

Dear FSUS Family,

Thank you for joining FSUS PTSA. I am honored to serve as your PTSA President for the 2008-2009 school year. I was the Technology Chair for the past two years and served as the Volunteer Coordinator for the FSUS Playground Project. That project really demonstrated what our school and our community can achieve when we pursue a common goal. Your PTSA Executive Board is very excited to welcome you back to school this month.

Our theme this year is **“We’re All in This Together.”** As parents and family members, teachers and staff, students and community members we all have a stake in making FSUS the best environment for our children. Over the coming school year our educators and our children will each spend over **1,200 hours** at the Florida High campus. Our goal is to help make their “home away from home” as productive, comfortable and safe as possible to promote a dynamic learning environment. As proud participants in the FSU research school we should expect nothing less for our students.

The first thing you can do for your student is to join or renew your membership in FSUS PTSA. The FSUS PTSA is a K-12 volunteer organization dedicated to making Florida High the most special place it can be. Our members contribute to the learning environment at Florida High by supporting our educators with over \$5,000 in teacher mini-grants and with back-to-school, holiday and teacher-staff appreciation events. The PTSA supports book fairs and reading events, Reflections art competition, FCAT snacks, playground maintenance, school gardens, health and safety fair, bike rodeo, wellness activities, scholarships and funding of graduation activities. As a local unit of PTA we also have a Legislative Affairs liaison monitoring any legislation on a national, state or local level that affects our students.

We are proud to bring you programs such as school-wide recycling, media literacy and safe routes to school. We have a great new fundraiser planned for this fall that will help us achieve our goals and allow our students and families to work together to bring an exciting BMX show to all of our students. We are hosting three PTSA General Assembly meetings this year and bringing back spirit nights and family fun nights.

Because your time is precious, we will keep you informed about what is happening in our school through this monthly electronic newsletter, *Council Oak*, and through our webpage www.fsus.fsu.edu/parents/ptsa/.

I believe that whether we work or we stay home, whether we live close by or far away, whether our student is in elementary, middle or high school, we are all in this together. There will be many opportunities to volunteer and to participate over the upcoming school year. Your time is valuable and appreciated whether it is for an occasional hour or a more regular time commitment. Our first volunteer opportunity is the “Welcome Back Breakfast” for FSUS teachers and staff on Monday, August 11. We need casseroles! Click here to sign up.

Again, welcome back to another wonderful year at Florida High. I look forward to seeing you at our first FSUS General Assembly Meeting in September.

Sincerely,

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