CONTACT INFORMATION

SANDRA WEST

SCHOOL: Hialeah Miami-Lakes Senior High

PRINCIPAL: Alexander Santoyo

EMAIL: ptan11@dadeschools.net

PHONE: (305) 834-9276

DOWNLOAD PROJECT INFO AT EDUCATIONFUND.ORG

Putting the "T" in PTA:

Parent Teacher Association Partnerships

Teachers can be the key ingredient for a strong PTA

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been around for over 120 years but many times teachers only see the PTA as a parent organization. Actually, the PTA can be a viable partner in school projects by providing support and volunteers as well as funding opportunities. Often, the PTA is strengthened by student and teacher support - the stronger the PTA, the more support for students. For example, last year, The Education Fund awarded a grant for a social-emotional garden at Hialeah Miami-Lakes SHS, which started as a project of one teacher and one class, and soon encompassed multiple classes and over 25% of the school. The PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) was able to help the project by securing a grant from the Florida PTA to expand and continue the project next year. The partnership of the PTSA to support and expand the project has made this garden a place that will be a centerpiece for the school. Once benches are installed, students will have a tranquil place to sit and meditate in front of a pond and garden.

To support a teacher's project, the PTA needs to be strong. It needs to be supported by the whole community - parents, students, teachers, and administrators. Only when the PTA is well-balanced, can it thrive and meet its mission of making every child's potential a reality. The PTA can be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant source for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child

> *"PTAs that operate without strong partnerships often struggle and cannot provide support for their students."*

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTION – WHAT TEACHERS LEARN

That they can work with their PTA in partnership to engage, educate, and empower their students

A supported PTA can provide resources by seeking grants as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, funding for which teachers and schools otherwise might not be eligible

PTA is a partnership that can benefit students, parents, and teachers in many ways

STUDENTS

Adaptation: Projects can encompass a single classroom, an entire grade, or the whole school – whatever the community needs. By working together, the PTA, the teachers, the students, and the school all benefit by building a community.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Resources: Resources are found at www.floridapta.org and www.pta.org for programs and projects that the PTA promotes and funds.

ABOUT THE TEACHER

Although only a teacher for two years, Sandra West has been involved with the PTA for over 25 years. She has been engaged at every level of school from kindergarten through high school. Sandra has seen PTAs operate with little to no teacher involvement to PTAs that are nearly entirely staff-led. It is when there is a balance that PTAs are strongest.

STANDARDS

SOCIAL STUDIES

SS.1.C.2.1 Explain the rights and responsibilities students have in the school community.

SS.1.C.2.3 Identify ways students can participate in the betterment of their school and community.

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To register for this workshop, visit www.educationfund.org