



**READY.
SET.
START.**

MAKE YOUR CHOICE BY

AUGUST 5TH!

- 1**
Read the **Return to School Health and Safety Plan**
- 2**
Decide what is best for your student:
Face-to-Face Instruction
OR
100% Parkland Online Learning
- 3**
Decide if your student:
will ride a Parkland School Bus/Van
OR
self transport
- 4**
Click here to tell us your choice

If you do not respond by August 5, your student will be rostered in a Face-to-Face Classroom and on a Parkland Bus/Van.

Face-to-Face learners will receive a bus stop (if needed) and homeroom assignment in Home Access Center (HAC) on August 24.

July 28, 2020

Dear Parkland Parents/Guardians and Staff,

We are preparing to welcome all students back to school on **Monday, August 31st**. Our team has worked tirelessly this summer to put comprehensive plans and safety precautions in place to help us SAFELY reopen all of our schools. When we reopen, Parkland will implement the provisions that have been set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf’s Office and Department of Health. Our team also met with St. Luke’s University Health Network and Lehigh Valley Health Network Infectious Disease Specialists to receive their input on our plans to safely reopen our schools for students and staff.

At Parkland, we believe that the most effective learning happens when there is a strong relationship between a student and a teacher. Knowing that our school district has recruited, developed, and retained great teachers for all of our schools, the Parkland [Ready. Set. Start. Return to School Health and Safety Plan](#) has a strong focus on a return to face-to-face instruction when school begins on August 31, 2020.

Grades K-5 Face-to-Face Schedule

Monday – Friday

All Elementary students report to school every day

Grades 6-12 Face-to-Face Schedule

Mon & Tues: A-L last names report to school

M-Z last names in e-Learning

Thurs & Fri: M-Z last names report to school

A-L last names in e-Learning

Wed: All secondary students in e-Learning*

Additional cleaning/sanitization will occur

* Grades 6-12 staff will report to the school on the days that all students are online for teacher planning, collaboration and touching base with students as needed. During weeks that we experience a holiday, the face-to-face calendar will be adjusted to maximize in-person instruction.

We are also providing an option for parents to select a 100% online learning alternative, called *Parkland Online*, for those students who have an underlying health condition or concern. Our face-to-face instructional plan includes daily learning, Monday – Friday, for elementary learners, recognizing that we can cohort classes of students with limited movement throughout the building. At the middle and high school level, due to social distancing requirements and necessary student transitions throughout the day, Orefield Middle School, Springhouse Middle School and Parkland High School will implement a hybrid schedule that will include a maximum of 50% of the student population attending school in person on any given day, with online learning taking place the other days, as outlined above and on page two of the [Plan](#). The *Parkland Online* option offers 100% online learning and will meet the educational standard of excellence that our community expects and students deserve while remaining responsive during this challenging time. Most importantly, support for students who are struggling or falling behind will be provided by a Parkland staff member.

It is important for parents and staff to review Parkland's [Ready. Set. Start. Return to School Health and Safety Plan](#) that was approved by the Parkland Board of School Directors. The Plan goes into great detail about the safety and health measures being implemented to mitigate the risks posed by the coronavirus. As such, school will look and feel different than in years past. While the plan is lengthy, it includes summary pages at the beginning to help highlight key measures that families need to know. The table of contents at the beginning has been created to allow you to jump to various sections quickly to view information you may have further questions about.

Once you have carefully reviewed the document, we are asking parents to complete [a short survey](#) to let us know their choice for instruction and transportation for each school-aged student **by August 5, 2020**. If a survey is not filled out for a student by August 5, we will assume that student will return for face-to-face learning and he/she will be assigned a bus stop. Student bus stop information and homeroom assignment will be available in Home Access Center (HAC) at 8 AM on August 24, 2020. (Anyone who needs a user ID or password reset must email HAC@parklandsd.org for help.)

We realize that the coronavirus has impacted all of us with unprecedented challenges. While nothing about the current pandemic has been easy, we are confident that by creating the [Ready. Set. Start. Return to School Health and Safety Plan](#), our Administrative Team has thought through and prepared for many scenarios that will enable us to open schools safely and with fidelity. It is imperative that our students, parents/guardians and all Parkland staff understand that we all share in the responsibility to protect ourselves and others from COVID-19. Each school day, we are asking parents and staff to monitor symptoms and submit an online wellness form so that the District can effectively conduct contact tracing in the event that someone becomes ill. And, by following the safety protocols outlined in the [Ready. Set. Start. Return to School Health and Safety Plan](#), we all play a role in making it possible for schools to continue to function in a face-to-face learning environment.

I am grateful that we live in a caring community that values education. Parkland's reopening plan is based on expert medical advice matched with our educational expertise to strike a balance between the educational need for students to be in school and the public health need to slow the spread of the virus. As we have all learned, conditions and guidance for responding to this pandemic change regularly. We should all be prepared for potential future changes to school schedules, including the closure of schools.

If you have any questions regarding building operations, please contact your school principal. Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter of great importance.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Sniscak
Superintendent of Schools