



# PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence.*

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August 13, 2020

Hello Parkland Elementary Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this communication is to share that, after much deliberation, Parkland must make a change to our plan to provide elementary students with a 5-day face-to-face learning program when school opens on August 31st. **Instead, we will implement a Hybrid Plan that will mirror our Secondary School Hybrid Plan and consist of face-to-face learning for half of our students, two days each week, and eLearning the other three days (note schedule below).** We will maintain our 100% Parkland Online Learning Plan. Both the Hybrid Plan and Parkland Online Program will be taught by Parkland teachers.

[Hybrid Learning Schedule](#)

Group A: Last name/household name A – L\*

Group B: Last name/household name M – Z\*

\*Some changes may be necessary to balance class sizes

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A: In-School/ In-Person	Group A: In-School/ In-Person	Groups A & B - eLearning	Group A: eLearning	Group A: eLearning
Group B: eLearning	Group B: eLearning		Group B: In-School/ In-Person	Group B: In-School/ In-Person

*\* During weeks that we experience a holiday, the face-to-face calendar will be adjusted to maximize in-person instruction – see [Hybrid Calendar](#).*

### **What does this mean for your student?**

If you committed to the 5-day face-to-face model, we will automatically shift your child to the Hybrid Plan and keep the transportation method that you have requested intact. If you committed to Parkland Online with a Parkland teacher, your child will remain online for 100% online instruction.

We also understand this adjustment may result in some families wanting to change the instructional model or mode of transportation that was previously chosen. If you desire to change your selection, you **MUST** email your school principal by 5 PM on Sunday, August 16, 2020 (see list of each school principal email address below). **Please send one email per child to the correct building he/she will attend for the 2020-2021 school year and include details about whether you are changing your learning model request, your transportation request, or both.**

### **Elementary School Principal Emails**

Cetronia Elementary School, [Principal Dr. Jamie Giaquinto](#)

Fogelsville Elementary School, [Principal Tim Chorones](#)

Ironton Elementary School, [Principal Rob Holmes](#)

Jaindl Elementary School, [Principal Diana Schantz](#)

Kernsville Elementary School, [Principal Michael Gehringer](#)

Kratzer Elementary School, [Principal Karen Aulisio](#)

Parkway Manor Elementary School, [Principal Scott Bartman](#)

Schnecksville Elementary School, [Principal Damian Goodman](#)

Veterans Memorial Elementary School, [Principal Karen Dopera](#)

### **Reasons for the Change**

On August 10th, we received new guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Health, which indicates Lehigh County as having a moderate level of community transmission of the virus. The chart below recommends a Blended (Hybrid) or Fully Remote Learning Model for all Lehigh County Schools based upon this designation.

If fewer than 10 new cases are reported in a county in the most recent 7-day reporting period, the county will automatically qualify as exhibiting a low level of community transmission. Lehigh County numbers below appear in <b>RED</b> below. For current information, <a href="#">click here</a> .				
Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)	PA Dept. of Education Recommended Instructional Models
Low	<10	AND	<5% <b>3.1</b>	Full In-Person Model Or Blended (Hybrid) Learning Model
Moderate	10 to <100 <b>28.3</b>	OR	5% to 10%	<b>Blended (Hybrid) Learning Model</b> or <b>Full Remote Learning Model</b>
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%	Full Remote Learning Model

Additionally, after analyzing our data and our current available staff, it became clear that a Hybrid Instructional Model would strengthen our ability to implement the health and safety procedures identified in the Parkland School District Health and Safety Plan regarding class size and social distancing requirements.

Listed below is additional information that describes each instructional model being offered.

<b>Comparison between Parkland Hybrid Learning and Parkland Online Models</b>	
<p><b><u>Elementary Hybrid Learning at PSD</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School population placed into cohorts similar to Parkland secondary schools</li> </ul> <p><u>Group A:</u> Last name/household name A-L</p> <p><u>Group B:</u> Last name/household name M-Z</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In school 2 days per week / eLearning 3 days per week</li> <li>● PSD curriculum and supplemental resources/ digital content provided by PSD teachers</li> <li>● Rigorous content aligned to PA Core Standards</li> <li>● <a href="#">Standards-based grading</a> will be utilized</li> <li>● Attendance will be taken daily</li> <li>● Students are provided a PSD personal learning device prior to the start of school</li> <li>● Encore subjects will be held in person on the days students attend school</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Parkland Online with PSD Teacher(s)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 100% online for all subjects delivered 5 days a week through a mixture of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (self-paced) instruction</li> <li>● PSD curriculum and supplemental digital content taught by Parkland teachers</li> <li>● Rigorous content aligned to PA Core Standards</li> <li>● <a href="#">Standards-based grading will continue</a></li> <li>● Attendance will be taken daily</li> <li>● Students are provided a PSD personal learning device prior to the start of school</li> <li>● Encore subjects will be held virtually (asynchronously)</li> </ul>

Our [Ready. Set. Start. Parkland Reopening Web Portal](#) includes all of our previous communication, FAQs, Hybrid Calendar, and links to the Elementary and Secondary Parent Forums that were conducted on August 4th.

**Daycare Options**

We recognize that the shift to the Hybrid Plan may result in some families having to set up childcare. For your convenience, we have compiled a list of local daycare centers on our website at <https://www.parklandsd.org/community/day-care-y-care-pre-schools>.

The District Administration is disappointed that we are not able to offer the 5-day face-to-face model. This pandemic has presented school districts with many challenges. Your elected School Board Directors and the Parkland Administrative Staff have spent countless hours prioritizing the health and safety of students and staff followed by how to best meet the educational needs of our students.

Whatever comes our way in the future, please know our staff is excited to welcome our students back, whether in-person or virtually, and fully committed to helping all students achieve. We believe we hire the best teachers possible and, together, we stand ready to serve our students, no matter the circumstance.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Sniscak, Superintendent of Schools