



Apollo Junior High PTA

1600 Apollo Rd. Richardson, TX 75081
<http://www.apollojhpta.org>

Email: pantherpost@apollojhpta.org
Principal: Ms. Yolanda Jackson-Gaither

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PANTHER NEWS

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How long have you been AJH?

3 years

What were you doing before you came to AJH?

West JH for 7 years as Assistant Principal
Berkner High for 3 years as Assistant Principal
West JH for 7 years as Teacher



What do you like about our school?

What I like most about our school are the students and the faculty. I love the diversity of our student body and that all students accept each other for who they are. Our students are also very inclusive and try to make everyone feel a part. Our staff give 110% every day and care about the students' success. It amazed me how they dedicate their time and resources to ensure that our students have what they need.

What would you like to see us improve?

The area that I would like to improve is parental involvement. We have such an AMAZING school but the one piece of our puzzle that we fall short is parental involvement. I know that our current president is initiating a Dads Club, and I hope that helps this year.

Is there anything you would like to remind our parents?

I would like to remind parents that although JH is only 2 years, it is probably the most impactful stage in their academic cycle. I choose JH because it is the transition stage, in which we also call the Twilight Zone. There is so much growth that occurs in these 2 years that it's almost magical. I challenge each parent to find a way to stay involved with the school, volunteer your time, chaperone field trips, cook and prepare dishes for the teachers and most importantly JOIN our Apollo PTA!!!!

And then anything else you might want to add.

Our campus theme this year is Apollo Panthers are M.A.D. (Making a Difference). We have spent several days this previous week self-reflecting, re-defining our operating principles and re-evaluating what is truly important for us to give our students. I am really excited to start this school year and I look forward to meeting you.

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[Upcoming Events:](#)

- September 28 - Open House/Meet the Teacher from 6-7:30 pm (plus quick PTA general assembly meeting)
- September 29 - Cyber Sense [Cyber Sense Program](#)
- September 29 - Apollo Panther Band Football Game Performance @ 6:15pm
- October 7 - Richardson READS Day (students can wear PJ bottoms, all other dress code policies apply)
- October 8 - Play 60 Info fair
- October 12 - Fair Day (No school)
- October 14 - PSAT (8th grade students only)
- October 16 - Dance 7-pm, Halloween Theme - school dress code policies apply (please no costumes).
- October 20 - Pep Rally
- October 23 - Showtime @ Apollo for incoming 6th Graders
- November 11 - Veteran's Day Celebration (plus quick PTA general assembly meeting)
- February 18 - Band Performance (plus quick PTA general assembly meeting)
- May 23 - Band Performance (plus quick PTA general assembly meeting)

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Support Apollo Junior High - Join the PTA today!

Our challenge from the Texas PTA for this school year is to "Back the Future" and have one voice in the PTA for each student enrolled at Apollo Junior High School. That means we need over 400 of our parents, teachers, students, and neighbors to join the Apollo PTA to meet that challenge!

back the future



What does the PTA at Apollo do?

- Provides hospitality services to show appreciation and support for our faculty and staff.
- Provides leadership, resources, and volunteers for programs such as the RISD Clothes Closet, Used Book Fair, CyberSafe, and Reflections.
- Provides volunteers for Band, Choir, Orchestra, tutoring, health services, and the office.
- Hosts school dances/socials, supports Field Day, and runs the Panther Depot, our school supply/spirit items store.
- Raises funds to provide the services, programs, and materials to maintain, improve, and advance education and student life at AJH.
- Advocates for the students, staff, and families of Apollo Junior High.

Why join PTA?

- Become a role model - show your student the importance you place on education.
- Get involved, put your skills to work, and show your student you can be part of a solution.
- Gives you a chance to get connected with teachers and other parents.
- Most effectively suggest change to your student's school.
- Exclusive access to discounts and special offers from corporate sponsors, including: AARP, Hertz, LifeLock, MetLife, and Staples (National PTA Benefit Providers)
- Great Wolf Lodge, LaQuinta, Six Flags Over Texas and Fiesta Texas, Schlitterbahn, and the Texas Rangers (Texas PTA Benefit Providers)

I'm so busy - do I have to volunteer if I join the PTA?

No - we appreciate your membership and invite you to enjoy member benefits without volunteering. However, we do have several volunteer opportunities that don't require a lot of your time, and could actually be fun!

Who can join PTA?

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, community members, students... anyone who want to Back the Future!

How much does it cost to join PTA?

- Individual Membership: \$10
- Honorary Texas PTA Life Membership: \$7.75

What if I want to join more than one RISD school's PTA?

You can support them all through a PTA Angel Membership Package:

- Platinum Angel Membership Package: \$457.25 - includes membership to all RISD schools' PTAs
- Golden Ram Membership Package: \$119.00 - includes membership to all Berkner Area PTAs (11 elementary schools, 2 junior highs, and Berkner)
- Silver Panther Membership Package: \$68.25 - includes membership to all Apollo Area PTAs (6 elementary schools, Apollo, and Berkner)

How do I join the PTA?

- Download the form [2015-2016 membership form \(1\).pdf](#) OR
- Request one from the Membership Chair, Julyn Villaruel, at julsvillaruel@verizon.net, 214-497-6219.
- Return the completed form along with payment to

Apollo PTA, Attn: Membership
1600 Apollo Road
Richardson, TX 75081

Thank you for Backing the Future with Apollo Junior High PTA!

Did you know that students can join the PTA?
This year, when a student joins the PTA at Apollo for \$10, he/she receives a punch card, which can be used to receive all of the following:

- 1 Apollo Panthers 2015-2016 pennant (see pic for example-while supplies last)
- 2 free tardies (1 per semester)
- 2 free temporary IDs
- 2 free homework passes
- 1 free service hour

Student membership punch cards will be available at Open House and at Panther Depot



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Volunteering at Apollo Junior High

Apollo Junior High and PTA need YOU to volunteer!

We invite all parents to volunteer at Apollo. Many programs at AJH would not exist without your help. Volunteer opportunities exist in the following programs/services:

- Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra
- Tutoring
- Health Services
- RISD Clothes Closet
- Office
- Hospitality
- Field Day
- Reflections/Arts in Education
- Social/School Dance
- Supply Store/Panther Depot
- RISD Used Book Fair

You can sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4faba72faa8-2015> or contact Julyn Villaruel at julsvillaruel@verizon.net, (214) 497-6219.

Note: RISD requires that all volunteers must complete a Volunteer Background Check once a year. Go to the following link to complete the application: [Volunteer Background Check](#)

Thank you to those of you who have already signed up to volunteer! Please keep track of your volunteer hours on-campus when you sign in at the front office, and at home to report to the Volunteer Coordinator as needed. If you have any questions, please contact Julyn Villaruel, Volunteer Coordinator at julsvillaruel@verizon.net.

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ajh.pta.newsletter@gmail.com

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FUNDRAISING

Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

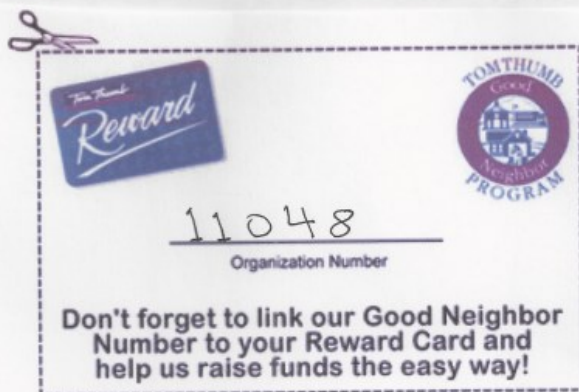
Apollo Junior High

Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program

Number: 11048

Here's how it works: You simply fill out the Good Neighbor program section and the top part of a Reward Card Application, indicating your organization's number and return it to the Courtesy Booth. That's it! Your organization is now linked to those cards. From that point on, the purchase price of groceries will automatically be recorded to your organization's Good Neighbor account. Tom Thumb will keep a running total of your account, and a check for 1% of the total is sent directly to the Apollo Junior High PTA each quarter.

Clip out the card and take it with you to the store as your reminder of our organization's Good Neighbor Program account number to fill in on your Reward card application.



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Box Tops

All about BOX TOPS! Did you know that we are collecting Box Tops to raise money for Apollo Junior High? We would love to have you clip and save Box Tops for our school. Please ask your friends, neighbors and relatives to collect Box Tops for us! For those of you who work, that is a great place to start; many parents whose children are grown still clip Box Tops but they may not know anyone to give them to - make that person be you! We currently have a collection container in the school office; you may drop your Box Tops off there during school hours. If you know of a local business that would be willing to put out a collection container for Apollo, please contact Cassie McCampbell, Box Tops Coordinator at c.mccampbell@att.net. Thanks!

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Panther Depot

Hours of the Panther Depot:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00-8:30

School supplies and spirit wear available.

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Clothes Closet

We are collecting gently used or new clothing/shoe donations for the RISD Clothes Closet. When students feel good about the way they are dressed then they can more easily focus on learning, growing and succeeding.

The clothes closet is a place that students in need of assistance will be provided with clothes, shoes, toiletries and backpacks.

If you have any donations, please bring them to the office at Apollo and they will be sorted and delivered.

Also, if you would like to volunteer to help out by sorting clothes or you want to volunteer to help students shop please contact clairepearson@att.net. Make sure you get your background check ([Volunteer Application/Background Check](#)) if you are wanting to volunteer.

Thank you.

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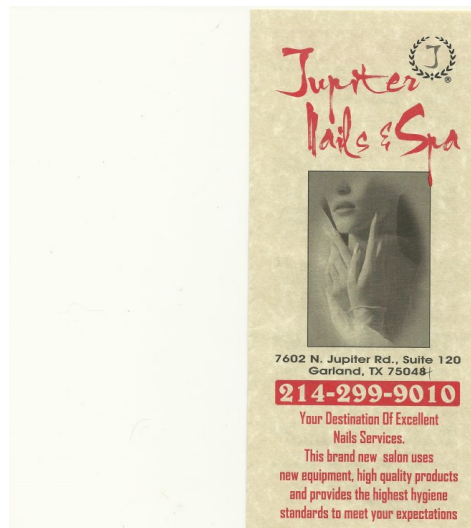
PTA Website

Visit the Apollo Junior High PTA website ([Apollo Junior High PTA](#)) for information on events, contacts, PTA programs and to sign up for PTA eNews.

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Jupiter Nails & Spa

Support Apollo JH every time you get your nails done! Jupiter Nails & Spa will donate a portion of your bill to our school. All you have to do is tell them that you support Apollo and sign their book.



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President: David Null

Editor: Arlene Weber

Brought to you by Apollo JH PTA

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