## TJ PTSA OFFICER ELECTION – NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE

## Secretary, Mary Paul – Class of 2026 Parent



I am Mary Paul. I would like to serve TJ PTSA as the Secretary.

A little about myself - I am the mother of two fantastic boys. Ryan Paul, my eldest child, is a freshman at TJ. As a software engineer, I work on projects for the US Department of Education. My job involves organizing meetings and getting people together to collaborate, make decisions, and carry them through.

I took a sabbatical from my profession during my children's formative years so that I could be an involved parent to my children and be able to support the activities at their schools. I have assisted the PTA in a number of their initiatives, including the spirit ball and fundraising activities. Additionally, I have coached elementary school students for the Virginia Science Olympiad, the Odyssey of the Mind, and STEM (coding) programs for elementary school students. I have also co-chaired the

debate club at the middle school where my son attended, coached them with debating skills, and set them up for regional and out of state debate tournaments.

I have held the position of treasurer for the neighborhood boy scout troop, and a local cultural organization. Also, I oversaw the books for a small company that handled government contracts. I'm hoping that some of these skills and abilities can be beneficial in supporting TJ PTSA.

## **Vision Statement**

The expression "it takes a village to raise a child," which is based on an African proverb, means that many people are required to give children the security they require to grow and thrive as well as the opportunity to realize their hopes and dreams.

An excellent parent-school relationship is what makes a school great. A successful educational system fosters a supportive learning environment where students are not only ready for the next grade or academic stage but are also better prepared to participate in their community as active members of society.

As a parent volunteer, I want to be a part of creating great changes by contributing significantly to the PTSA and TJ. I want to help make the relationship between the home and the school stronger by getting families involved in promoting student success and ongoing school improvement.