



Congratulations, You're Invited!

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to inform you that because your child has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, exemplified worthy character, and maintained a commendable attitude while attending Herndon, he/she is cordially invited to join the National Junior Beta Club chapter at Herndon Magnet School. National Beta recognizes high academic achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community, fosters leadership skills, and provides settings for your child to develop interpersonal relationship skills.

Below is information that will tell you more about the benefits of membership in National Beta. There are National Dues of \$15 for each division – elementary, junior, and senior. So all NEW members (which include all sixth graders) will owe the \$15 National dues. This year, we will be collecting \$5 local dues along with a donation for our service project (more details included below). In the past our local dues have been \$15, but as last year was cut short and this year looks like it will be mostly virtual, we are assessing a lower fee. Additionally, all members will owe \$15 for the club t-shirt. New members will owe \$35 total and returning members will owe \$20 total. This must be paid by cash or check to Herndon Magnet School by 12:00 PM Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

What is this year going to look like? We aren't quite sure. We were in the process of scheduling our spring induction ceremony when school was cancelled and we still have last year's certificates and membership pins waiting to be handed out. We had hoped to do it with this year's induction ceremony. As we can only have 50 persons in a group at a time, that simply isn't possible right now. Junior district day is a virtual event and although state convention is on the calendar for an in-person event at the Cajundome in Lafayette in February, we believe it will probably be a virtual event too. The good news is that all of the competitions will still take place, but in a virtual format. So many of the activities and events the kids look forward to each year have already been cancelled that we want to provide the opportunity for our Beta events to still take place, even if it is different than normal. We will be taking safety precautions, like wearing masks, frequent hand washing, and social distancing during our after school meetings and practices.

Congratulations on the achievement of your child! Please read all of the enclosed information carefully. You can reach me via email at jldepriest@caddoschools.org with any questions. I look forward to an exciting year filled with activities and experiences that will continue to strengthen and build each student throughout his/her school years and life ahead.

Sincerely,

Jennifer DePriest
Jr. Beta Sponsor



What is Jr. Beta Club?

MOTTO: Let Us Lead By Serving Others

The Beta Club promotes character, develops leadership skills, encourages service involvement, recognizes achievement, and provides technological advantages to students in grades 4-12.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of the National Beta Club shall be to promote the ideals of character, service, and leadership among elementary and secondary schools students, to reward meritorious achievement, and to encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school.

VISION STATEMENT:

The National Beta Club, a student centered organization, continually develops and nurtures individuals by providing opportunities and experiences enabling them to demonstrate the ideals of character, achievement, service, and leadership in a global community.

NATIONAL BETA CLUB CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is a privilege and not a right. The qualifications for membership on the part of the student shall be (a) worthy, moral, and ethical character, (b) good mentality, (c) creditable achievement, and (d) commendable attitude. Standards and means for appraising these qualities shall be determined by the administration and sponsors of the school where the club is located.

HERNDON MAGNET JR. BETA CLUB:

In keeping with the National Beta Club, the Herndon Magnet club will adopt its motto, mission, and vision. Our club will be one of the most distinguished clubs at Herndon Magnet. You, its members, are the leaders of the school in service, good character, academics, moral standards, and ethics.

LA JR. BETA CLUB ELEMENTARY:

Louisiana has the largest Jr. Beta Club in the United States with over 20,000 current members. About 10,000 LA Jr. Betas attend convention in Louisiana and it is the largest convention for middle school students of any kind in the country. The convention is held in the Cajundome in Lafayette and is two full days of fun competitions (more than 100 in categories like academics, art, talent, literature, campaign, and more), leadership seminars, and service opportunities for member participation. Convention is a life changing event for many members where life-long friendships are made.

2020 – 2021 Info and Updates

- How do I join? Complete the information form and submit \$35 dues for NEW members and \$20 dues for RETURNING members by end of day on Monday, November 9, 2020. How do I know if I am new or old? Check the invitees list which identifies all invitees as NEW or RET.
- If you have been in Beta before, whether we have an in-person or virtual state convention, ALL of the same competitions will be held – testing, arts and crafts, talent, engineering, campaign, etc...
- The following competitions are for **district day** – and we must win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place at district in these competitions to be eligible to compete in them at state convention: **Electronic/Virtual submissions due November 20.**
 - T-shirt Design
 - Engineering
 - Living Literature
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Robotics
 - Service Learning Showcase
 - Songfest
 - Speech
 - 3D Design
 - 2D Design / Banner
 - Talent – small group
 - Talent – large group
- Unfortunately, we have a number of teachers that help with these competitions that are unable to help at this time. We will NOT participate in robotics or large group talent.
- Everyone can submit a t-shirt design and participate in songfest. You can only participate in ONE additional competition listed.
- Guidelines for Tuesday, November 10
 - Plan to stay until 5 PM – know what competition you want to participate in – **be prepared with ideas** and to brainstorm – your team must have a workable idea by the end of the meeting
 - The students will have to be more independent, come up with ideas, and work together as teams more this year than ever before in order to complete our competition entries
 - **T-shirt Design** – work on your design this weekend and bring to the meeting on Tuesday
 - **Engineering** – ONLY 5 students on the team – we ALWAYS have lots of students that want to be on the engineering team – because of this, you will need to form your own team of 3 to 5 students (you need to know who is on your team before you get to the meeting on Tuesday) and be prepared to compete in a school competition – we will provide the supplies for the competition and you will have **one hour to work as a team to build a working Zipline** using only the supplies we provide. The winning design team will become the competition team that will practice together and create the submission for district convention.
 - **Living Literature** – we'd love to figure out how to use the costumes and sets we already have and turn into a scene from any form of literature. Scenery we have includes barn, circus, and brick buildings. Costumes we have include circus, animals (jungle and barnyard), sesame street, dancers, and mardi gras. Any ideas for a scene we could create?
 - **Marketing and Communications** – team of 5 – develop a marketing campaign for a local charity or organization to increase community awareness and service outreach
 - **Service Learning Showcase** – unlimited – create a standard size tri-fold board featuring the club's service projects – we need a theme to center this around – any ideas???
 - **Songfest** – unlimited – any ideas for a song we can rewrite the lyrics to for this year – must center around the theme – It All Began With Beta
 - **Speech** – one student – memorize and deliver a speech on It All Began With Beta
 - **3D Design** – unlimited – 24" x 24" x 24" three dimensional creation around the theme It All Began With Beta
 - **2D Design** – unlimited – 24" W x 36" L – create a banner around the theme It All Began With Beta
- Service Project – ALL members are required to bring one of the following for local member dues – we are making care packages for the homeless
 - Roll-up blanket, 5 travel size toiletry items, case of small bottles of water, pack of adult socks, box of snack food (crackers, chips, jerky, fruit snacks), travel size cleaning items (sanitizer, wipes, Kleenex)

2020 – 2021 Dates to Remember
(Tentative schedule – dates are subject to change)

November 2020

- Thursday, November 5 – Invitations delivered to Junior Beta Members
- Tuesday, November 10 – last day to submit online membership form and dues
- Tuesday, November 10 – first meeting and practice until 5
- Thursday, November 12 – practice until 5
- Friday, November 13 – practice until 5
- Tuesday, November 17 – practice until 5
- Thursday, November 19 – practice until 5
- Friday, November 20 – practice until 5 – all electronic submissions due for district convention

December 2020

- Tuesday, December 1 – Invitations delivered to Elementary Beta Members
- Monday, December 7 – last day to submit online membership form and dues
- Tuesday, December 8 – Monthly meeting until 5 PM

January 2021

- Tuesday, January 12 – Monthly meeting until 5 PM
- Practices begin for State Convention – dates TBA

February 2021

- Tuesday, February 9 – Monthly meeting until 5 PM
- Tuesday – Wednesday, February 23 – 24 – Elementary State Convention – Cajundome, Lafayette, LA
- Wednesday – Friday, February 24 – 26 – Junior State Convention – Cajundome, Lafayette, LA

March 2021

- Tuesday, March 9 – Monthly meeting until 5 PM

June 2021

- June 29 – July 2, 2021 – National Junior Beta Convention – Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort, Orlando, FL