



**To: All Parkland School District Employees**

**From: Richard T. Sniscak  
Superintendent of Schools**

**Date: August 10, 2018**

## **2018-2019 Welcome Back Letter!**

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year. I hope you have had a chance to complete your summer projects while allowing time to get away and enjoy your family and friends. The opportunity to recharge your battery over the summer is necessary since we all have important work to do as you once again have an exciting opportunity to make a difference in someone else's life.

It has been an eventful summer here in the district. We have been busy hiring new staff and putting things in place to ensure we are ready for the new school year. Our school services staff has done an amazing job throughout the district preparing classrooms, hallways and grounds for staff and students to arrive.

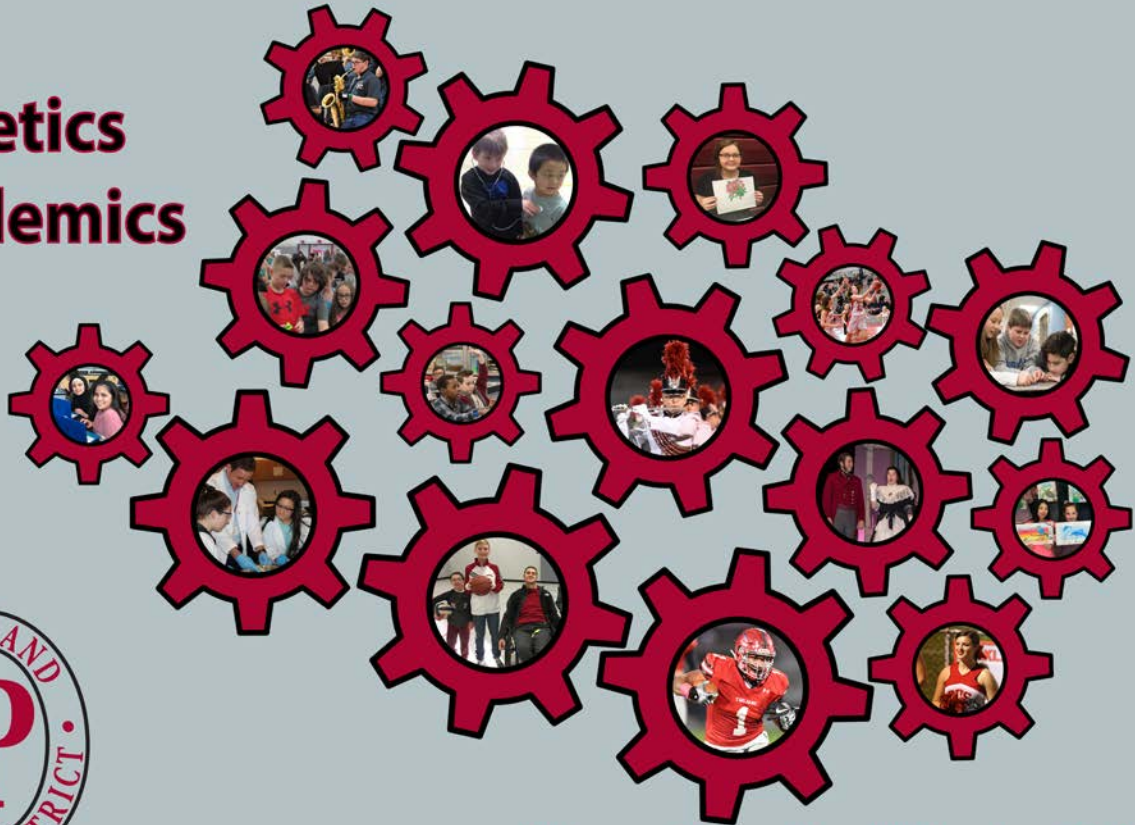
As we begin this new year, I wish for everyone to have a highly rewarding experience filled with success stories while we welcome over 9,400 students to continue their educational journey. Be it in a supportive role, an instructional role or a supervisory role, "Educating for Success, Inspiring Excellence" requires the commitment from every staff member, on behalf of every student, every day with a whatever it takes attitude. This collaborative approach, focused on developing the potential of ALL students, has been the cornerstone of Parkland's success in the past and is the key to maintaining our standard of excellence moving forward.

Parkland student and staff accomplishments have been plentiful. Our primary focus will remain on teaching and learning to enhance our students' ability to be college and career ready. We will maintain initiatives already in place as we implement our 1:1 technology integration project in grades 9-12 while maintaining our goals around literacy, striving to have every student reading on grade level by the end of third grade. This year we will focus on addressing targeted mental health challenges by increasing our knowledge relative to trauma-informed schools and continue our work with enhancing school safety initiatives. This work will happen simultaneously as we continue with the construction of Veterans Memorial Elementary School.

To kick-off another wonderful school year in Parkland, we will meet as a combined staff with **all district employees invited to gather together for our opening day convocation on Tuesday, August 28, at 8:30 a.m. in the Parkland High School Auditorium.** Beginning at 7:45 a.m. Parkland Food Services will offer some breakfast items and coffee in the PHS Cafe. Please be reminded that no food or drink can be brought into the auditorium, so I ask that you come early if you'd like to grab a treat before the meeting.

Last year we decided to maintain the current Parkland School District theme as we move forward as a unified district, "*Academics, Arts & Athletics.... Educating the Whole Child.*" We believe that this theme describes best those values that our administrative team, school board and community desire in educating our youth.

**Arts  
Athletics  
Academics**



**Educating the Whole Child**

This year's calendar includes three days of professional development: August 28, August 29, and August 30. The details of the schedule are attached to this memo.

We will need to provide coverage at all buildings and departments on the morning of August 28; individual supervisors will work out these details. The festivities will be broadcast live throughout the district on our television system so that everyone can have the opportunity to be involved. Thank you for the excellent work you do daily on behalf of Parkland's students. It is greatly appreciated. See you all on August 28!

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – AUGUST 28, 29 & 30, 2018**

**Welcome to the 2018-2019 School Year!**

**“Academics, Arts, Athletics.... Educating the Whole Child”**

**Tuesday, August 28, 2018**

7:45 a.m. Morning Refreshments	Parkland High School Cafeteria**
8:25 a.m. Report to High School Auditorium	Opening Convocation **
8:30 a.m. Greeting	Dr. Rodney R. Troutman Assistant Superintendent
8:35 a.m. Welcome	Mr. David M. Kennedy President, Parkland School Board

8:40 a.m. Remarks	Mr. Richard T. Sniscak Superintendent of Schools
9:10 a.m. Greeting	Mrs. Sandi Gackenbach, President, PEA Mr. Kerry Stefanyak, President, PESPA
9:20 a.m. Closing	Dr. Rodney R. Troutman
9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Break	
10:00-12:00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Elementary Staff – PHS Auditorium for Safety PD: Active Shooter</li> <li>• All Middle School Staff Report to Home Building for Building-based Activities</li> <li>• High School Staff – Building-based Activities</li> </ul>	
Noon to 1:00 p.m.	
12:00-1:00 p.m.	District Lunch** – All School Cafeterias (Courtesy of Lehigh Valley Educators Credit Union and Kades-Margolis)
<b>**ALL EMPLOYEES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND</b>	
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	
1:00-3:30 p.m.	Professional staff members will be involved in various team and building meetings as directed by building principals.

### Wednesday, August 29, 2018

#### Professional Staff Report Directly to School Buildings

#### *Professional Development*

Building-based Activities will be led by Principals

*School Improvement / Elementary and High School New Student Orientations*

Start and End Time	Please follow Regular school day schedule
Lunch - One Hour (on your own)	

### Thursday, August 30, 2018

#### Professional Staff Report Directly to School Buildings

8:30-10:30 am	All High School Staff – PHS Auditorium for Safety PD: Active Shooter
12:30-2:30 pm	All Middle School Staff – OMS Auditorium for Safety PD: Active Shooter

#### *Professional Development*

Building-based Activities will be led by Principals

*School Improvement / Elementary and Middle School New Student Orientations*

Start and End Time	Please follow Regular school day schedule
Lunch - One Hour (on your own)	

*See you all on August 28<sup>th</sup>!*

