

October, 2017

Dear Hamilton parents, friends, and family,

The Velma Hamilton Middle School PTO would like to welcome you to the new school year! We are a parent run volunteer organization that strengthens school-community relations, funds scholarships for equity, supports our school through volunteer activities, and fills some of the gaps between district funding and needs at Hamilton. If you have a child at the school then YOU are also a member of the PTO. Our objectives are:

- To promote communication and to maintain a close relationship between home and school.
- To unite the efforts of parents and teachers to secure for every child the greatest opportunities for intellectual, physical and social growth.
- To promote the welfare of children attending the school today and to plan for and promote the welfare of those children who attend in the future.
- To sponsor events and programs which encourage a sense of community within the school.
- To raise funds to support Velma Hamilton Middle School activities and programs.

The PTO's first fundraising event at Chipotle was a big success, earning \$906 in a single evening. Thanks to everyone who participated! While this is a great start, there is much more that we need to do to support the Hamilton community. With your generous gift, we can continue to support extracurricular programs like Future Problem Solvers and Science Olympiad, subsidize student field trips and other school trips, provide after school snacks for students, fund grants for teachers, help defray the cost of transportation for families attending school events, and continue funding other events that bring the Hamilton community together.

What can I do? We know that your family, like ours, is busy and that you have many competing requests for your time and money. That is why dining, shopping, and activity nights are an easy way to support Hamilton. However, **the most direct way that Hamilton parents can financially support our classrooms and community is to make a donation to the PTO.**

How much should I give? A gift of any amount will help the Hamilton PTO ensure that every child has equal access to the many academic and extracurricular programs offered at Hamilton. A gift of \$5 or \$10 ensures a student can go on a field trip. A donation of between \$25 and \$50 buys school supplies for one student. \$100 helps 5 students go on the Kalahari water trip or purchases a graphing calculator for the classroom. \$200 provides snacks for after school homework club for a grade for an entire year or defrays costs for the eighth grade's Movin' On graduation ceremony. If each family in the Hamilton community chips in just **\$25** a student, we will easily achieve our fundraising goal of **\$10,000**. Together, we will make sure that essential funds get to our students and school.

To give, please place the attached donation form and a check made out to Hamilton PTO in the enclosed envelope. You may mail it to Hamilton Middle School PTO, 4801 Waukesha Street, Madison, WI, 53705, return your donation to your child's teacher, or drop it off at the school office by **November 17th**. Keep the receipt below for your own tax records.

As with last year, we can also receive donations via PayPal. There is a "donate" button on the PTO website at <http://vhmspto.org>.

Thank you for supporting the students and teachers at Hamilton Middle School!

Afan Ottenheimer
Shahanna McKinney-Baldon
Hannah Renfro
Mike McLain

Kirstin Bloy
Melissa Hornung
Sherry Niede
Shelby Connell

Margaret Jenks
Eileen Snyder

**Velma
Hamilton
Middle
School**



Support the Hamilton Hawks!

YES, I want to support the teachers and students at Hamilton Middle School this year! To help the Hamilton PTO, I am happy to contribute (please circle):

\$15 *\$25 \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other \$_____

*A donation of \$25 per student will help us reach our goal of \$10,000.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Please give what you can. Any gift of any amount will be appreciated! You may mail your donation to Hamilton Middle School PTO, 4801 Waukesha Street, Madison, WI 53705, return to your child's teacher, or bring it to the Hamilton school office before **November 17**. Your gift is tax deductible. **And remember that employers will often match your charitable contributions!** Thank you!