, managing a budget and cash flow, and lots more. We encourage creative ideas, and we're thrilled to have people take on tasks that meet their skills and interests.

8

We're welcoming.

To us, there are no "outsiders." We are people who have come together to work toward common goals. We couldn't be happier to have you join us in working toward these goals.

9

We're about parent involvement, not fundraising.

In these times of tight budgets, parent groups everywhere are having to fill in the gaps, and so are we. But our number one goal is to get more parents connected to the school and to help foster a strong community.

10

This work is very rewarding.

It's seeing the smile that shows we're making school a little more fun. It's seeing children learn and knowing we played a role. There are lots of rewards, both big and small, for those who get involved. Won't you join us?

The MISSION of the CSPA is to enhance students' learning environment through increased parental involvement by:

- planning, carrying out, or assisting with a variety of school and CSPA functions and fundraisers that benefit the entire community;
- fostering a strong all-inclusive community among the parents, students, faculty and staff;
- advocating for the school's mission statement; and
- providing an opportunity for the parents of Cottonwood students to exchange opinions and information concerning matters of interest common to all parents.