

OCPTO Frequently Asked Questions

What is the OCPTO?

OCPTO is the acronym and most commonly used name for the Open Classroom Parent Teacher Organization. The OCPTO is also sometimes referred to as the Open Classroom PTO.

What does the OCPTO do?

The general purpose of the Open Classroom Parent Teacher Organization is to provide support and assistance to the students, parents, and staff of the Ventura Unified School District's Open Classroom K-8 School.

Is the OCPTO part of the VUSD?

The Open Classroom Parent Teacher Organization is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation and a separate legal entity from the public school entities of Open Classroom K-8 and the Ventura Unified School District.

Is the OCPTO part of the National PTA?

The OCPTO is NOT affiliated with the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

Who is eligible to be a member of the OCPTO?

Parents and legal guardians of a child or children enrolled in Open Classroom K-8, and the members of the Open Classroom K-8 staff.

How do you become a member of the OCPTO?

Parent/Guardian membership occurs automatically upon enrollment of a parent or legal guardian's child or children in Open Classroom K-8.

OC K-8 Staff membership occurs upon hiring or assignment to Open Classroom K-8 by the VUSD.

How is membership in the OCPTO terminated?

Parent/Guardian membership terminates automatically upon withdrawal or graduation of the child/ren of a parent or guardian member of the OCPTO.

OC K-8 Staff membership terminates automatically upon resignation or dismissal of the staff member from Open Classroom K-8.

How does the OCPTO support Open Classroom K-8?

OCPTO Committees coordinate events, fundraisers, and numerous other support functions for Open Classroom K-8 as required each year.

OCPTO Fundraisers directly benefit Open Classroom K-8.

What are OCPTO funds used for?

Use of OCPTO funds includes, but is not limited to:

- Arts Education (visual and performing arts)

- Curriculum enhancement

- Classroom enhancement

Environmental Awareness education and materials
Field Trips, Field studies, and out-of-classroom experiential learning experiences for students
Multi-Cultural education and study
Music Education
Musical Instruments in the classrooms
OCPTO Annual Operating Budget
Peaceful Conflict Resolution education materials
Visual and Performing Arts study and projects

What OCPTO Committees are there?

OCPTO Committees are created and/or terminated by vote of the members and may change from year to year based on the needs of the OC K-8 Community at the time.

In the 2007-08 school year the OCPTO is operating the following committees:

Admissions
Committee Support
Fall Camp-Out
Garden/Outdoor Learning Areas
Graduation
Harvest Moon Festival
Local Community Outreach/PR
Parents Day Luncheon
Thanksgiving Feast

How do I sign-up for a committee?

Parents are required to sign-up for one OCPTO committee per year as part of their Open Classroom K-8 Parent Commitment.

Contact the OCPTO Correspondence Secretary at Communication@theopenclassroom.org to sign-up for a committee

How often does the OCPTO meet?

The OCPTO holds monthly planning meetings throughout the school year. (August – June)
Two mandatory General Membership Meetings are held each year in the fall and the spring.

Who may attend OCPTO Meetings?

OCPTO members and invited guests.

Who may vote at OCPTO meetings?

All members in good standing may vote at any meeting at which they are in attendance.

May non-members in attendance at a meeting vote?

Non-members are not eligible to vote at OCPTO meetings.