



Welcome to Mantua Elementary School!

As Mantua parents, we all have the same goal—to ensure our children have positive and rewarding elementary school years. Joining the PTA is a great way to enhance your family's experience at Mantua. The Mantua PTA is a dynamic organization. We work to keep you informed, host fun events, sponsor enrichment programs, provide outreach to children and parents and support our terrific school staff and teachers. If you have any questions about programs or events, please ask us—we are here to help. Our PTA has been very blessed to have parents who are engaged and involved, and we invite you to join in. It's a great way to find out more about how Mantua works, meet your child's friends and make some new ones of your own!

Welcome!
Mantua PTA Board

Included in this Welcome Packet:

1. Quick Contact Info Reference Guide
2. Mantua PTA FAQs
3. New Family Sponsor Program | Volunteer Opportunities
4. FAQs for Mantua ES Parents
5. Additional Information Resources

Quick Contact Info Reference Guide

Mantua Elementary

Jan-Marie Fernandez, Principal: JMFernandez@fcps.edu

Amy Alley, Assistant Principal: AVAlley@fcps.edu

Nick Rousos, Assistant Principal: NBRousos@fcps.edu

9107 Horner Court, Fairfax, VA 22031

Main Office: 703-645-6300 | Fax: 703-645-6397

Clinic: 703-645-6310 | Cafeteria: 703-645-6321

School website: www.fcps.edu/MantuaES

Attendance/Early Dismissal/Transportation Change?

Email: mantuaesattendance@fcps.edu or call 703-645-6363.

Bell Schedule: 9:20AM – 4:05PM

Office Hours: 8:30AM - 5:00PM

Mantua ES 2017-2018 PTA

President: Sam Lieber president@mantuapta.org

VP Programs: Dawn Keene programs@mantuapta.org

VP Fundraising and Membership: Terri Radziewski fundraising@mantuapta.org

Treasurer: Nicole Willis: treasurer@mantuapta.org

Secretary: Trina Rasmussen secretary@mantuapta.org

PTA website: www.MantuaPTA.org

Mantua PTA Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/MantuaPTA/

Mantua PTA FAQs

How does Mantua PTA support our school?

We sponsor and/or organize many activities and programs such as basketball for grades 3-6, our fall book fair, annual Spring Fling, Drama Club, enrichment classes, volunteer efforts, teacher appreciation events, the weekly school newsletter, and much more. Please visit our website, www.MantuaPTA.org, for more examples of our PTA members in action!

How does my family benefit from joining Mantua PTA?

In addition to being plugged into what's happening on campus, PTA members receive a printed school directory, a valuable school resource that contains family, teacher and staff phone numbers, e-mail addresses and more. Your family will also receive discounts on special classes and programs throughout the year.

Is it easy to join Mantua PTA?

We try to make joining Mantua PTA as painless as possible for you by offering many ways to become a member.

- Visit our membership tables during Open House in August and Back-to-School Night after school begins and join in person.
- Fill out the membership envelope you will find in your Open House packet and return to school along with your check for membership dues.
- Join PTA online through the www.MantuaPTA.org website.

For more information about joining the PTA contact our membership chairs, Christin Nolan at mcnolan4@gmail.com and Mary Beth Fleming at mefleming@fcps.edu.

Have More Questions? Get a Sponsor!

Many parents at Mantua ES remember what it's like to have a new Kindergartener or a transfer student. That's why we've created the New Family Welcome and Sponsor Program to help ease the transition to our school and community.

A sponsor can answer questions via e-mail, phone or in person—whichever works best for you both. Here are some of the many questions a Sponsor can answer:

How does the Kiss & Ride work? What happens if my child forgets his lunch? How can I volunteer at the school other than during the weekday? Which principal handles what? What programs are available for a kindergartener? How does my child know which bus to get on?

Sponsors are friendly, patient, knowledgeable and they really want to help new families find their way at Mantua ES. We also have foreign language speaking sponsors available through the Community Building Network (CBN). If you are bilingual and would like to serve on CBN's committee of parent translators, please contact Dawn Keene at programs@mantuapta.org.

If you're new to Mantua ES and have a question or would like a Sponsor, please contact New Family Welcome Coordinators: Heather Hill at hill_heather1@yahoo.com (703-273-1221) and Ellen Lemieux at ellen_lemieux@hotmail.com (703-591-0852).

Volunteer Opportunities

Our volunteers make Mantua Elementary a very special school and all of our children benefit from *any amount of time* that you can give. Volunteering gives you the chance to know your children's school, teachers, community and other parents better—and kids love to see their parents participate at their school!

There are many opportunities to volunteer at Mantua throughout the year. Some volunteer needs are ongoing, while some needs are for one-time events. Some opportunities include:

- Direct classroom involvement: Room Parent, Party Coordinators, Field Day Helpers (June), Art Room Assistance and/or Computer Lab Assistance with class, and Take Home Reading Parent for grades K-2.
- Schoolwide volunteers: Book Fair (November), Clinic Aide, Library Assistance, Office Assistance (Receptionist 2-3 times per year), Secretaries Day (April), School Spirit and Hospitality Committees (family fun nights, ice cream socials, teacher luncheon, etc) and Spring Fling Planning Committee.

Please contact volunteer Coordinator Jenn Ros at volunteering@mantuapta.org if you have any questions.

FAQs for Mantua ES Parents

What is Open House?

Open House for parents and students is held within a week before school begins. This event provides a casual opportunity for children to spend time with their new teacher in their new classroom. Class lists are posted to the gym walls at Open House, and on the front entrance doors thereafter. You will receive a welcome letter from Mantua ES in August with information about the details of Open House, as well as bus stop information.

What are “Families” of classes?

From kindergarten through second grade, students are placed into one of three families: Family 1, Family 2 or Family 3. Each family has one or two classes of kindergartners, 1st graders, 2nd graders and/or multi-age 1st/2nd graders. All three families are supported by Mantua’s specialists (Reading, Learning Disabilities, ESOL, Technology and Total Communications) and teachers within each family work together. Students will sometimes have different teachers within their families. For example, your 1st grader may be very strong at subtraction, so she may be in a classroom with mostly 2nd graders for that unit. Likewise, if she needs more instruction in telling time, she may be grouped with more 1st graders and kindergartners from her family. This is called “flexible grouping”. Still, most of your child’s day will be spent with her primary classroom teacher. In addition to enabling the teachers to meet a wider range of student needs, the families also provide a comforting “small-school feel” for our younger students. Students in grades 3-6 are not assigned to families.

Will kindergartners remain in their classroom most of the day?

Most of the day your child will remain in their classroom with their primary teacher; however, they will travel for recess, lunch, PE and “specials” like music, art and computers. They also may travel to another classroom for flexible grouping in Math or Spelling (see above).

Will my kindergartner receive help getting to the classroom and to the bus/kiss and ride?

Each kindergartner is given a name tag with his/her bus number and teacher’s name in an effort to help manage this process. A 6th-grade “School Patrol” is assigned to each kindergartner and knows the bus and class information for each child in his/her group. The patrol will help guide their students on and off school buses and to the classrooms. Faculty are also actively involved in the process to ensure all children are cared for and delivered safely to their buses and classrooms. Patrols will also take those children being picked up at Kiss and Ride from their classroom to the Kiss and Ride station to wait for you. If your child is going to be taking the bus as their mode of transportation, you should have them take the bus from the first day of school.

What is Back-to-School Night (BTSN)?

BTSN is held within the first two weeks of school in early September. The evening is a parent/guardian-only event. Parents are invited to visit your child’s classroom, where teachers present class formats and curriculums and answer questions. You’ll also have an opportunity to learn more about school clubs, PTA membership and fundraising activities. More information about BTSN will be provided in September.

What is a Tuesday Folder?

A Tuesday Folder is your child's personal "mail pouch" for things that need to go to and from home, such as, homework, permission slips, money for class activities, flyers for PTA and club activities, etc. The Tuesday Folder is a large white envelope which will be sent home each Tuesday. You should review the contents, sign the folder and return it to class the next day with any returning forms or notes to the teacher.

What is an SOL?

The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) are state-mandated standardized tests taken every year in May and June starting in third grade. For more information, visit <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml>

What is the AA (Advanced Academics) Program?

Mantua has a full-time Advanced Academics Center for grades 3-6. Students are tested in the fall of 2nd grade for possible placement in the AAP Center. For more information about AA, see Fairfax County Public School's (FCPS) website, <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/advanced-academic-programs>

What is the "Blackboard 24-7" online tool?

FCPS enables extended learning beyond the traditional school day and school facilities by using a tool called FCPS 24-7 Learning, or "Blackboard". Beginning in 3rd grade, students, parents and teachers are invited to use Blackboard to access assignments, view class calendars, explore links to enrichment activities, and much more. Parents will have an opportunity to create a Parent Blackboard account during BTSN and also online.

Visit fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp for more information.

What is Mantua's music program for older students?

Beginning in 3rd grade, all students learn to play the recorder. In the 4th grade, students may also elect to play a string instrument in the orchestra. In 5th grade, students have the option to choose from a band or orchestra instrument, and to join the chorus as an extracurricular activity. Every student takes general music education classes, whether or not they choose to participate in orchestra, band or chorus. Information from the music teachers will come home with your student.

What types of before/after school activities are available?

Before/after school clubs include Scouting, Book Club, Kids Care Club, Drama Club, Raccoon Runners and various Academic Teams. The Mantua PTA Basketball League is open to grades 3-6 and is coached entirely by Mantua parents!

Mantua also offers the FLEX world language program, which is taught by professional instructors and organized by our PTA. Extensive enrichment classes are offered with categories focusing on many areas of interest including art, music, STEM and sports. These enrichment classes seek to build upon our students' educational foundation by giving them opportunities to explore other areas of learning. Visit <https://em-mantua.jumbula.com/#/home> to find out more information about our enrichment programs.

Additional Information Resources

The Alert News

Mantua PTA publishes a weekly newsletter that contains important school and PTA updates, activity and event information, and links to documents such as registration forms for clubs.

If you aren't receiving your copy by email, complete this

form: www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/alertnewsdistro so we can add you to our distribution list. If you do not have a valid email address or access to a computer, you will continue to receive the newsletter in each week's Tuesday Folder.

Mantua PTA Facebook Group

Join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/MantuaPTA/ and connect directly with other Mantua ES families. All members are welcome to post questions and answers.

MantuaPTA.org

Tons of valuable information is organized on our website, www.MantuaPTA.org, by the following categories: Events, Programs and Services, Fundraising, Volunteers, Links and Docs.

Mantua PTA Student Directory

When you join Mantua PTA, you receive a FREE copy of the Student Directory, a paper-bound phone and address book that will help you find your child's friends, as well as contact information for teachers, staff, PTA officers and chairs and much more. Additionally, most classrooms have a class roster, generated by a parent volunteer or the teacher.

Additional Websites and Links

Mantua Elementary School: www.fcps.edu/MantuaES | FCPS: www.fcps.edu



Welcome New Families!

**Please join us for our summer
“Meet & Greet”
at the Manta ES Playground.**

The Mantua PTA New Family Welcome Committee invites you and your family to meet other families at the Mantua ES Playground. Your child’s transition on the first day of school will be easier when they see some familiar faces!

There will be one meet and greet date in July and two meet and greet dates in August. They will be held on three Saturdays from 10AM-11:30AM.

Check www.mantuapta.org and/or www.fcps.edu/MantuaES at the end of June for the schedule.

We look forward to seeing you all there!