

September 13, 2023

Dear Principal

We, at Peaceful Schools International (PSI), hope that the beginning of the school year is unfolding smoothly and successfully for you and your entire school family.

We are writing to invite your school to renew its historical connection with PSI. Your school's leaders previously applied for and received membership status, joining over 300 schools in 25 countries that decided to make peace the master theme and guiding principle of their school communities.

Conditions in the world have become even more complex and anxiety-producing in the 22 years since PSI was founded. The news is filled with stories of violence, the proliferation of guns, mass shootings, warfare, competition for resources, and suffering. Youth hear and see these reports and can easily come to the conclusion that peace is an impossibility in their lives, as well as in the world, and that the only way to survive is to compete, not cooperate.

Educators the world over have also noted that the additional stressors of the pandemic impacted the social as well as academic development of youth. Many lost out on the self-management skills and social learning that can only take place when youth interact with others in school. The opportunity to mature into caring citizens was reduced over the past three years, but educators can reactivate this awareness by making peace a focal point in the school environment. The *Peaceful Schools International* flag serves as a visual reminder that "how we treat each other matters as much as the academic skills we acquire." PSI membership gives schools the opportunity to create an "enlightened citizenry". Peace is a goal, but is also a style, a value, and an intention. It is the Big Umbrella that can support many positive efforts of schools to reduce violence, promote awareness, and build skills.

**Renewing PSI Membership is simple, with no costs to your school. All member schools are simply asked to:**

- 1) Display the PSI Flag in an indoor location, preferably in a place where all visitors, staff, and students are able to see the flag.
- 2) Create a short, simple Commitment Statement that will be made into a poster, banner, or another artistic representation that will be displayed next to the PSI Flag. For example,
  - a. "We are a proud member of Peaceful Schools International. We let peace guide our intentions, words, and actions."
  - b. "We commit to living together in peace."
  - c. "Peace is our guiding principle."

In addition, it will be vitally important that the administration and faculty reinforce the peace message throughout the year, starting with statements from the Principal and faculty in their welcoming remarks that highlight membership in PSI and direct attention to the PSI Flag and the school's Commitment Statement. Frequent repetition and reminders of the peace messages will make the school's intentions more concrete for students. PSI has a rich library of simple activities and projects that member schools have utilized to reinforce the message of peace throughout the year. These resources are downloadable for member schools.

PSI serves as a clearinghouse for peace and social skill curriculum and resources developed the world over. We offer all member schools the opportunity to post photos and descriptions of successful initiatives and activities so that we can connect schools around the world that have a similar desire and focus. Schools have taken advantage of technology to connect with other member schools around the world. Those connections give students a sense of hope, seeing that other youth share the desire to create peaceful conditions in their classrooms, homes, communities, and countries.

Should your team decide to renew its membership, simply complete the attached form and email it to [peacefulshoolsintl@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulshoolsintl@gmail.com). Upon receipt of this form, we will mail you a new PSI flag and will email you a certificate of membership that you can enlarge, frame, etc. for display.

Much more information about PSI can be found at [peacefulschoolsinternational.org](http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org). We wanted to make this invitation as brief and to-the-point as possible. We hope you will view membership in PSI as a powerful addition to your school climate initiatives.

Sincerely,  
PSI Board of Directors