

Mater Dolorosa School PTO FAQs

What are the goals of the PTO?

The goals for the MD PTO are for parents and teachers, with the support of administrators and the church, to work together to:

- Provide support and assistance to the MD School and its students.
- Provide periodic meetings of the membership for informational, social, educational and financial purposes.
- Provide a platform for the school administration to convey information and school needs.

How does the PTO support Mater Dolorosa School?

The PTO supports MD by engaging parents in the school, and by sponsoring opportunities that the school may not otherwise be able to take advantage of. Through fundraising and volunteer efforts, the PTO strives to provide educational tools and social opportunities for our children. The PTO supports many events during the year: field trip buses, a teacher appreciation lunch, Easter egg hunt, Gingerbread Shoppe for the students to do Christmas shopping, themed family nights, assemblies, and Battle of the Books, to name a few. Additionally the PTO helps fund educational tools such as computers, iPads, Smartboards, microscopes and musical instruments.

What kind of fundraisers does the PTO hold?

The MD PTO holds monthly spaghetti suppers from September-June as its primary fundraiser. Also new this year will be a year-long gift card sales program. There may be a few smaller fundraisers during the school year as new opportunities and needs arise, if agreed upon by the PTO.

How much time would I be expected to participate?

There are monthly meetings, and several events and fundraisers throughout the year that need volunteer assistance. We invite you to help as much as you like, but there are no minimum requirements.

When are the meetings?

Eight monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. There are no meetings in December or June. Meetings are from 6:00-7:00 in the school cafeteria, and child care is provided when possible.

Are all MD families automatically PTO members?

The PTO communicates regularly with all parents and families through meeting minutes and additional updates as needed. Information applies to the entire school community.

Are there fees to join the PTO?

Yes. Planning, decisions and voting are part of membership and require a \$10/family per school year fee, due by December 1. This fee goes directly to support PTO-funded resources and activities. You can send cash or a check (made out to Mater Dolorosa PTO) in a marked envelope with your child. His/her teacher will send it to the office for processing.

How do I get involved?

Come to as many of the monthly meetings as your schedule will allow; you will learn about the PTO events and fundraisers, along with the needs for assistance with these events. You will also hear updates from the principal, student council, school board and parish. We welcome new ideas for future events or fundraisers (please email the PTO president a week before the next PTO meeting if you would like to be on the agenda). It is a great way to learn more about what goes into running our great school, and gives you the opportunity to get to know the other parents, teachers and administrators better!

Are all events determined at the start of each year?

While some events are run annually, and likely have a date at the start of the school year, the PTO is always open to additional ideas for fundraisers and events to add to the calendar.

Do the PTO meetings count toward the 10 hour per year service requirement for the school?

If you help to plan, set up, work, or clean up an event, your time will be logged and sent to the school. Monthly PTO meetings do not count toward the service requirements.