



Hey there!

This is your PTA President, Heather Sutherland. This is my second year as President and I'm ready for it! I grew up in El Segundo and was a Cougar myself. I was at Center Street from kinder to 5th grade. I'm a mom of four boys: an ESHS grad (now 21!), a junior at ESHS, a seventh grader at ESMS and my little Cougar will be in 2nd grade this year! To say I'm excited to be your PTA President for the 2021-2022 school year is an understatement. Let's Go Cougars!

The excitement that the CSS staff, administrators, and teachers have for the students to be back on campus is indescribable...and I'm sure this excitement is mirrored by our students and parents as well! For those of us that weren't on campus last year, things will look different, but different shouldn't be associated with bad. Change is scary, but it doesn't have to be. The kids will enjoy being with their peers and teachers no matter what it looks like. As your president, together with my executive board, we will take this opportunity of change and create new memories for the students.

"What does CSS PTA do?" is a common question I'm asked. With a smile, my answer is "What does CSS PTA not do!" A little glimpse into what our PTA stands for and does for our students: PTA brings together volunteer energy and effort to create special experiences like field trips, assemblies, family education nights, family bonding events, and community celebrations like the long-standing Ice Cream Social, in addition to tangible items like playground equipment, etc. Those events and items are on top of all the support we give to on-going classroom and campus programs including the Garden, Grades of Green and Character Counts... and of course there's all the supplies for PE, reading, music, art, technology and STEAM instruction that we fundraise to purchase.

CSS PTA is a dynamic group that provides a lot of great experiences and equipment for our school, but we also provide many opportunities for parents to participate in these important developmental years together. Volunteering at Center Street School has created many heart-warming memories for my family, and I've made wonderful friendships with other parents as a bonus. No matter how little or how much time you can spare, our PTA offers many ways for you to be an involved part of our community.

In fact, you can start being involved today with a simple \$10 CSS PTA membership by [following this link](#). This donation will also get you many cool discounts to local vendors and other fun attractions. You can also get connected with us via our Facebook page at [CSS PTA Facebook](#). And to meet other parents and to learn more about PTA, please come to our meetings that typically take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, in the evening. Last year we held our meetings virtually, which will continue this year.

I hope the end of summer is full of joy, smiles and happiness. I look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Heather Sutherland