

Welcome

# PTO GENERAL MEETING

September 2025



*"Investing in children is investing in a brighter tomorrow."*

# AGENDA



WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

PRINCIPAL WELCOME/ADDRESS

LSC INTRODUCTION/ADDRESS

PTO ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW

REVIEW OF BUDGET/BUDGET VOTE

VOLUNTEER UPDATES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUESTIONS

CLOSING REMARKS

September 2025



# INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

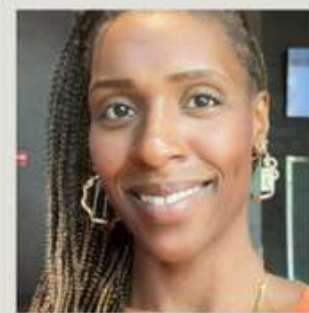
FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL



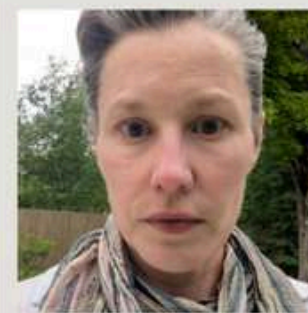
## MEET THE BOARD



**Arielle A. Thompson**  
President/Marketing



**Janasha Eakins**  
Vice President



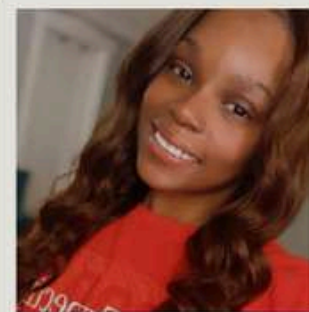
**Elizabeth Edwards**  
Secretary



**Rebecca Gorges**  
Treasurer



**Rebecca Incledon**  
Fundraising Co-Chair



**Jantelle Jackson**  
Fundraising Co-Chair



**Toshia Booker**  
Volunteer Chair



**Anne Collard**  
Membership Chair



**Gayle Harris-Neely**  
Principal



**Stacy Horgan**  
Teacher



**Heather Hall**  
Teacher



**Ciara Weaver**  
Teacher

"INVESTING IN CHILDREN IS INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER TOMORROW."

[WWW.FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOL.COM)

September 2025

**SCHOOL ADMIN.**



# **PRINCIPAL ADDRESS**

PRINCIPAL GAYLE HARRIS NEELY

September 2025

# **LSC INTRODUCTION & ADDRESS**

KENYA BUTTS, LSC CHAIR

# 2Y26 FRIENDS OF RAY BUDGET



# BUDGET REVIEW & BUGDET VOTE

REBECCA GORGES, TREASURER

[VIEW BUDGET HERE](#)

September 2025



WILLIAM H. RAY  
ELEMENTARY  
SY 2025

○○○○

FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL

# ANNUAL REPORT



## Annual Report Purpose

This report provides a summary of our efforts over the past year, giving our members and the community insight into our contributions to the students and families of William H. Ray Elementary School in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, as well as our financial stewardship practices.

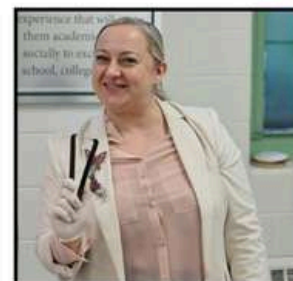
## About Us

Friends of Ray School PTO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports the students, faculty, and administration of William H. Ray Elementary School through fundraising and organizing community-building events throughout the year.

Visit our website to learn more.

## Mission

Our mission is to foster collaboration between parents, teachers, and school staff to enhance the educational experience for all Ray students. We aim to support the school community by organizing events, raising funds for programs and supplies, and encouraging family involvement.



### SY 2025 Board Members (Last School Year)

The Board of Directors serving during SY25 includes Michelle Jefferson, President; Arielle Thompson, Vice-President; Rebecca Gorges, Treasurer; Rebecca Incledon, Fundraising Co-Chair; Kathryn Smous, Fundraising Co-Chair; Anne Collard, Membership Chair; Toshia Booker, Volunteer Chair; School Administration Representatives, Principal Gayle Neely and Assistant Principal Chandra Garcia; and Staff Representatives Viarnette Harrell, Heather Hall, and Stacy Horgan.

## Enhanced Teacher Partnerships

This year, Friends of Ray School partnered closely with our dedicated teachers to strengthen family and community engagement. Teachers played an active role in supporting our mission by participating in school events and contributing to fundraising efforts, helping us create a more connected and thriving school community.

## Thank You - Michelle J. & Kathryn S.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to former PTO President Michelle Jefferson and Fundraising Chair Kathryn Smous for their years of leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to Friends of Ray School. Their passion and hard work have strengthened our community and laid the foundation for continued success.



[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)



FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT SY 2025

## TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE: FUNDRAISING WINS & COMMUNITY IMPACT



### SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS:

- Improv theater residency for 7th graders with The Revival
- Partnerships with teachers/staff to include student artwork in engagement events



### SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION:

- Enhanced nature playground, in partnership with South East Chicago Commission.
- Partnerships with community members and local Boy Scouts to enhance garden areas outdoor classrooms.



### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:

- Bixler Family Play Dates (K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)
- Black History Month Celebration & Dinner
- Cultural Heritage & Literacy Night Co-Sponsored with Ray Student Council



### CONTINUED SCHOOL SUPPORT:

- Support for K/8th grade graduation ceremonies and celebrations
- Teacher Reimbursements for Supplies and additional resources
- Support for Teacher Appreciation

## HOW WE RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT RAY STUDENTS

- **Annual Walkathon** – Every student has the chance to walk laps around campus to raise money while enjoying some fun competition. Top fundraisers even earn the chance to be "Principal for a Day." **Raised: \$12,697 – SY25**
- **Neighborhood Appeal** – Each year, our generous neighbors and community members contribute to support the students of their neighborhood school.
- **Raise a Glass for Ray** – A celebratory evening that brings together staff, parents, and caregivers. Ticket sales and a lively auction of donated items make this event a major success.
- **57th Street Art Fair Food & Beverage Sales** – At Hyde Park's long-running art fair, Friends of Ray partners to sell beverages to patrons, raising funds while connecting with the wider community.
- **Other Ongoing Fundraisers** – Sales of Ray Warrior apparel, direct donations, and percentage contributions from partners such as Minted, Mabel's Labels, Bridgeport Coffee, and CMAC's University of Chicago Glee Club holiday performance.



**Raise A Glass 2025**  
OVER \$16,000 RAISED

[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)





# LEARN

## MORE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER PROCESS

.....

All school volunteers are required to complete the CPS Volunteer Application form, **EVERY YEAR**.

Interested in volunteering?  
Scan the QR code!

### Steps to becoming a CPS-approved volunteer:

1. View the CPS Volunteer Policy
2. Complete the Online Application Form.
3. Include 'Ray' as the school where you plan to volunteer on your application.
4. Visit the main office in person to submit a photocopy of your ID.
5. Monitor your email for a reply from CPS confirming your Volunteer status.

**CALL for VOLUNTEERS**



**CLICK HERE**



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO.  
[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)



For other questions about the volunteer process and your application, contact:  
[volunteer@cps.edu](mailto:volunteer@cps.edu), or call  
773-553-1544.

You can also email our Volunteer Chair, Toshia Booker for additional support:  
[friendsofrayptovolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofrayptovolunteers@gmail.com)

**FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL | HYDE PARK**  
"INVESTING IN CHILDREN IS INVESTING  
IN A BRIGHTER TOMORROW."



## SY 2026

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE CONTACT US DIRECTLY IF INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING  
FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

### TENTATIVE DATES - MAY CHANGE AS NEEDED

- RAY GEAR SALES POP UP - FRIDAY, SEPT. 19 (Tentative)
- VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SUPPORT - SEPT. 23 - WED. SEPT. 24  
(AVAILABLE TIMES: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM)
- FALL BLOCK PARTY - SATURDAY, OCT. 4
- OPEN HOUSE - WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8
- CULTURAL HERITAGE NIGHT - THURSDAY, NOV. 6
- CINEMA & HOT CHOCOLATE - THURSDAY, DEC. 11
- RAY GEAR SALES POP UP - JANUARY (TBD)
- BHM DINNER & CELEBRATION - THURSDAY, FEB. 19
- RAISE A GLASS - YEAR ROUND PLANNING
- RAISE A GLASS EVENT - MARCH (TBD)
- WALKATHON FUNDRAISER - THURSDAY, APRIL 23
- ROOM PARENT LIAISONS - YEAR ROUND  
(MORE DETAILS COMING SOON)

BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE CPS APPLICATION FOR LEVEL II CLEARANCE. ADDITIONAL  
DETAILS FOR EACH EVENT WILL BE SHARED VIA EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND ENEWS.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO.  
[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES





# ROOM PARENTS



**WE NEED  
YOU!**

## PARENTS NEEDED FOR EACH CLASSROOM

Join us as a parent liaison for your child's classroom. This includes minimal classroom volunteer support. This is also an opportunity to engage with other parents as leaders for your child's grade level.

### SUPPORT AREAS:

- ✓ Parent Liaison for Class
- ✓ Work with the Room Teacher
- ✓ Become a Parent Leader
- ✓ Share Ideas for Engagement

**EMAIL US TODAY!**

 [www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)

 [friendsofraypto@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofraypto@gmail.com)







RAY  
WARRIOR

# GET FIELD TRIP READY! SHOW YOUR RAY WARRIOR PRIDE

Visit our website or scan the QR code to order your Ray Gear! Help your students' class shine on Ray Warrior Wednesday's!

## GEAR AVAILABLE FOR ORDER:



Short Sleeve Tees



Long Sleeve Tees



Zip-Ups



Hats & More

DUE TO HIGH DEMAND OUR ITEMS IN STOCK VARIES. WE ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO ORDER AS PRESALE. ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON ORDER COMPLETION.

## ORDER TODAY!

[CLICK HERE](#)



[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)

# RAY WARRIOR GEAR & MERCHANDISE



POP UP: WED., OCTOBER 8TH | 4:00 PM

## PRICE LIST

Short Sleeve Tees	\$17 - \$18
Long Sleeve Tees	\$23
Pullover/Zip-Ups	(Price Varies)
Trucker Hats	\$23
Yard/Window Sign	\$5

Show Your  
**RAY WARRIOR**  
PRIDE!

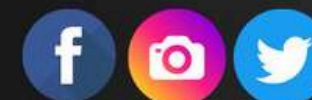
Interested in a sold out item?

**Presale Orders Available**

Complete the order form. Additional details will be provided upon receiving new inventory of ordered items.



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ORDER!



Funds collected go towards additional resources and engagement events for William H. Ray School.



[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)



# Cultural HERITAGE

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT

*Thursday, November 6, 2025*

WILLIAM H. RAY ELEMENTARY

**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

FOOD | GAMES | RAFFLES & MORE


 VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)





# UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDS OF RAY SCHOOL PTO 2025-2026

**OCT 4** **FALL BLOCK PARTY**  
 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (RAY SOUTH PLAYGROUND)  
 JOIN US AT OUR ACTIVITY STATION FROM 11-1!

**RAY GEAR POP UP**  
 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Ray School Open House  
 Presale orders available for items out of stock.

**OCT 8**

**OCT 23** **GENERAL MEETING**  
 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)  
 Google Meet



**CULTURAL HERITAGE & CULINARY COOKING NIGHT**  
 4:00 PM | RAY LUNCHROOM | GENERAL MEETING  
 TENTATIVE DATE MAY CHANGE

**NOV 6**

**DEC 11** **CINEMA & HOT CHOCOLATE GENERAL MEETING**  
 4:00 PM | RAY AUDITORIUM  
 TENTATIVE DATE MAY CHANGE

**CULTURAL HERITAGE & CULINARY COOKING NIGHT**  
 4:00 PM | RAY LUNCHROOM | GENERAL MEETING  
 TENTATIVE DATE MAY CHANGE

**TBD**

**TBD** **ROOM PARENT ORIENTATION**  
 Virtual Meeting | TBD  
 Parents will review Room Parent expectations for SY26.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR EVENTS?

SCAN HERE!



**MORE INFO:**

[WWW.FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFRAYSCHOOL.COM)



# SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

# QUESTIONS

**Email Us: [friendsofraypto@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofraypto@gmail.com)**

**[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)**

September 2025



*Thank You!*



[www.friendsofrayschool.com](http://www.friendsofrayschool.com)