

Pleasanton Middle School
PTSA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]



Panther Wildcard Fund 2025 - 2026

What is the Pleasanton Middle School PTSA Panther Wildcard Fund?

The vision of the PTSA is to make every child's potential a reality. The mission of the PTSA is to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

In line with this vision and mission, the PMS PTSA Panther Wildcard grant program provides funding to enrich, enhance, and improve students' educational experiences and well-being, support teachers in their creative and innovative thinking, and promotes student and PTA member engagement through advocacy.

Who funds PTSA grants? How much is granted?

The Panther Wildcard Fund grant program is made possible solely by the fundraising efforts of the PMS PTSA. For the 2025-2026 academic year, the PTSA has budgeted \$10,000 for the Panther Wildcard Fund (pending approval at the general meeting on back to school night in August).

Who may apply?

All PMS PTSA Members (including students, teachers, staff & families) are eligible to apply for grants under the Panther Wildcard Fund. Please note that the Panther Wildcard Fund is different from the Classroom Grant program for teachers and staff. Teachers and staff may apply for funds from both grant programs.

What kinds of programs or items are eligible for PTSA grant funding?

Panther Wildcard Fund grants are designated for innovative programs and/or items that fall outside of the current approved PTSA budget. No idea is too small or large. Examples are campus improvement projects, student social-emotional learning programs, family involvement programs, special purchases of materials (outside the Classroom grants), etc. There is no maximum amount per grant application, but a guideline of max \$1500 can be considered.

When and how to apply

The first deadline for applications is **September 30th**. Applicants should use the "Pleasanton Middle School PTSA Panther Wildcard Grant Program 2025-2026 Application" linked below. If grant funds are still available, the PTSA will invite another round of applications in January 2026.

Who decides which proposals are accepted?

All proposals will be reviewed by the grants committee for completeness and by the executive board and administration for eligibility. The grants committee may approve, table, or decline a request. All declined requests will receive feedback. Applicants are encouraged to resubmit if and when feedback can be incorporated.

How are grants fulfilled?

Payment depends on the type of funding. The PTSA can make direct payments for services. Alternatively, grants are administered through purchase and delivery of requested items followed by reimbursement. Exceptions can be made, but items should **not** be purchased by grant applicants or recipients in anticipation of receipt of funds, only after a grant is approved may the item be purchased.

Funding criteria

All ideas are welcome. No idea is too big or too small to be considered. We would love to approve every grant!

1. The goal of the grant program is to benefit the greatest number of students. Therefore, preference will be given to proposals that benefit school wide initiatives, students in multiple classrooms, or students in the same grade/classroom over multiple years.
2. Proposals from applicants who have not previously been awarded a grant will be prioritized; however, we encourage everyone to apply even if they have previously received a grant award.
3. Applicants whose proposals are denied solely because of insufficient grant funds are encouraged to resubmit the following year, at which time they will receive preferential consideration.
4. PTSA grant funding will not be awarded for projects or materials that are normally provided by the school district.

Grant terms and conditions

1. All items purchased through the PTSA Panther Wildcard Grant program become the property of Pleasanton Middle School.
2. As a rule, items awarded through PTSA grants will be purchased by the PTSA or after approval of grant. **Grant applicants and recipients should *not* purchase items in anticipation of reimbursement. Reimbursements will only be made for receipts after approval.** Alternative arrangements for disbursement will be made in cases where the described procedure would not work (e.g., if a service or subscription rather than an item is approved, or if the grant allows for grantee discretion in the choice of needed supplies).
3. Grant recipients agree to provide the PTSA with a brief summary of impact of the grant, to be presented in person at the May General PTSA meeting, or a write up of the impact can alternatively be presented if the recipient is unable to attend this meeting. The goal of this communication is to celebrate, promote, and publicize the efforts of Pleasanton Middle School teachers and staff and their accomplishments aided by the grant program, and to build community support for the grant program and the PTSA fundraising that supports it.
 - a. Information and materials from the summary of impact may be used in PTSA newsletters, the PTSA website, and during appropriate school events (e.g., curriculum nights).

[Grant Application Form](https://forms.gle/ZFqu1zFss7WeD3cAA)

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