



NOAH WALLACE SCHOOL PTO

Parent Survey Results June 2015

1. Which is your preferred method of communication from the NWS PTO? (check all that apply)

Weekly NWS PTO Email Blasts/ Virtual Friday Folders	93.59%
NWS Website that is accessible 24/7 to NWS Students and Faculty	19.23%
Paper handouts sent home in your child’s backpack	16.67%
NWS Facebook Page	11.54%
Other	2.56%

Response: NWS parents overwhelmingly prefer the weekly PTO emails blasts as our method of communication. This will continue to be our primary method of communication for the 2015-2016 school year. In addition, we have created a new PTO website which we hope will become a hub of important information going forward.

2. In a typical school year, does this school do too much fundraising, too little fundraising, or about the right amount of fundraising?

Too Much	38.16%
Too Little	5.26%
About the right amount	56.58%

Response: NWS Families were divided regarding the amount fundraising that the PTO sponsors in a school year. Based on specific feedback and comments submitted by numerous parents, we have decided to place more emphasis on direct donations for the 2015-2016 school year. We understand that different types of fundraisers appeal to different families and we will continue to offer several options. It should be clear, however, that the PTO does not expect 100% participation in each and every fundraiser. Instead, we hope that families will choose the specific fundraising options that they are the most comfortable with. Our goal for this school year is to focus on a smaller number of fundraisers to avoid “fundraiser fatigue.”

3. The budget and fundraising goals of the PTO are clearly communicated to the NWS community.

I agree	59.74%
I disagree	40.26%

Response: NWS Families were divided about the clarity of the PTO fundraising goals and budget communications to the school community. As a result, the PTO has created a new website for NWS families which will contain our annual budget (updated on a monthly basis), PTO meeting minutes, specific fundraising goals and fundraising progress to date. Our goal is for families to have access to how much money we are raising and spending throughout the school year.

4. How would you like to see NWS PTO funds spent? (check all that apply)

School Improvement Projects (Maker Space, Library, Playground, Garden, etc)	67.53%
Field Trips	64.94%
Family Fun Events such as: Math Game Night, Concerts, Pancake Breakfast, Fall Family Festival, Field Day, etc.	57.14%
Technology	50.65%
Multi-Cultural Events	36.36%

Response: In general NWS Families agreed with how PTO funds are spent, though several respondents noted that they were unclear on exactly how the funds were used. As a result, our annual budget will be published on our website with PTO expenses clearly outlined. Our general PTO meetings will address our budget and parents will be given the opportunity to vote on how certain funds are spent.

5. I have specific ideas as to how to improve the NWS PTO.

I do not have any specific ideas relating to improving the NWS PTO	94.52%
I have specific ideas and will list them below in the comments section.	5.48%

Response: Comments were varied, with most centering on the need for improved communication from the PTO regarding events and budget. Many respondents requested the opportunity to donate to the PTO via a one-time direct donation rather than the many fundraisers that we sponsor. We are incorporating all this feedback into our approach for the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, we have included a “virtual suggestion box” into our website. Parents with suggestions or comments are welcomed to submit their ideas to the PTO anonymously.

6. What is your favorite NWS PTO fundraiser? (check all that apply)

Square One Art	34.67%
Family Outing Events: Mini Golf, Rock Cats Baseball Game, Hartford Wolfpack Hockey Game, Nature’s Open House	22.67%
Barnes & Noble/Flatbread	21.33%
Lyman Orchard Pies	16.00%
Jeannine Fundraiser	6.67%
I do not have a favorite NWS fundraiser	36.00%

Response: Square One Art was the favorite active fundraiser of the year. We received many comments suggesting that the fundraiser would make more sense in the Fall so that people could receive their orders in time to give as holiday gifts. As a result, we have moved the Square One Art fundraiser to the Fall. Many respondents noted that they would prefer to be asked for a one-time direct donation. We have incorporated this idea into our fundraising plans for the school year.

7. What is your favorite NWS PTO sponsored event? (check all that apply)

Field Day	61.04%
Fall Family Festival	59.74%
Field Trips	31.17%
Family Math and Game Night	23.38%
Taste of Noah Wallace	11.69%
I do not have a favorite NWS PTO sponsored event	9.09%

Response: The feedback on NWS PTO sponsored events was overwhelmingly positive. Our efforts during the 2015-2016 school year will be focused on better communication and increasing family participation at these events.

8. Volunteer opportunities with the NWS PTO are accessible to all parents of students who attend NWS.

I agree	90.91%
I disagree	0.09

Response: NWS Families gave a great amount of feedback regarding the availability and accessibility of volunteer opportunities. As a result, we will be holding a Volunteer Fair at our first PTO Meeting on 9/15. This will allow parents the opportunity to ask questions about the various volunteer positions available. We will be clear about how much time is required for each position and which positions can be done outside of regular school hours.

9. Do you have any specific ideas for a theme/location for our bi-annual NWS fundraiser event in Spring 2016?

A food and beverage tasting event	27.63%
A casual night out at a local venue with a creating and fun theme	42.11%
A formal sit down dinner at a banquet facility	3.95%
I do not have any ideas	26.32%

Response: NWS Families overwhelmingly support a themed casual night out at a local venue or a food/beverage tasting event. We will incorporate this feedback into our planning for this event. We welcome any further suggestions via the virtual suggestion box on our website.

10. As a parent, which answer best describes you?

I would like to be more involved with the PTO	31.25%
I feel I am asked for too much by the PTO	9.38%
I am unaware of the function and activities of the NWS PTO	10.94%
Other	48.44%

Response: Many respondents indicated that they would like to be more involved with the PTO, but didn't think it was possible for working parents to be involved. As a result, we will focus on highlighting volunteer opportunities which can be done from home or outside of school hours. There are many different types of opportunities available and our goal is to make the PTO a welcoming environment for all parents and families.