

Welcome to Blanton Elementary and Lantana!

I moved here in November of 2016 and based on my experience, I'd like to offer you some tips to feel engaged pretty quickly!

- 1) Join these Facebook pages:
 - a. Annie Webb Blanton PTA (yay!)
 - b. Blanton PE
 - c. Blanton Knights
 - d. Your neighborhood (Heritage, Bandera, etc)
 - e. Lantana Moms (search for a topic and if you don't see it, ask for soccer clubs, swim teams, pediatric asthma specialists, etc.)
 - f. Lantana Life
 - g. Lantana Freecycle, because you'll find so much stuff you wish you didn't move and your neighbors will come pick it up off your porch for you!
 - h. Lantana Kids Freecycle—primarily stuff kids outgrow before they are used up. A great way to recycle and save your neighbor some money. Just join, post or claim and get out and pick it up.
- 2) Join Blanton's PTA! www.BlantonPTA.org We do so many fun events for the families and we work hard to support the teachers at Blanton, too. The best \$10 you can spend. If you can volunteer with us, it's a nice way to meet new people and you have a purpose for being there. Get background checked by filling out this form <https://www.dentonisd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=33040>

If you would like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities, please email our volunteer coordinator, Cortney Exby, at volunteer@blantonpta.org and ask to be added to the distribution email list of volunteers. Since some of us aren't on Facebook, nor the Blanton PTA page, this way she can email the signup links to you, for you to decide if you can pitch in at the upcoming event. You can also always find current volunteer opportunities on the PTA website, www.blantonpta.org under the Volunteer link.

You can purchase Blanton Spirit Wear for your child. If you join after the ordering season, try contacting Regina Weachter at spiritwear@blantonpta.org for the current inventory of Spirit Wear.

- 3) Dads can volunteer on site on Fridays through the DAWGs program (watchdogs@blantonpta.org). It is so popular, that you can only volunteer one Friday a year and you must be background checked (link above!) in order to even sign up for a day.
- 4) Every Friday is Spirit Wear day! The staff and the kids wear their Blanton Knights Spirit Wear!
- 5) Clubs at Blanton that might help your student settle in:
 - a. Art (Wed, 4th and 5th graders)
 - b. Choir (Tues or Weds, 4th and 5th graders)
 - c. Girls Who Code, Boys Who Code (before school one day a week)
 - d. Run Club (4th and 5th graders)
 - e. Track (for 5th graders, in March, Coach Dorrell)
 - f. Math Club (3rd and 4th graders—not sure about this one, reach out to Mrs. Galvin)
 - g. 2nd and 3rd grade clubs: Music, Cup Stacking, Sports, Printmaking (Art)
- 6) Lantana has its own swim team. Check out <https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?tabid=0&team=dalant>
- 7) When you don't attend the full year, your kid isn't in the yearbook as much! Help out the mom putting the yearbook together for us by emailing pics to Jennie McAdams at yearbook@blantonpta.org or upload them to the Jostens replay app. The app information

and yearbook purchasing info can be found in the Yearbook section our the PTA website. Please try to have at least 2 students in each picture and provide their names, if known.

- 8) Don't forget to order your yearbook. This year we are using Jostens: <https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/2719350/Blanton-Elementary-School/>
- 9) If you are open a couple of hours on any Friday morning, you can volunteer to work with up to 6 other parents in the Blanton Workroom, where they tackle the teachers' projects so they don't have to spend their weekend and evenings laminating, cutting, copying and binding. No experience required. This is a sign-up-when-you-can thing, you don't have to commit every week. <https://signup.com/go/RTkbJUp> The link is also always available in the Volunteer section of our website.
- 10) There are several stay-at-home-dads in the area. If that's your situation, I believe there is a FB page for those dads.
- 11) For clothing, backpacks, stuffed animals that you just feel have been through all their useful life and are beyond freecycle and donations to shelters, you can still keep them out of the landfill! Donate these things to the big box behind Blanton, where we get \$0.12 for every pound of these goods.

See you at the next fun event!

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Membership Chair