

Wilkins Elementary PTO

Our website, www.wilkinspto.org, proudly displays the Wilkins PTO motto: To promote a community and school spirit within the Wilkins family of parents, teachers, and students that will encourage friendship, education, and fun.

To that end, our PTO has been pleased to offer many free, family-focused activities to encourage community-building and participation for all Wilkins' children, their families and the staff. This school year, we provided a free spaghetti dinner to over 600 people who attended our annual Open House and Book Fair in mid-September, as well as a Read and Feed event with a free pizza meal and a night of fun family reading. We hosted a Family Fitness Night, a Wilkins Night at the Pool, a Wilkins Family Picnic, Family Movie Nights in both the fall and spring—all free to our families!

Wilkins PTO is very pleased that we are able to provide monthly appreciation meals for our wonderful staff, with daily meals and treats during teacher appreciation week. We are able to help support the faculty annually with \$100 “start of the year” funds, as well as \$600 “team” funds for *each* of our 8 teaching teams (6 grade-level teams plus 2 specials teams.)

To be able to provide these events and financial support, we—like most PTOs—are involved in various fundraising efforts. We try to make fundraising dual-purpose whenever possible so that the activities themselves help to promote a sense of community at Wilkins. This year our campaigns included the annual Walk-a-thon, the annual Family Fun Night, a holiday bazaar, and a new Wilkins Family Cookbook.

The Wilkins PTO looks at ways we can enrich, support, and supplement the education of our kids. As a result of PTO-generated ideas, this year we have been able to offer a craft club and Spanish club with new clubs on the horizon for next year. We are “testing” recess before lunch in one grade. Q and A sessions with our new principal have been introduced in an effort to encourage open communication between parents and staff.

As one of the oldest PTOs in the Linn-Mar district, we strive to uphold the great tradition of supporting our families, faculty, and facilities through hands-on volunteerism, by promoting a sense of community at Wilkins through activities and actions, and by financially supplementing the educational endeavors of our staff whenever possible!