



# PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence.*

## Administration Center

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July 1, 2020

Dear Parkland Families and Staff,

Welcome to Green! This past Friday, Lehigh County entered the Green Phase of reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic and this week, fall sports teams were able to begin strength and conditioning workouts in our facilities for the first time since March while adhering to the Parkland Athletic Health and Safety Plan. It was so wonderful to see some of our students in person again! We are all hopeful that our region remains on a positive trajectory. Next week, on July 8, Parkland's 12-month staff will return to work in our buildings to continue preparations for students and staff to return for the 2020-2021 school term.

### Fall Reopening

As required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Parkland Board of School Directors must review and approve a Parkland Health and Safety plan in order to reopen our facilities for student instruction and services this fall. As a District team, we have been hard at work reviewing the hundreds of pages of changing guidance we have received from the Department of Education, health officials, and other authorities regarding school reopening plans and we also read every survey response that was submitted by parents, staff and students.

Although there is still much uncertainty, **if Lehigh County remains in the Green phase or returns to the Yellow phase, we plan to open Parkland schools**, but with modifications to accommodate safety and social distancing requirements. E-Learning will be the only instructional option provided if Lehigh County returns to the Red phase. In both Green and Yellow phases, e-Learning will be an option for students who choose to receive remote instruction due to health/safety concerns. No later than August 1, we will share the details of the Parkland Health and Safety Plan which will allow students and staff to return to school safely while simultaneously striving to prevent a resurgence of the virus. Please note that August 31, 2020, is the scheduled First Day of School for grades K-12. If you have a child in Parkland who is transitioning to a new school, know that our school principals are preparing creative ways to introduce your student to school, whether virtually or in-person, and you will be hearing from them soon regarding these opportunities.

We thank you for your patience as we continue to work through the plans to provide the best educational program for our students while taking the utmost precaution to protect the health and safety of our staff, students and community at large. The virus and the pandemic have presented unpredictable twists and turns to health authorities, resulting in regular adjustments to their guidance for schools. We remain fully engaged in the evolution of pandemic response, and we will keep you informed if the level of community spread of the virus requires us to alter our plans. Your continued support and flexibility is very much appreciated. I hope you are enjoying the summer.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Sniscak, Superintendent of Schools