



# SPHSPTSONEWS

## SPHS PTSO Executive Board and Committee Chairs 2009 – 2010

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### Treasurer

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### Membership

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kerriganfamily@comcast.net

### Member at Large

Susan Dyckman, 410.987.3829,  
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## SPHS PTSO Meeting Dates

### Back to School Night Thursday, September 3

September 15	February 16
October 20	March 16
November 17	April 20
January 19	May 18

*Meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the SPHS Media Center unless otherwise noted. All parents, teachers, and students are encouraged to attend!*

Greetings and welcome to the 2009—2010 school year – our school's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday year! The Severna Park High School Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) invites you to join us in helping to keep our school a center of excellence for our students, staff, and community.

Our mission is to enhance the educational facilities and opportunities for students of SPHS that are not otherwise provided for in the county school budget.

PTSO's primary focus is to help positively impact and guide all students at SPHS. To achieve this goal, PTSTO, in partnership with the Counseling Center, has supported the innovative STAR (Students Taking Actions Responsibly) program. STAR funds whole-school assemblies, community programs with speakers, and special activities for all students, including STAR Week.

Thanks to the support of last year's members and various fundraisers, we were able to make significant contributions to SPHS, spending close to \$20,000 on:

- The STAR Program
- Teacher and Classroom Support
- Facility improvements
- Student programs and clubs
- Much, much more!

In addition, we had many active volunteers provide their time and talents for a myriad of school activities, including greeter table, school store, and Hospitality (baking items for school appreciation).

Now, more than ever, SPHS needs your help. What can you do?

- **Join the PTSTO and pay your membership dues** (Membership form attached.)
- **Volunteer** (Volunteer form attached.)
- **Attend the monthly PTSTO meetings** Everyone is welcome; parent feedback helps inspire change! See schedule to the left.

When it comes to supporting SPHS, every contribution (money or time) helps us make a difference. We look forward to partnering with you this year.

-Gwen Douma Harring, PTSTO President

# SPHSPTSO MEMBERSHIP FORM

Parents' or Guardians' Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (PTSO preferred method of communication) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name and Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name and Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name and Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following membership options:

\_\_\_ **Falcon:** Individual/Family Membership **\$100 or more**

\_\_\_ **Gold:** Individual/Family Membership **\$75**

\_\_\_ **Blue:** Individual/Family Membership **\$50**

\_\_\_ **White:** Individual/Family Membership **\$25**

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE READ!!!

Provided we have enough volunteers to create and email a PTSO Membership Directory this year, please check below if you DO NOT wish the following information to appear in the directory:

- \_\_\_ **DO NOT** publish my address
- \_\_\_ **DO NOT** publish my phone number
- \_\_\_ **DO NOT** publish my email address
- \_\_\_ **I DO NOT** wish to appear in the directory at all

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SPHS PTSO**

Please return ENTIRE page to the PTSO mailbox in the Main Office or mail to: SPHS PTSO, 60 Robinson Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146. If you have any questions or ideas, please email Luanne Kerrigan at [kerriganfamily@comcast.net](mailto:kerriganfamily@comcast.net).

# SPHS PTSO VOLUNTEER FORM

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: (Please check all that apply)

- 5k Fun Run/Walk Committee:** Join with a team of volunteers to put on one of Severna Park's most popular events, and one of the PTSO's largest fundraisers!
- Facilities Enhancement Committee:** Help with landscaping and school beautification projects.
- Greeter Table:** Greet/register visitors and log personal items for students during school hours.
- Membership Directory Committee:** Assist in proofreading, mailing, and organization of the directory. Most work can be done at home.
- Occasional Volunteer:** Help with various school functions, including the S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Actions Responsibly) Program, during or after school hours.
- Hospitality:** Help support various school appreciation activities.
  - Bake for various school appreciation functions.
  - Set up and clean up for school appreciation functions.
- School Store:** Assist with sales and shelf-stocking/inventory in student-managed store during lunch hours.

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Parents' or Guardians' Name(s)

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Address

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City and State

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Zip

---

Home Phone

---

Secondary Phone

---

Email Address (PTSO preferred method of communication)

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Student Name and Grade

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Student Name and Grade

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Student Name and Grade

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Now in its third school year, the STAR (Students Taking Action Responsibly) program is having a positive impact on the Severna Park students, staff and community! It started out as a week-long program, created through a partnership with the SPHS Counseling Center and the SPHS PTSO, and to promote a positive and healthy learning environment for our school. Now STAR has expanded to become a part of monthly advisory and lunch, and also offers school-wide assemblies and a year-long parent speaker series.

Reactions from the students have been extremely positive:

*"STAR Week was very different from any other assembly format. Everyone seemed to really enjoy it, and it was incredibly insightful to have the chance to talk with our peers about pressures we are facing."*

*"It's like we got this burden off our chests with permission to talk about these issues. It was uplifting and refreshing, with a real sense of unity."*

The STAR program's primary funding comes from the PTSO, although the Athletic Boosters and the Counseling Center also contribute funds each year. Last year's STAR program, including several school and parent series speakers, cost close to \$14,000 which represents a significant portion of the PTSO budget.

Let's keep this program a priority in our school! You can help make a difference this year by sending a financial contribution to the PTSO specifically for use with the STAR program. Your gift enables Severna Park High to continue providing students with opportunities to help improve decision-making strategies, enhance personal control and self esteem, increase use of social support resources, and prevent destructive behaviors.

Thank you for being a STAR!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with a check made out to SPHS PTSO to the PTSO mailbox in the Main Office or send check to SPHS PTSO c/o STAR, 60 Robinson Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146. Questions? Email Gwen Douma Harring at [gwen\\_douma@yahoo.com](mailto:gwen_douma@yahoo.com).**



Gus Ratcliffe, STAR Week "Rock Paper Scissors" champion, poses with Principal Patrick Bathras



Bobby Petrocelli, STAR Week guest speaker, chats with students after his seminar



SPHS band, Aww Yeah! plays a free outdoor concert during lunch as the grand finale of STAR Week 2009. Band members shown playing are Adam Schoen, Dan Brueckman, and Cory Chubb. The PTSO provided free popsicles for the whole school during this popular event.

**Severna Park High School PTSO**  
**60 Robinson Rd.**  
**Severna Park, MD 21146**

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 15



Look inside for more S.T.A.R.  
Week photos and information

*The Anne Arundel County Public School (AACPS) system does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Questions regarding nondiscrimination should be directed to Leslie N. Stanton, Specialist in Human Relations, AACPS, 2644 Riva Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401; PH: 410-222-5318; TDD 410-222-5500.*