

Welcome to the TPMS PTSA Meeting

February 10, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome
- Upcoming Events
- School Climate Survey Update
- Treasurer Report
- Gen AI Panel Discussion
- Q&A

Join the TPMS PTSA!



<https://www.tpmspta.org/join-the-pta>

Communications

Connections, connections, connections.

We're here to connect you to the school, the county, the board, and each other.

newsletters

ANNOUNCE

DISCUSS

messaging

WHATSAPP



To join the conversation, scan the QR code or visit tpmspta.org/abouttpmspta/maillinglists/

Things to Know & Upcoming Events

February

- **February 12:** Report Card Distribution
- **February 13:** Drum Circle Presentation (during school day)
- **February 13:** Multicultural Night (6-8 pm)
- **February 16:** No School
- **February 17:** No School
- **February 19:** Instrumental Festival Concert (7-9 pm)
- **February 6–13:** Book Fair
- **February 27:** Early release day (12:30 pm)
- **February 27-28:** Books and Basketball events

Silent Auction

- Feb 22: Opens for bidding
- Feb 28: Closes. Winners announced

Books and Basketball

- February 27: The Game and Book Pre-Sale
- February 28: The Book Sale

Access the school calendar here:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkms/calendar-index/>

Things to Know & Upcoming Events

March

- **March 3 and 5:** MISA testing (8th graders)
- **March 5:** TPMS Parent Workshop Series: Internet Safety & Generative AI for Parents, Guardians and Communities
- **March 10:** Monthly PTSA Meeting
- **March 12:** Spring musical
- **March 19:** Choral festival at Blair HS
- **March 30-April 6:** No school (Spring Break)

Access the school calendar here:
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkms/calendar-index/>

Books & Basketball, Feb. 27 & 28

Questions? Contact:
celineallard@yahoo.com

What: a PTSA fundraiser but, more than that, **an AMAZING community event** bringing together TPMS and Takoma families.

When:

- Friday February 27, 6-8:30 pm: Students versus Staff basketball game in the gym
- Friday February 27, 5-9 pm: Book Pre-sale open to TPMS family in the cafeteria
- Saturday February 28, 10-1 pm: Book sale open to all in the cafeteria

Why you should definitely not miss this event:

- A thrilling **basketball game**, and fantastic performance by “We will rock you” band ahead of the game and previews from “Mean Girls” musical at halftime
- Treasures and bargains at the **book sale** (\$1 or \$2 books)
- **Concerts** by the school Jazz Band and Flute Choir
- An **Art Show** by students
- Plants for purchase by the **Horticulture Club**
- Amazing prices at the **Silent Auction** (more in two slides)
- Yummy **Bake sale**
- And plenty of other fun activities...



Books & Basketball (continued)

Questions? Contact:
celineallard@yahoo.com

How you can help:

We need your book donations! We take all types of books (picture books, first readers, chapter books, Young adults, fiction, non fiction, cookbooks, travel books, etc). There are several ways you can donate books:

- A **donation box outside the main office**
- **Drop-off session on Saturday February 14 (10 am to 1 pm)**. Drive and drop your boxes by the school.
- Let your friends and neighbors know about the call for book donations (and the event!). If you collect books from your neighbors, you can contact me (celineallard@yahoo.com) and I can come and pick them up, if that helps.
- **Drop books on my porch, 409 Beech Avenue or on the porch of 902 Gist Ave, Silver Spring**
(summersmith100@gmail.com)

In a week, we will also send **a call for volunteers to help during the event and for bake goods donations.**



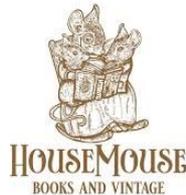
Silent Auction

Questions? Contact:
ann.w.gordon@gmail.com

Help the PTA raise \$3,000 by bidding on amazing items at the silent auction!

How it will work:

| Sunday, 2/22 | During the Week of 2/23 | Friday, 2/27 | Saturday, 2/28 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Auction OPENS ; look for the catalog link in the TPMS Community Newsletter and Blue Devil Digest and start bidding | Bidding ongoing; to bid, set up account on the auction site and receive text/email notifications | Items on display at Basketball Game and Book Sale; bidding ongoing | Auction CLOSSES at 12:00pm; pick up winnings at book sale; pay online or cash/check |



Park Florist

Still accepting donations!

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

Apr 27-May 1

Interested in volunteering?

There are lots of things you can do to help.

Check out the interest form!

<https://bit.ly/4qskUXE>



Questions? Contact:
alisaobrien10@yahoo.com



Consider joining the PTSA board next year - elections in May

Questions? Contact:
<president.tpms.pta@gmail.com>

Board Positions

President

Exec VP

Treasurer

Secretary

Membership

Communications

Events

Fundraising

Committee & Aux Positions

NAACP Rep

MCCPTA Rep

Special Education

Books & Basketball

Multicultural Night

Welcome Picnic

Silent Auction

8th Grade Dance

Advocacy

Grant Writer

Maybe you have an idea of what you want to do?

If you see a need for a committee or event or way to improve the school, make a proposal!



School Climate Survey Update

Goal (SY26): Increase favorable responses in *Student-Student Relationships, Physical Safety, Bullying and Physical Environment*.

Actions: Highlight students and staff who exemplify STRIVE values, student created advisory lessons, include student voice in decision making

Spring 25 to Fall 25 - Student Climate Survey:

- *At my school, students show me respect.* (11.5 increase)
 - *The energy of my school is positive.* (10.7 increase)
 - *At my school, students treat people from different races, ethnicities, or cultures fairly.* (10.7 increase)
- 

Treasurer and Budget Updates

| 2025-2026 INCOME | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Proposed | Actual | % Complete |
| \$ 23,900.00 | \$ 18,116.57 | 76% |
| | | |
| 2025-2026 EXPENSES | | |
| Proposed | Actual | % Complete |
| \$ 25,871.00 | \$ 4,966.23 | 19% |
| | | |
| CASH in BANK | \$26,143 | |

- Vote to approve change to categorical budget. (Approved Oct. 2025)
 - PTA Organizational Expenses have gone over budget by \$220 as a result of Free State PTA membership fee increase.
 - General Membership needs to approve moving \$220 from PTA Event Expenses to PTA Organizational Expenses
 - PTA Organizational Expenses budget goes from \$1450 to \$1670
 - PTA Event Expenses budget goes from \$9225 to \$9005

Generative AI & Middle School

Gen AI 101 +
Student and
Counselor Panel



What is AI?

"The capability of computer systems or algorithms to imitate intelligent human behavior." — *m-w.com*

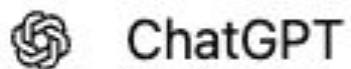
"A non-human program or model that can solve sophisticated tasks." — *Google Developers glossary*



What is Generative AI?

Generative AI can generate content, such as text, images, audio, and video, that is complex, coherent, and original, in response to a submitted prompt or query, by learning from large reference sets of existing data.

Large Language models are really, really good at predicting what the next letter, word or pixel might or should be, based on the data it has been trained on.



perplexity



Midjourney

Kid and Teen use of gen AI

- 70% of American teens 13-17 have ever used generative AI (CSM, 2024)
 - 9% of 8-9 year olds
 - 21% of 10-12 year olds
 - 42% of 13-14 year olds
 - 50% of 15-17 year olds
 - 72% of US teens have ever used an AI companion (CSM, 2025), and users most commonly (21%) use them once a week.
- whose parents use a parental control app (Aura) have used Gen AI on an app (JAMA, 2026)

How do you use Generative AI?

(Add to the chat, if you care to share)

Teen and Parent Purpose of AI Use, 2024

| Among teens and parents who use gen AI, the percentage who have ever used it to assist them in the following ways... | Users of gen AI | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | Total Teens | Total Parents |
| Help with homework | 53% | n/a |
| Learn a new skill | n/a | 22% |
| Keep me from being bored | 42% | n/a |
| Translate something from one language to another | 41% ^a | 39% ^a |
| Brainstorm ideas | 38% ^a | 27% ^b |
| Write a document or email | 35% ^a | 37% ^b |
| Create a new image or video | 33% ^a | 24% ^b |
| Summarize or synthesize information | 33% ^a | 30% ^a |
| Create content as a joke or to tease another person | 19% ^a | 10% ^b |
| Get advice on a personal issue | 18% ^a | 17% ^a |
| Plan an activity | 16% ^a | 19% ^a |
| Keep me company | 15% ^a | 7% ^b |
| Seek health-related advice | 14% ^a | 20% ^b |
| Generate new content from a person's voice or image | 12% ^a | 11% ^a |
| Write code or create an app | 12% ^a | 12% ^a |

Generative AI

Promises

- Personalized learning
- Efficiencies for educators & students
- Ease language barriers
- Extend or expand creativity

Challenges

- Deskillling & academic integrity
- Misinformation and bias
- Persuasive & emotionally connective design

Student & Counselor Panel

Resources

MIT Explains The Difference Between Traditional and Generative AI:

<https://curve.mit.edu/exploring-shift-traditional-generative-ai>

Chicago Public Schools AI Guidebook: <https://www.cps.edu/strategic-initiatives/ai-guidebook/>

Common Sense Media Parents Ultimate Guide to Generative AI

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-generative-ai>

Common Sense Media Parents Ultimate Guide to AI Companions

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-ai-companions-and-relationships>

Parent Educators

[Erin Walsh](#)

[Devorah Heitner](#)

[Lisa Damour](#)



For more resources

Questions?

Contact Amanda Lenhart at alenhart@sesame.org

(a few)

Digital Safety Resources



Resources: 3 Individuals

Jonathan Haidt

- **“The Anxious Generation”** – very readable, includes proposal for ages; “social media ladder”
- **After Babel** substack

Julie Frumin

- healthier.tech on insta
- www.healthier-tech.org

Sarah Gallager Trombley

- Excellent webinars; comparison chart of dumb, parent-managed, smart phones; consulting
- Digitalmomming on insta
- “tfadigitalmom”
- **Thoughts From A Digital Mom** substack

Resources: 3 Groups

Wait Until 8th

- www.waituntil8th.org

OK to Delay

- www.oktodelay.com
- oktodelaytakomapark@gmail.com

Commonsense Media

- www.common sense media.org

At Our House: 6 Kid-Accessed Devices

**and what they're for*

Router

- Source of internet

Phone

- Calls & texts (approved contacts), music, maps, weather, chess, photos

iPad

- Music, books (audio & digital text), music lessons, creating music/art

Switch

- Games

Roku

- Entertainment/Education

Chromebook

- School/homework

Chromebooks are a gateway to screen addiction, mediocrity

By Emily Bauer
and Julie Frumin

Like many, our families moved to districts celebrated for their highly rated schools, albeit on opposite coasts of the country. What we found was an abundance of technology in classrooms where screens “replaced” lessons that could be taught with paper, books, and conversation. Our paths crossed when pursuing the question: when did teaching about computers become teaching everything through a computer?

How did Chromebooks become ubiquitous in schools?

Chromebooks weren’t originally designed for education in schools. They were designed for adults as a portable laptop option with cloud-based applications from the Google ecosystem. They were a commercial flop, initially. Big Tech pivoted, marketing Chromebooks to schools with grand promises: future-readiness, engagement, and innovation for students. Those promises were never backed by evidence — and they still aren’t. Districts bought in, lured by slick messaging, becoming the distribution network for a massive behavioral and educational experiment on children.

Chromebooks do not deliver on promise

Chromebooks do not improve core academics and prepare students for life. Data supports precisely the opposite. Some examples

are:

- The 2025 National Assessment of Education Progress National Report Card for Science, Math and Reading in 2024.

- The 2025 ABC article: “U.S. High-School Students Lose Ground in Math and Reading,” and

- F. Boninger, National Education Policy Center: “Fit for Purpose? How Today’s Commercial Digital Platforms Subvert Key Goals of Public Education.”

The evidence reflects that students will be less prepared to enter adult life, including college and the workforce, “and this is happening at a time when rapid advancements in technology and society demand more of future workers and citizens, not less.” (Lesley Muldoon, executive director of the National Assessment Governing Board).

An entire generation is being raised inside the experiment of education technology (“Ed Tech”) and the device of choice is the Chromebook.

What Chromebooks actually do

Equally concerning to what Chromebooks do not do, is what they are doing to students. Chromebooks are the gateway drug to screen addiction, the gamification of responsibility, and, at best, mediocrity. Schools are the pushers, handing out devices as early as kindergarten. For many children, a school-issued Chromebook is their first digital “hit” — a shiny, addictive, school-approved

object that demands their attention, shapes their habits, normalizes constant stimulation, and tracks their personal data.

The research is sobering. The average student focuses on an educational task for only six minutes before switching to another tab or app. In practice, that means classrooms built around Chromebooks are not teaching focus — they are teaching distraction. From a mental health perspective, sustained attention is the foundation for emotional regulation, creativity, and resilience. Students cannot learn to think deeply or build mental endurance while constantly checking for dopamine hits and through forced disruptions.

Many Ed Tech programs reward students with badges or coins for finishing assignments, and even offer disruptive video games during tasks as incentives. These digital rewards are not harmless. They condition children to seek external validation rather than internal satisfaction. In psychology, that is called erosion of intrinsic motivation. The joy of mastering something hard is replaced by the fleeting buzz of a digital pat on the head. When doing well in school feels like leveling up in a video game, there is no room for real pride and perseverance.

At their best, Chromebooks promote mediocrity. Research from a 2025 National Education Policy Center analysis of 22 studies revealed there was “no evidence of improved learning” through digital approaches as compared with the

proven benefits of traditional learning methods — reading books, taking handwritten notes, and engaging face-to-face with teachers and peers. The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development found that students frequently using digital devices in school perform worse in reading and math. Our own National Assessment of Educational Progress shows the steepest academic declines in decades, particularly among the students most saturated in screens. A methodology projected to provide only mediocre achievement is unacceptable.

Technology in classrooms has not even prepared students for a digital future. How could it, with technology changing approximately every 36 months (UNESCO 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report)? Ironically, the very “future skills” tech evangelists promised — communication, collaboration, critical thinking — are precisely what students lose when they spend their school days with devices.

Chromebooks raise privacy concerns

The problem isn’t just pedagogy. Chromebooks present a profound privacy crisis of which many parents are unaware. Every keystroke, click, and hesitation is recorded, analyzed, and stored. They infer learning styles, preferences, even emotional states — for corporate optimization and marketing. Artificial intelligence is now often embedded in school programs, allowing technology companies to shape writing and thought processes before children have learned to do these independently. As parents, we would never allow a stranger to mold and monitor our child so closely. Yet, in the classroom, this market-driven

surveillance has become routine.

Perpetuated pandemic-era policies are problematic

The pandemic accelerated this crisis. In 2020, emergency policies were implemented to accommodate remote learning. Those policies remain in place even though the pandemic is over. Thus, we still face a digital crisis. Schools can no longer prioritize the ease of “on demand” data over our children’s ability to learn. Even if technology offers schools a low monetary cost option for instruction, the actual cost of replacing clicking with thinking is nearly incalculable.

Proposed solution

The solution isn’t complicated. It starts with admitting what the data already shows, and the courage and wisdom of school leaders and parents to advocate for a change in course. Schools should adopt only tech-intentional practices — using technology with precision and purpose in a limited scope, and always coupled with human connection at the center. We need to restore conversation, handwriting, textbooks, and the process of learning to think. At a minimum, families should have the right to opt-out of classroom screen use and homework on Chromebooks, as well as have transparency on how student data is collected and shared.

The question isn’t whether children can learn on Chromebooks. It’s whether they can truly learn, without losing themselves in the process.

Emily Bauer is a Connecticut mother and attorney with expertise in research analysis. Julie Frumin is a mother and therapist with expertise in helping families navigate anxiety, distraction, and disconnection.





#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Anxious Generation

How the Great Rewiring of
Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic
of Mental Illness

A
WALL STREET
JOURNAL
TOP 10 BOOK
of 2024

Jonathan Haidt

Coauthor of *The Coddling of the American Mind*

Next PTSA Meeting

Tuesday, March 10
7-8:30 pm
Location TBD

Next Months Meeting Topics
Preview:

- School Climate Workshop
- And more!

If you have an idea for a PTSA meeting, please contact:

TPMS.PTA.president@gmail.com

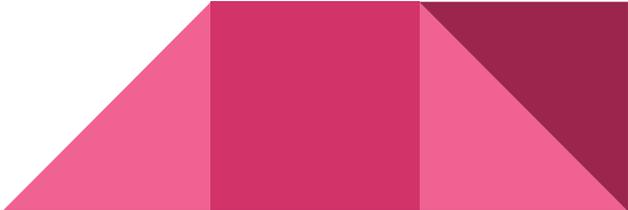
Q&A : Let's hear from you!

Questions?

Comments?

Answers.

Learn more about us at:
www.tpmspta.org



Appendix