



Dear Pocopson Families,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all families new to the Pocopson school community and a welcome back to all returning families. We hope that your summer was filled with fun, laughs, and lots of relaxing! We are hopeful that this year will allow for many in-person educational, inspirational, and amazing experiences for all our kids. We, as the PES PTO, are here to scaffold all the hard work that our teachers and staff put into our children's days at school. We invite you to join us in that endeavor.

Each year, the Pocopson PTO seeks to enhance the educational experience for every student at our school. Through fundraising and generous donations from school families, we fund a variety of projects for our students, staff, faculty, and community.

In addition to subsidizing numerous projects at Pocopson, we host fun and enriching activities like our Family Fun Nights, fun runs, school wide assemblies, author visits, the *Art & Garden* celebration, and the Foreign Language program, and even a book publishing service, *Patriot Press*, to name just a few of our endeavors. We also provide community service experiences for students, through our *Kids with Heart club*, holiday giving tree, MLK service projects, *Coins for Kids*, and our bagged lunch program. We need your help to continue to run these programs and to adapt them to this unique academic year. In order to execute the various activities on our school calendar, we rely heavily on parent volunteers throughout the school year. You will have many opportunities to volunteer in a range of capacities, from in-person help, to planning at home on your PC. Please review our *Volunteer* section of either of our websites at www.mypespto.com and <https://pes.ucfsd.org/pto2>.

This year, we hope to raise funds for our outdoor learning spaces in our annual *Patriot Pride* campaign. We have some existing spaces, like our garden, koi pond, outdoor classroom, and pavilion, that we would like to improve and revitalize for our students to better use for incredible outdoor hands-on learning experiences. We also hope to find our teacher grants and funds like did in the past. Be on the lookout for more information on that and our crazy fun Spirit Week, which will take place from September 27th to October 1st. Most communication with families will occur through weekly PTO emails, *Around our School*, which will highlight upcoming school events, and through emails periodically sent via homeroom parents. We also encourage you to like the *Pocopson Elementary PTO* page on Facebook to get up-to-date announcements.

Welcome to our new school year, which we hope to be our real ***Comeback Year!*** We invite all parents and guardians to join us at our first general PTO meeting on Tuesday, September 14th at 9:30AM. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or feedback at pespto@ucfsd.net. We look forward to partnering with you to make this school year both successful and memorable.

Kind Regards, Your PTO Executive Board,

Meghan DeLuca, President and Mom of Audrey, Julie, & Sophie- Grade 4

Lindsey Michelini, Co-Vice President and Mom of Sofia- Grade 2 & James- Pre-K

Lucy Barber, Co-Vice President and Mom of Raf- grade 5 & Matilda- Grade 3

Sara Katulka, Board Member-at-Large, and mom of Jacob- grade 2, Graham- K, & Bennett- 11 months old

Margaret Moran, Treasurer and Mom of Max- grade 4 & Josie- Grade 1

Mary Kate Loomis, Coordinating Secretary and Mom of Emma- Grade 2 & Ava- K

Jamie Pallas Parker, Recording Secretary and Mom of Zoey- Grade 4 & Bailey- Grade 2

Charlene Scott, Communications Secretary and Mom of Rozlynn- grade 5, Magdelin- grade 3, & Shane- 2.5 years old