



DEPAUL SCHOOL  
FOR HEARING & SPEECH

August 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am writing to share with you a new organizational structure for the DePaul School Parent Group and to invite you to participate in this group.

The Parent Group at DePaul School plays an important role in supporting the school program. Currently, the purpose of this group is to plan and support family/student events that foster community building among new and existing DePaul families. The various events planned and run by the members of the parent group help create a welcoming community among the families of DePaul School. The Back to School Picnic / Pirate Game has been a wonderful opportunity for families new and old to spend time together outside of the school. During the year the students also benefit from activities such as the Book Fair, Birthday Books and the Angel Tree project.

The Parent Group also supports the school by raising money for the Student Activity fund. The Student Activity Fund is a separate account that is used to pay for field trip expenses such as buses and student admission fees. Without this support, the number of field trips would be significantly limited and families would be expected to incur the cost of each trip. This fund has also been used to support student learning by purchasing specific equipment or teaching materials requested by the teachers. While an amount for teaching materials is allotted each year in the school budget, the limited amount forces us to set priorities on the essentials and prohibits the purchasing of additional requests for individual classrooms.

The organizational structure of the Parent Group will be changing this year from a president and officers, to a steering committee model. A steering committee would consist of 3 to 5 people who are willing to take a leadership role and give some extra time to help with planning for the year. Each member of this committee shares equal responsibility for the steering committee tasks. It is expected that the members of the steering committee serve for one year. At the end of the year we will evaluate this model and see if it has been effective for this group.

The expectations of a steering committee member are:

- To meet in person or virtually with the other members of the steering committee at least 4 times a year
- To invite families to share ideas and discuss ways to build school community and support student activities
- To decide which event(s) / fundraisers will be done and when they will be scheduled
- To identify a chairperson for each event and encourage participation in the events  
(*Steering committee members do not **have** to serve as chairs for the events. This is a good opportunity to engage others who may be willing to take on that task.*)
- To effectively communicate information to all DePaul Families
- To serve as the administrator(s) of the DePaul Parent Facebook (*One or two people could share this task.*)
- To communicate plans and ideas to the school principal

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions on the following page and return it to me through email, mail or in your child's back pack by August 29, 2014. You may also access and answer the survey electronically, by clicking [here](#).

Thank you,

*Mary Jo Maynard*

Principal  
DePaul School for Hearing and Speech

DEPAUL SCHOOL PARENT GROUP  
PARTICIPATION FORM  
2014-2015

I am able to participate in the following ways: (Please check all that apply)

to attend meetings in person at DePaul School  
 Day time meetings only  
 Evening meetings only  
 Both day time meetings and evening meetings

to attend meetings remotely via Skype or conference calls  
 Day time meetings only  
 Evening meetings only  
 Both day time meetings and evening meetings

To share ideas and comments through The DePaul Parent Group Facebook page

To share ideas and comments through email or other written communication

I am willing to serve on the Steering Committee for the 2014-2015 School Year.

I am **not** able to serve on the Steering Committee for the 2014-2015 School Year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date