

# **“Commitment to Learning”**

## **Bellaire High School PTO Membership Drive & Fundraising Campaign - 2009/2010**



The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) invites you to join with other parents to support our Bellaire High School (BHS) students, faculty, and staff. The PTO membership drive is combined with the fundraising campaign so that you can conveniently make a single payment. Our PTO is funded by membership dues, donations, and food sales conducted at BHS. There are NO other PTO fundraisers.

### **Your contributions are needed to sustain Bellaire High School’s extraordinary learning environment.**

The PTO’s goals are to: raise \$50,000 and to have more families participating in PTO activities. With your help, we can achieve these goals.

### **Why Join the BHS PTO as a Member?**

Your PTO *“promotes good understanding, cooperation, and support among parents, teachers, and administrators in order to provide the best possible education for our youth”* by:

- Holding monthly PTO meetings to inform parents about BHS activities and events. (the BHS Principal, Tim Salem, participates in these meetings)
- Facilitating inclusive Parent Networking (“meet & greet”) sessions prior to every PTO meeting such that parents can learn from each other’s experiences.
- Actively reaching out to new parents at various BHS meetings for incoming students.
- Promoting volunteerism in our school via the “Volunteers In Public Schools” (VIPS) program.
- Funding numerous projects for the benefit of our BHS students

### **Why Support the PTO “Commitment to Learning” Fundraising Campaign?**

- Bellaire HS operates at a level beyond HISD funding - sustained by PTO fundraising
- Bellaire HS receives 100% of your donation - every dollar benefits students and teachers.
- Bellaire HS is consistently ranked as one of the best public high schools in Texas and the USA.
- The PTO is a 501c3, non-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

### **Where Does the Money Go?**

The biggest recipient of PTO funds is the “Teacher Grant” program that enables teachers and staff to apply for funding to purchase “supplemental” items for their students’ benefit, e.g. additional computers & data projectors, science lab equipment, specialized reading materials, musical instruments, and athletic team items. The PTO also funds student study abroad grants. Additionally, the PTO produces a “Parent Handbook” each year and publishes “The Cardinal’s Nest” school newsletter, 3 editions per school year and mailed to PTO members.

### **How Do I Contribute?**

Write a check for the amount you wish to contribute and mail it in along with your student’s information (see form on next page). Contributions of \$50 or more will be recognized in the Cardinal’s Nest by contribution level listed below.

### **All contributions, no matter the amount, are appreciated and respected!**

- \$ 1,000 or + .... **Diamond Contributor** (PTO membership included)
- \$ 500 - \$ 999 .. **Platinum Contributor** (PTO membership included)
- \$ 250 - \$ 499 .. **Gold Contributor** (PTO membership included)
- \$ 100 - \$ 249 .. **Silver Contributor** (PTO membership included)
- \$ 50 - \$ 99 ... **Bronze Contributor** (PTO membership included)
- \$ 25 - \$ 49 ... **Crystal Contributor** (PTO membership included)
- \$ 10 ..... **PTO Membership Dues** – Per Family
- \$ 5 ..... **Bellaire HS faculty/staff ONLY**

**How can I double my contribution?**

Ask your company’s HR office about “educational matching grants” for non-profit organizations. Some companies, without formal programs, will contribute to charitable organizations in which employees are involved. The BHS PTO is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. If your company prefers to donate directly to a school, we can help you with the process.

**How do I learn more about the PTO and BHS?**

- Attend the monthly PTO meetings and Parent Networking sessions.
- Sign up for BHS email updates by going to the BHS website, www.bellaire.org, and press the “Subscribe to the BHS Yahoo Group” link.
- Read the “BHS Daily Bulletin” (the same one received daily by students & faculty), and the electronic newsletter, “*BHS Today*”, both are accessed by links on the BHS website.

**Thanks in advance for your support!** For questions or comments, please contact:

Ed Klein, VP – Membership & Fundraising, edklein5231@yahoo.com (713-986-3122)  
 Mellody Panzer, Membership & Fundraising Committee, mellodypanzer@hotmail.com  
 Kim Horvitz, Membership & Fundraising Committee, kim@houstonssportsplex.com

Please print all information below.

✂ .....

Contributor’s Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

List all students in the family who attend Bellaire High School:

Student/grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student/grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student/grade \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (check # \_\_\_\_\_) to the “**Commitment to Learning**” fundraising campaign (or a 10 dollar PTO membership fee ONLY) is enclosed.

Check here \_\_\_\_\_ for your contribution to remain anonymous.

Check here \_\_\_\_\_ if you are a Bellaire HS faculty/staff (5 dollar PTO membership fee).

Make checks payable to: “**Bellaire High School PTO**”. Mail your check and this information page to the PTO in the enclosed envelope, or deposit your envelope in the “PTO Box” in the school’s Main Office, or bring to the next PTO Meeting.

*The PTO will send a tax letter for all contributions of \$250 dollars or more.*

*Please keep appropriate records for smaller donations.*