

Welcome to Cottage!

Join the Cougar Family and be a Partner in Education with CSS PTO

On behalf of the Cottage Street School (CSS) PTO, welcome to Cottage! Whether you are new to the school or a returning family, we are so glad you are here! To kick off the school year each Fall, the CSS PTO:

- Encourages parents and staff to join our PTO community and be a partner in education.
- Collects donations from families to benefit students and teachers for the upcoming school year.

Who is CSS PTO?

We are a group of parents, teachers and staff who take an interest in serving as a partner in education, work to support school curriculum, build community, and raise funds to enhance student learning at Cottage. PTO welcomes your input and involvement at any time.

Why Should I Get Involved?

CSS PTO wants YOU in order to build a strong school community. Cottage is a central part of our children's lives. By giving some time, expertise, or financial support to the work of CSS PTO, you help ensure that Cottage is a place where our children will thrive.

why join css and be a partner in education?

- Be an advocate for your child's education
- Enhance all student learning
- Meet other Cottage families
- Strengthen our community
- Support school curriculum and activities
- Flexible time commitments It's free and easy to join!

what does my donation support?

- Monthly educational programs
 - Classroom materials
 - Family dance
 - Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Family activities
 - Back to School BBQ
 - Playground maintenance
- For a more comprehensive list, refer to the back of this page.

PTO CONTACT INFORMATION WWW.COTTAGEPTO.ORG
COTTAGEPTO@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK: COTTAGE STREET SCHOOL-PTO

We cannot do this without YOU!

Please join and help us achieve our goal of **100% membership participation**.

Return to school in an envelope marked CSS PTO Membership.



YES, we want to support Cottage Street Elementary School as a partner in education and join the PTO community. Enclosed is our membership dues of \$25 (checks made out to PTO, memo 'Membership') to jump start school, teacher, and student resources. Paying members will receive a copy of the Cottage Street School Directory.

Child(ren) Name(s) and teachers (s): _____

Parent Names: _____

*We are also looking for families who can offer unique talents or services (green thumb? robotics? work for a company that will match donations?) We'd love to connect with you for potential future opportunities! Please enclose a note if you'd like to share your talents with the PTO.

what did money raised support last year?

- EVERY CSS teacher received a stipend to purchase materials for their classrooms. Approximately \$7,000 was used for teachers' supplies.
- Each Grade Level received two (2) ENRICHMENT programs (i.e. Discovery Museum Lights and Lasers; Museum of Science Wind and Energy; Southwick Zoo Zoomobile; Bubble Mania; Yoga Program).
- Supported Field Trips in EVERY CLASSROOM.
- Sponsored Teacher Appreciation Week, Screen Free Week and Mother's Day Plant Sale.
- Monies are added to the Drama Program Reserve and the Playground Reserve Funds (for when the play structures need to be replaced).
- Purchased new refrigerator for the staff lunch room, new risers for assemblies/performances, new headphones for the library, and a new storage bin for playground toys (including some new toys).
- Hosted multiple community building family events such as Back to School BBQ, Halloween Bingo, Game Night, Roller Skating, Winter Dance, Cultural Festival, Ice Cream Social and FUN Fair!
- Produced the CSS yearbook and Family Directory

pto mythbusters

- Myth: The PTO is only for stay-at-home dads and moms.
FACT: The PTO is for EVERYONE! We think of everyone at CSS as a Partner in Education.
- Myth: If I donate, then I have to go to all the PTO meetings and volunteer.
FACT: You are not required to attend any meetings. And, even though we can always use more volunteers, we understand people share a variety of resources—time, talent, finances—to make this school great.
- Myth: Volunteering takes way too much time.
FACT: Only you can decide how much time to volunteer. Even if you can only help one time, it is greatly appreciated!
- Myth: The only volunteering opportunities are while I am at work.
FACT: Some volunteering is on weekends or at night. Also, some of the PTO chair positions only require coordination via a computer, which can be done on your own schedule.