



675 East Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018 610-868-2971 610-868-1446 fax www.lvpa.org

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another year at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts. As a parent of a current student **you are considered a member of the Parent Association Family.** You are joining a group of dedicated parents who love the school and work hard on its behalf. As the Parent Association President, I welcome you back and look forward to working with you to make your child's experience the best it can be.

This is an exciting time for the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. Not only is the school celebrating the ten year anniversary, there is also the hope of building a new facility that will double the square footage of the school. The dream is to build on the south side of Bethlehem in the middle of the arts district. You will be informed as events unfold. The school is definitely growing up!

Just as the school is working on raising money in the community for the new school, the Parent Association has a big goal of our own, **and we need your help.**

WHY DO WE NEED YOUR HELP?

Like all public schools LVPA has experienced a reduction in state funding over the past few years. That is difficult to manage when operational costs like rent and energy increase each year. The current school year is the most financially difficult yet. The Parent Association in partnership with the Development Office has again been asked to raise **\$100,000.00**. Yes, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND dollars! Last year we achieved that goal. It took a lot of parents, a lot of time, and a lot of effort but we did it! Funding the budget is the first priority but we hope that **a portion** of the funds we raise this year will be able to purchase an undesignated need for the school, like the Steinway piano the Parent Association helped fund last year.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?

Although \$100,000.00 sounds like a lot of money, **it is only \$225 per student.** If every family would make a gift of \$225 to the school, we would meet our goal. Since we know that making this gift is a struggle for some of our families, we ask families who have financial means to give accordingly to help make up the difference. Please know that every gift is important no matter the size and we ask every family to participate.

We provide other ways to help the school too. The Parent Association is planning fundraisers throughout the year. You will be given many opportunities to support the school, so please try to support as many as possible. A preliminary list is attached but you will receive new ideas and reminders in email newsletters that come out weekly.

WHY SHOULD YOU HELP?

- One important fact to remember is - coming to LVPA is a privilege for your child. He or she will be given a private school education for a public school price. Each child will receive 2,000 hours of pre-professional training in their chosen art form over four years. If we paid for these lessons outside of school, the amount could easily exceed \$60,000.00.
- Another fact is that for many of us our children have never been happier or more excited about coming to school. During a time that can be difficult for teenagers, that is priceless! Expect your child to get up in the morning, want to stay at school after hours, and attend even when he or she feels sick. It happens all the time.

Please take a minute to look over the forms from the Parent Association for easy ways to support the school. In some cases all you need to do is sign up and you will automatically begin raising money for the school. Share these opportunities with your friends and family members and the impact will grow tremendously.

The Parent Association also needs volunteers to help throughout the school year. Please sign up in an area that interests you. Volunteering is the best way to meet other parents, experience the excitement of the school, and stay a part of your child's educational experience. We have fun too!

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Attending the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts is a family decision. You have already shown love and support for your child by encouraging him or her to be part of the school. Please take the next step by supporting the needs of the school. It is your own child that will benefit.

I will look forward to meeting you at the Back to School Night on Thursday, September 13th and the first Parent Association meeting on September 19.

Sincerely,

Colleen Marzigliano
Parent Association President

PS. Thank you for your pledge!