



# 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

# Mantua Elementary Reference Guide

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

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School website: [www.fcps.edu/MantuaES](http://www.fcps.edu/MantuaES)

Attendance/Early Dismissal/Transportation Change?

Email: [mantuaelem.attendance@fcps.edu](mailto:mantuaelem.attendance@fcps.edu) or call 703-645-6363.

Bell Schedule: 9:20AM – 4:05PM

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

## Mantua ES 2018-2019 PTA

President: Lisa Libby [president@mantuapta.org](mailto:president@mantuapta.org)

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Secretary: Kristel Stern [secretary@mantuapta.org](mailto:secretary@mantuapta.org)

PTA website: [www.MantuaPTA.org](http://www.MantuaPTA.org)

Mantua PTA Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/MantuaPTA/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MantuaPTA/)

# Mantua PTA Information

## How does the Mantua PTA support our school?

We sponsor and/or organize many programs such as our Basketball League for grades 3-6, Book Fair, Spring Fling, Drama Club, Enrichment Program, Raccoon Runners, Chat 'n Chew, Academic Competitions, Kids Care Club, Global Plus Language Program, Scouting, and Family Fun Nights! We organize schoolwide and classroom volunteer efforts, teacher appreciation events, the weekly News You Choose school newsletter, and much MORE! Over the years we have also provided the financial support necessary to make many Mantua PTA Wish Fund proposals a reality. Funding has gone toward classroom laptops, library ipads, classroom projectors, counseling toolkits, and reading enrichment materials just to name a few.

Please visit our website, [www.MantuaPTA.org](http://www.MantuaPTA.org), for more examples of our PTA in action!

## How does my family benefit from joining Mantua PTA?

In addition to being plugged into what's happening on campus, you will receive a printed school directory, which contains family, teacher and staff e-mail addresses. Your family will also receive discounts on many PTA sponsored classes and programs throughout the year.

## How do I join?

There are several ways to become a Mantua PTA member:

- Visit our membership table during Open House/Back-to-School Night and join in person.
- Fill out the membership envelope you will find in your Open House folder packet and return it to school with your membership dues check.
- Join PTA online easily through the [www.MantuaPTA.org](http://www.MantuaPTA.org) website.

For more information about joining the PTA, contact [membership@pta.org](mailto:membership@pta.org).

# 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: Room Parent, Party Coordinators, Field Day Helpers, Art Room Assistance, Computer Lab Assistance, Take Home Reading Parent for grades K-2.
- Schoolwide: Book Fair, Clinic Aide, Library Assistance, Office Assistance (Receptionist 2-3 times per year), Secretaries Day, School Spirit and Hospitality Committee (organize family fun nights, ice cream socials, teacher luncheon, etc) and Spring Fling Planning Committee.

Please contact [volunteering@mantuapta.org](mailto:volunteering@mantuapta.org)  
if you have any questions about volunteer opportunities.

## Mantua ES Information Resources

### **Mantua News You Choose (Formerly Alert News)**

Mantua PTA publishes a weekly newsletter that contains important school and PTA updates, activity and event information, and links to important documents. This newsletter will be sent to the email provided at the time of registration. If you are not receiving this email, please contact [MBKakouris@fcps.edu](mailto:MBKakouris@fcps.edu). If you do not have a valid email address or access to a computer, you may receive the newsletter in each week's Tuesday take home folder.

### **Mantua PTA Facebook Group**

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

### **MantuaPTA.org**

Valuable information is organized on our website, [www.MantuaPTA.org](http://www.MantuaPTA.org). Check it out!

### **Mantua PTA Student Directory**

When you join the PTA you will receive a FREE copy of the Student Directory, a paper-bound directory with family, teacher, staff and PTA email addresses.

### **Additional Websites and Links**

Mantua Elementary School: [www.fcps.edu/MantuaES](http://www.fcps.edu/MantuaES) | FCPS: [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)

# Mantua ES Parent FAQs

## **What is Open House/Back to School?**

Open House/Back to School is a combined event (except for Kindergarten) held the day before school begins. Class lists will be posted, and children and parents will have an opportunity to meet teachers and visit classrooms. Please see the following document for more information.

<https://mantuaes.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/inline-files/BTS%20Open%20House%20202018.pdf>

## **What are “Families” of classes?**

From Kindergarten through second grade, students are placed into one of four families (Family 1- 4). Each family has one or two classes of Kindergartners, 1<sup>st</sup> graders, and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. All four families are supported by Mantua’s specialists (Reading, Learning Disabilities, ESOL, and Technology) and teachers within each family work together. For certain units of instruction teachers may choose to use “flexible grouping” to allow students to work at different paces for certain units. In this case, your child may have a different teacher from within the family for that unit. 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 throughout the school for recess, lunch, PE and “specials” like music, art and computers.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup>-grade “School Patrol” is assigned to each Kindergartner and knows the bus and class information for each child in his/her group. The patrols 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 absolutely have them take the bus from the first day of school. \*\*\*

## **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 permission slips and money for class activities, flyers for PTA and club activities, etc. Teachers may also choose to send homework or completed work home in the folder. The 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 AAP Program?**

Mantua has a full-time Advanced Academics Program center for grades 3-6. Students are tested in the fall of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for possible placement in the AAP Center. For more information about AAP, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, students, parents and teachers are invited to use Blackboard to access assignments, view class calendars, explore links to enrichment activities, and much more. For more information see, [https://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/login/?new\\_loc=%2Fwebapps%2Fportal%2Fexecute%2FdefaultTab](https://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/login/?new_loc=%2Fwebapps%2Fportal%2Fexecute%2FdefaultTab)

**What is Mantua’s music program for grades 3-6?**

Beginning in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, all students learn to play the recorder. In the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, students may also elect to play a string instrument in the orchestra. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students have the option to choose from a band or orchestra instrument, and also to join the chorus. A student may join the orchestra OR band and also the chorus if they chose. Each has both a fall and spring concert. Every student takes general music education classes, whether or not they choose to participate in orchestra, band or chorus. Information about these programs will come home with your student from the music teachers.

**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 Global Plus world language program, and extensive enrichment opportunities, with categories focusing on many areas of interest including art, music, STEM and sports. Visit <http://www.mantuapta.org/> and click on “Programs and Services” to find out more about all our programs.

# Have More Questions? Get a Sponsor!

Many parents at Mantua ES remember what it's like to have a new Kindergartner or a transfer student. That's why we've created the New Family 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? What programs are available for a Kindergartner? How does my child know which bus to get on?*

Sponsors are friendly and 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 [programs@mantuapta.org](mailto:programs@mantuapta.org).

**If you're new to Mantua ES and have a question or would like a Sponsor, please contact our New Family Welcome Coordinator at [welcome@mantuapta.org](mailto:welcome@mantuapta.org).**