



Greetings to our Parents & Guardians!

The Parkway staff and I are looking forward to our students returning for another school year together! While the year ahead will most certainly look a little different from previous years, we are committed to making this one an exciting year full of joy and one to result in precious memories for your family and child. At Parkway, we know the importance of these years in a child's life, and the important role school plays in your child's happiness and quality of life. We take this responsibility very seriously. Our goal as Parkway Pandas continues to be to create an environment for all students to thrive, learn and grow while keeping our students, staff and entire school community safe. Please know we have taken many measures to make this a reality and will work diligently to care for your child as we would our own. In order to move forward with our commitment amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be some changes to our school day to enhance opportunities for us to provide quality learning environments for our community's youngest learners. Below, I hope to outline some of those changes and ultimately, ease your minds during such a difficult time.

- K-2 instructional school day will be from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- Arrival- Doors will open to receive students at 7:15 a.m. Students who report to school at 7:30 or after will have the opportunity to report directly to their classrooms with their designated teacher. Those arriving before may wait with students from different classrooms and with teachers that are on duty.
  - Car riders will unload in the front of the school. Bus riders will unload in the back of the school.
- Dismissal- Students will depart using various exits on campus beginning at 2:00 p.m. This early release time is necessary to accommodate multiple routes for our buses as well as our staff to carry out additional cleaning steps enabling our students the engaging learning opportunities necessary for age appropriate development.
  - Car riders will dismiss at the back of the school, the same location as last year. Bus and daycare students will dismiss from the front parking lot, the same location as last year. We are still planning steps to dismiss fewer students at a time to include social distancing as much as feasibly possible. This dismissal process may take longer than it has in the past. Please know we are planning with safety as the first consideration along with your wait time in mind.
- Backpacks and lunch boxes will be allowed.
- School supplies will be purchased for all students. Students will have individual bags of supplies, manipulatives, books, etc.
- Students will remain with their homeroom class for the entire school day.
- Teachers will determine individual learning gaps in August. Interventions and extra support will be planned for students as needed to close any learning gaps. Those needing additional academic and behavior support will be provided Tier II or Tier III services based on identified needs.



- Special Education, English Language Learner, Tier II, Tier III, and Challenge services will still be offered to students who qualify for those supports.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided by our cafeteria staff. Students will eat their meals in the classrooms or maybe from time to time, outside, as weather permits. Eating outside is always a welcomed treat, and we hope this can be included often.
- **Parkway will be a peanut/nut free school this year.** Please help us by voluntarily adhering to the following food allergy safety guidelines. More details to come from our nurse when school begins.
  - Please do not send any food items to be eaten as snacks in our classrooms with ingredient labels indicating they contain peanuts or nuts.
  - Please do not send any food items with ingredient labels indicating they were manufactured in a factory that processes nuts.
- Guests will not be permitted to join students or staff for meal times on campus.
- Handwashing and sanitization will be a significant focus for helping students to learn and practice healthy habits throughout the school day.
- Specials (Art, Music, PE, Media & more) will continue to be offered to students on a rotational basis. Some specials will travel to the classroom and at some point, students may travel to a specials classroom. We will sanitize rooms between specials classes if multiple classes use the area.
- Recess is also included as a part of our students' daily schedule with only one class on the playground areas at a time.
- Additional outdoor classroom locations have been designated for extending instructional opportunities for students.
- Staggered transitions for our students have been implemented & will be monitored carefully throughout the school day.
- A fulltime Nurse has been hired to be on campus Monday – Friday each week.
- As outlined in the Tupelo Public School District Blueprint for Reopening School 2020-2021 School Year, <https://t.co/DaPKvWWtjS>, students and staff will be expected to wear a mask during small group instruction and expected to wear a mask when they are not able to practice social distancing. All face coverings will be provided by the district; however, if you want to provide one for your child, you are welcome to do that as well.
- Intermittent closures are addressed in the Blueprint. Due to possible outbreaks, the superintendent may be required to close a school or schools to prevent further spread. Students will receive instruction online during these closures.
- Distance learning is an option provided to K-12 students in our district for the upcoming school year; however, if chosen by families this would be a commitment that would extend for the entire Semester. Please note we will welcome students to rejoin us at the start of Semester 2 (January) should that be requested by parents.
- K-2 students participating in distance learning would be assigned a teacher who would assist parents in providing standards-based instruction, feedback for assignments, and continuous communication with student & parent for this selected method of learning. This method of learning would still require students to be accountable for logging into the students' instructional



day with regular attendance as well as meet the grade level criteria for him/her to be promoted to the next grade level.

- Panda Pride & other such school-wide events for students will be transformed into virtual experiences that would enable our campus to learn and grow together while continuing to celebrate the successes of our students and teams.
- We will limit the number of visitors in the office. Considering it is a small space, we will ask some people to wait outside from time to time to protect all families and guests. When visiting, please wear a mask.
- On the first day of school, students will be supported by school staff to get to their classrooms.
- Each child will have his or her own desk. If seated at a table, children will be at opposite ends. Teachers will set up classrooms with social distancing in mind.
- There will be joy and fun in our day! We will work tirelessly to make Parkway school a place of joy for all children.

**At Parkway, our teachers, staff and I are ready** to welcome your children in August as if they are our own. We desire for experiences at Parkway to be those that will encourage, inspire, and motivate your child to be the very best he or she can be. We believe it takes a partnership with our parents, families, and community to make this happen. Our expectation of helping students demonstrate being responsible, respectful, resourceful, and safe each and every day will not waver. Our changes in our day-to-day procedures for this year align with the guidance provided by CDC, our community healthcare professionals, as well as our district leadership to give you and your child our very best. We look forward to your continued partnership and support in making 2020-2021 school year one that allows your child solid educational experiences at Parkway.

More information will be coming, and some information may change based on needs and guidelines at the time. If you should have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out by calling our main office at 844-6303. We are always glad to help.

Partners in learning,  
Carmen Gary & the Parkway Team