

GARDNER DICKINSON PTO PARENT SURVEY

The Gardner Dickinson PTO is looking for ways to improve and expand the level of communication and the services we can provide to the families of our students. We need your help to accomplish this task. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. Your feedback will help us in our quest to determine the best ways to communicate with you as well as increase parental participation in classroom/school activities and events.

Input from this survey provides us with valuable insights that illuminate our areas of strength as well as areas for continued growth. All answers are confidential, but if you would like to discuss this survey with a PTO Officer, please email us at mplavoy@aol.com.

Please take a moment to fill out this survey and return it to the school by September 9th.

1. What the PTO Offers: As our Gardner Dickinson family grows and changes, parents may wish to change the focus of our PTO. Given this, we want to know what areas of focus you value most. Please rate the following using the following scale 1-5 with 1 meaning not important at all and 5 representing very important – any item that should be a priority: (Responses in Parenthesis)

Question	Scale of Importance				
	Not at all	Not very	No Opinion	Some-what	Extremely
Collect/Raise monetary donations to increase media/library collections/technology resources	1	2 (2)	3 (2)	4 (6)	5 (11)
Family-focused social events	1	2	3	4 (9)	5 (13)
Hold periodical PTO General Meetings (Executive Committee meetings are already open to all PTO members.)	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (5)	4 (7)	5 (6)
Playground maintenance (includes purchasing new equipment, maintaining the grounds, spreading mulch and repairing equipment)	1	2 (2)	3 (1)	4 (8)	5 (11)
Provide funds for supplemental classroom materials	1	2	3 (2)	4 (7)	5 (12)
Provide Staff appreciation	1	2 (2)	3 (1)	4 (7)	5 (10)
Sponsor Community Education Programs (Internet safety, dealing with bullying, etc.)	1	2 (2)	3 (2)	4 (4)	5 (12)
Sponsor Enrichment programs such as special presentations and guest speakers that enhance curriculum, art enrichment, character education, featured authors	1	2 (2)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (12)
Sponsor parent-teacher-administration activities.	1	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (7)	5 (11)
Sponsor/Support off-campus activities.	1	2 (2)	3 (2)	4 (13)	5 (5)
Subsidize transportation expenses to reduce family costs for field trips	1	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (11)	5 (7)

Please take a moment to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas about the following questions and topics. You can share as little or as much information as you would like. If you would like to speak to a PTO officer or the principal about a subject in this survey, please email mplavoy@aol.com and someone will contact you.

2. What activities or events would you like to see the Gardner Dickinson PTO conduct?

- older student mentors
- mother/daughter night and father/son night
- Trip to Bronx Zoo (2)
- family movie night
- meetings with administration to discuss academics at the school
- informational meetings
- Fine art events
- Drama
- more family nights
- character education

3. What would encourage you to attend a PTO function?

- veteran volunteers help newcomers
- sharing nights
- babysitting
- whole family activities
- combination of information and socialization with parents (2)
- team building activity
- 1 hour meetings
- Teachers
- know agenda of night
- know what teachers belong to pto
- know what staff would be attending

4. What would encourage you to share your time by volunteering at least two hours during the school year?

- knowing what to do and that I wouldn't be alone
- list of volunteer opportunities (2)
- contacting people directly
- updated web page

5. What do you consider the strengths of the school PTO?

- time and effort committed (2)
- great activities
- committed to serving our children (2)
- not overwhelmed with fundraisers
- open to new ideas
- bringing together parents and teachers for betterment of students
- always a great group of officers
- fundraisers and activities (2)
- Money
- Great at trying to improve things that parents want to see changed

6. What are the weaknesses of the school PTO?

- newcomers not feeling welcome
- some people do most of the work
- Not enough participation (3)
- level of active participation
- more positive communication in GD community
- lack of participation of administration and teachers (3)
- more communication

7. What improvements, if any, would you like to see in the PTO?

- more positive
- working together with faculty and staff
- more participation of administration and teachers (2)
- stage
- easier process to volunteer in child's classroom

-knowing what staff is involved

8. Do you feel that one or more of these activities should be a part of the Gardner Dickinson PTO plans for this or future years?

- (9) Art enrichment activities
- (12) Classroom/School directory
- (10) Family Night Activities
- (8) Internet Safety information session for parents & older children
- (7) Turn Off TV Week
- (7) Volunteer Orientation
- (6) Volunteer Recognition

9. Comments and/or suggestions for additional ways the PTO can enhance the experience of our students, families, and teachers:

- reaching out to newcomers.
- improvement of playground
- pot luck social k-2, 3-5, 6-8
- no volunteer recognition dinner instead money spent for children and classrooms.
- teachers need to be more involved.
- possibly purchasing fans for all classrooms.