



## ***WINNEBAGO PTO***

**OUR PURPOSE:** To provide opportunities which enhance the growth of each child and bring about a closer relationship between home and school. Through fundraising and family activities, we promote positive school/community relationships that enhance our children's educational environment.

The Winnebago PTO is made up strictly of volunteers. All parents/guardians and teachers of students at Seward, Simon, and McNair Elementary Schools are invited to participate.

The Winnebago PTO provides financial support through various avenues. Following are some items and programs that are and have been supported:

- Educational supplements for teachers, such as visual and/or hands-on learning
- Tests and prizes for Accelerated Reader program
- Playground equipment
- Special performers, programs, and assemblies
- Class trip supplements (example: admission fees for students)

The PTO is funded through the following fundraisers:

- Fall Fundraiser – largest fundraiser of the school year; each student is given a booklet of a variety of items to sell.
- Box tops for Education – displayed on several food packages that are collected at the schools, then sent to General Mills for money. High-collecting classrooms are rewarded.
- Market Day – monthly fundraiser of food items. A flyer is sent home with the students showing items for sale. Orders are placed by sending in a form or entering it on-line. Orders are picked up on the specified date from Simon cafeteria.

The PTO sponsors school/family activities throughout the year. These events include:

- Open House/Back-To-School Celebration – families attend school to see their child's classroom, meet the teachers, and enjoy a cook out.
- Christmas Bazaar – early December – students are able to shop on their own. Items range from \$1 – 5 and are helped by older students while parents wait.
- Y-Night – mid-winter – families enjoy a night at the Rockford YMCA. Snacks and beverages are donated by parents. Families have access to the pool, locker rooms, ball courts, and play/gym areas.
- Family Night – spring – fun evening to spend at school with other families. Themes change from year to year – in the past, there have been sock hops, hoe-downs, sports nights, ice cream socials.
- Art Fair – mid-May – this is a K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade event. Art is displayed at the high school for viewing by the entire community. The PTO sponsors a basket raffle, in which each classroom puts together a basket of items based on a theme. The proceeds benefit the art department.

The PTO supports school staff with the help of wonderful volunteers on a daily and special occasion basis.

- Organization of hot lunch volunteers servers for Seward, Simon, and McNair
- Organization of Room Parents for classrooms Halloween, Holiday, and Valentine's Day parties
- Organization of Head Room Parents for each classroom – these great volunteers assist their child's teacher in various ways. They oversee the parties by checking with others about food and games and help with the theme basket for the raffle at the art fair.

Additional services provided by the PTO are:

- Spirit wear – Order forms are distributed at least once per school year for families to purchase clothing items and blankets at a low cost. New designs each year!
- Student Directories – A District wide student directory is compiled and made available for purchase at a very low cost.
- School Kits – Made to make shopping for school supplies easy, families may purchase school supply kits for the following school year. Grade level tailored kits are distributed in May.
- Summer Workbooks – Available to order/purchase late spring, these workbooks are aimed at helping students retain academic skills. Available for students entering first through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon – Just a special thank you for all the school staff in late spring. Comprised predominantly of food brought in from parents.

Volunteers connect our community with our schools, and there are so many opportunities to get involved. Along with attending PTO meetings, being on a sub-committee for an event, or working on a fundraiser, there are other volunteer opportunities that may fit into your schedule.

- Active Room Parent – assist teachers and students on a regular as-needed basis
- Silent Room Parent – send in needed items with your child to their classroom
- Classroom Photographer – willing to take photos of classroom activities for the yearbook
- Lunchroom Helper – willing to serve hot lunch one day per month for a one and one-half hour shift

The Winnebago PTO invites all parents/guardians and teachers of students in Early Childhood to 5<sup>th</sup> grade to attend monthly meetings. The first meeting is in September. Agendas for meetings are sent home with students in advance and will note the meeting location and time. Volunteering allows all of us to be a part of our children's elementary school experience.

If you have any questions, please email the PTO at [pto@winnebagoschools.org](mailto:pto@winnebagoschools.org) or contact the 2009-2010 Co-Chairpersons –

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Thank you for your support!