



Transforming OMDR into OMDR *Plus*, powered by JustBetweenFriends

3 FAQ's

What's happening with OMDR?

Starting this summer, there are exciting new changes coming- OMDR is transforming into OMDR Plus, powered by JustBetweenFriends. National PTA is taking OMDR to the next level by adding significant functionality aimed directly at adding value to local units and to the parents that belong to those units.

What is JustBetweenFriends and how does it relate to OMDR?

JustBetweenFriends (JBF) in its current form starts with an existing set of internet based services, and will soon incorporate the current functionality found in OMDR. The combination of the two is OMDR Plus. Soon, and continually over time, there will be even more capabilities added so that the whole will be far greater than the sum of the two.

Currently JBF has several capabilities already in production, including:

- 1) A very robust communication system for getting out critical information to parents in the school. This communication system has many features, such as automatic reminders that go out via email on a pre-set basis; the ability to easily select which audience should receive which emails (i.e., a specific class, a whole grade, or the entire school) and a way for parents to access the information even when they don't have email access. Parents can even use the system to easily communicate with each other.
- 2) An events and announcements section, automatically populated with the content of the reminder emails, giving PTAs and school administrators two ways to reach parents with critical info
- 3) Very robust directory capabilities that automate the creation of paper directories, significantly reducing the time and efforts traditionally needed for this task. It also creates online directories that are private and very secure, with very powerful searching capabilities. The online directory also has many other features, allowing

- for things like multiple last names in the same family, multiple contact phone numbers and email addresses, parental choice of what information will be shared and what will not, and much, much more.
- 4) A unique method in which you can designate which PTA leaders and volunteers can use which parts of the system – to make sure that you can share the tasks while restricting volunteers to their own area.
 - 5) For the members of the unit- and busy parents in general- there are several valuable functions as well, including: 1) giving them one place to go for information from all of the groups to which they belong (both school and non-school related – such as scouts, sports teams, Indian princesses, band, etc.), 2) giving them one place to go for membership directories & rosters for all of those groups, 3) giving them a way to get reminders of events, deadlines, etc. for school and PTA happenings as well as from the other groups to which they belong, 4) giving them tools to facilitate communications with other parents in the PTA and those other common groups, 5) giving them a way to get email reminders of important personal events in their life – birthdays, anniversaries, etc., 6) giving them a tool to track cards and gifts they give and receive, and 7) giving them a tool to help automate the sending of their holiday cards

As OMDR migrates to OMDR Plus, all of the member management capabilities in OMDR will be available in the easy to use interface of JBF. All data already entered into OMDR will automatically be transferred into OMDR Plus, so no previous efforts will be wasted. It is expected that this phase will be ready for units to use near the beginning of the 08-09 school year.

The final component of what will be the first version of OMDR Plus is a very exciting set of volunteer management capabilities. This section of the service will allow units to more easily manage the task of recruiting and scheduling volunteers based on the needs of the unit, the interest areas of the volunteers, and the available time of the individual volunteers. This section is expected to be available shortly after the member management piece, and should be in production by the end of calendar year 2008.

It is important to note that, when the above system is put in place, that will not be the end- in fact, it is really only the beginning. National PTA has a three year plan mapped out for OMDR Plus and will be counting heavily on your feedback and ideas to further enhance the system to make it even more valuable to unit leaders and PTA members everywhere. To enable this process, there will be an OMDR Plus User's group- to which any PTA member anywhere will be welcome to join- and an OMDR Plus steering committee- which will be made up of PTA leaders willing to volunteer some of their time to help shape the continual development of new OMDR Plus functionality.

What does all this mean?

The primary goal of OMDR Plus is to add significant value to PTA units and the millions of PTA members nationwide. As that goal is continuously achieved over time, the benefits will be numerous. Specifically:

For state-level organizations:

- Make it easy to instantly communicate the right information to the right committees, districts, councils and units
- Make it easy for members of those groups and committees to email each other, as well as get contact information through the creation of group specific directories

For a local PTA unit:

- Help recruit more members into the PTA
- Help the unit meet its current fundraising efforts
- Provide additional dollars as a fundraiser itself, without having to sell anything
- Ease the time and administrative burden of day-to-day operations

One final benefit, for both the state organizations and the units that use OMDR Plus, is an opportunity to receive a small royalty, simply by using the system as it was intended for the reasons outlined above.

Because the cost of this program will be underwritten by the proud national sponsors of PTA, the member benefits providers of PTA, and other family friendly sponsors, not only will there be no cost to any state, unit, or individual member of PTA, but thanks to National PTA's negotiated revenue sharing agreement, all who use OMDR Plus for its natural benefits will also participate in the financial gains as well.

Contact Info:

Look for more information on OMDR Plus on the Virginia PTA website at www.vapta.org. Inquiries or questions about OMDR or OMDR *Plus* can be sent to omdr@vapta.org.