

Parkland Parent FAQ: October 2, 2020



PARENTS: Please know your child's teacher, principal and specialists are all working hard to ensure your child is learning and growing academically and socially. We appreciate your patience as we work through the various challenges and undergo the many changes necessary to provide the best educational experience possible during this national pandemic. We are getting better each day! Please reach out to your child's teacher with positive comments - we all need some positivity during these challenging times. Thank you for all of your support! The following FAQ was developed to help answer some of the most commonly asked questions.

ALL Students (both Parkland Online and Hybrid):

1. How is my child's attendance determined if they aren't physically in school?

Attendance is determined based on the engagement level of the student when at home. Engagement is defined as access to instruction and completion of work. If a student completes the work assigned by the teacher and is engaged in learning for the day, they are marked present. If a student does not complete work and is not engaged in learning, they are marked absent. Assignments can be completed early but must be completed by the due date the teacher assigns.

2. How should I call my child off of school if they are sick or have an appointment?

Attendance rules for reporting absences are unchanged. Please call or email your school's Absentee Hotline if a student is ill. If a parent feels a child is too ill to complete work on an at home eLearning day, they should also report the absence. This can be done at any time of day (e.g. your child becomes sick mid-day and can't engage in afternoon instruction/ work.).

Absentee Hotlines/Emails for all Schools are here:

Cetronia: 610-351-5900 Ext. 23711 ctattendance@parklandsd.org

Fogelsville: 610-351-5900 Ext. 22711 fvattendance@parklandsd.org

Jaindl: 610-351-5900 Ext. 28711 fjattendance@parklandsd.org

Ironton: 610-351-5900 Ext. 25711 irattendance@parklandsd.org

Kernsville: 610-351-5900 Ext. 27711 kvattendance@parklandsd.org

Kratzer: 610-351-5900 Ext. 21711 krattendance@parklandsd.org

Parkway Manor: 610-351-5900 Ext. 26711 pmattendance@parklandsd.org

Schnecksville: 610-351-5900 Ext. 24711 svattendance@parklandsd.org

Veterans Memorial: 610-351-5900 Ext. 29711 vmattendance@parklandsd.org

Orefield Middle School: 610.351.5900 Ext. 61400 smsattendance@parklandsd.org

Springhouse Middle School: 610-351-5900 Ext. 66711 omsattendance@parklandsd.org

Parkland High School: 610-351-5655 hsabsences@parklandsd.org

3. How are expectations for this school year different from the previous spring?

eLearning in the fall is more rigorous and structured than in the spring. Assignments may be due daily and students are expected to keep up with their work, with the support of the teacher and parents. Assignments may be due throughout the week, rather than all assignments being due on one particular day of the week. Flexibility is still important, but setting a routine and structure helps students learn best, whether they are in school or at home. Students are strongly encouraged to connect to synchronous, live virtual instruction (whole group and small group) to receive the most effective instruction. A weekly agenda with dates and times students are expected to meet synchronously for the week is posted in your child's Schoology course prior to that week. **Additional Secondary Information:** Students should attend classes by logging into their Schoology accounts, following their course schedule as indicated in Home Access, and completing assignments as indicated in the teacher's weekly agenda. Students who have jobs should refrain from working during their school hours so as not to conflict with the school day. If this is an issue for your family, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

4. Is Wednesday on-line learning a full day of instruction?

Teachers have professional development and planning time on Wednesday mornings. High school teachers have professional development and planning time from 7:30 - 9:10 am. Middle school teachers have professional development and planning time from 7:30 - 9:30 am. Elementary teachers have professional development and planning time from 8:30 - 10:30 am. Wednesday is an instructional day, but synchronous instruction and/or online learning activities will not take place until after the professional development/ planning time on a Wednesday. Please refer to your child's Schoology account for the synchronous schedule of the week.

5. If my child misses an assignment and does it late, can he/she get credit for the assignment?

Teachers may extend a deadline. However, this is based on teacher discretion. Please have students communicate with their teachers via Schoology if they are confused about an assignment and/or are turning in late work. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to reach out to the teacher to let them know a late assignment has been submitted.

6. Where is the best place for me to access my student's grades?

Although teachers have many grades listed in their Schoology gradebook, we encourage 6th - 12th grade students and their parents to **always reference [Home Access Center \(HAC\)](#) for the most accurate grades**. Depending on the teacher, Schoology may contain assignments that are not reflected in HAC, for example, participation grades. Please note that there were some service interruptions in the sync that teachers use to move grades from Schoology to HAC. Schoology has informed us that these issues have now been resolved.

Parents/guardians of students in grades K-12 can get a deeper view into their children's learning through [K-12 Schoology Parent Portal](#). In the **Updates** section, teachers may post announcements to help communicate due dates and important information. In the **Materials** section, teachers post learning content, assignments, quizzes, discussions, and other activities. Teachers often leave deeper feedback on student work in Schoology as well. To learn more about how we use Schoology at Parkland, check out the videos & information at www.parklandsd.org/schoology.

7. Will Parkland School District consider changing the model for instruction to full eLearning or go back to face to face instruction 5 days a week?

This will be a District decision based on the guidance and recommendations received from the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education and the level of community spread of the virus. Parkland's decisions regarding the implementation of instructional models will continue to be made with safety of our students and staff as the priority.

8. How can I help/support my child with online work?

Parents can support their child with online work by providing a suitable environment for learning and time to check in with their child to assess their needs. In addition, a parent or guardian could support a student's success by reviewing the expectations for the day and reviewing their child's progress. In order to prevent any missed or incomplete work, a parent and child should review the assignments listed in a student's assignment book or on Schoology to be certain that the necessary work is completed.

9. What do I do when my child is frustrated or struggling with their work and I am unable to assist them?

In order to minimize confusion, teachers will often utilize some of the synchronous instruction time to review expectations and clear up misconceptions for independent work which makes the online Zoom/Google meet sessions a valuable portion of the day. Be sure to utilize the resources provided by the teacher such as directions and videos. Keeping open lines of communication with the classroom teacher will be helpful to alleviate frustration and stress. Feel free to reach out to the classroom teacher through email, Schoology message, or during their office hours if other posted resources do not help. Emails to staff, especially those sent to teachers during the day, may not be responded to immediately. Please allow up to 24 hours for a response.

10. Am I allowed to assist my child when they are taking tests or doing assignments?

We ask that parents, guardians, and/or caregivers allow students to complete assessments without test-specific input. This will help us to collect the most accurate snapshot of your child's current strengths and needs. The data collected from these assessments are used to plan and

implement differentiated instruction with personalized prescriptions. The most accurate portrayal of students' current skill set will allow us to implement proper instruction, interventions, and enrichment.

11. What are my child's responsibilities on a synchronous video conference (google meet or zoom)?

Synchronous video conferences are one of the most effective ways for teachers to present new content, reinforce skills, allow for collaborative social interaction, and clarify any misconceptions on skills. Students should attend these video conferences whenever possible as a vital component of their online experience. Students do not need to have their web camera on for the lesson, if they are not comfortable doing so, but they should demonstrate active participation such as asking and answering questions and engaging in questions or feedback in the chat box.

12. What do I do if my child cannot get into a virtual meeting, continues to have internet connection issues or if my child needs additional technical support?

If you are having technology issues, please fill out a trouble ticket at <https://support.parklandsd.org/> and email the teacher the trouble ticket number. The student may be provided with extended time at the teacher's discretion.

PSD Online questions:

13. What are my child's encore (gym, art, music, media center), related arts/ electives responsibilities? Are the assignments mandatory?

Now that we are in a new school year, completing work for all encores/related arts/electives is required and is being graded. The work to be completed for each encore is found within each encore teacher's Schoology course. Completed work should be submitted to the teacher through their Schoology page. Any questions that are specific should be directed to the respective teacher. **Elementary:** Online elementary students can select 2 encore subjects each week to complete and will have a two-week time frame to finish all 4 encore assignments.

14. Will my child have an opportunity to come to the school?

Online students have the option to return to hybrid instruction by contacting the school building to adjust their form of schooling. PHS students who wish to return to the hybrid model must contact their students' guidance counselor to make this programming change. Online students who remain in a virtual setting have the opportunity to come to the school building for various activities throughout the year such as picture day and other building events (as they become available). Safety measures will be taken to ensure a student's wellbeing if he/she chooses to come on campus during these times.

15. Will my child be included in the school yearbook if they do not take a school picture this year?

Parents can submit a headshot to the party responsible for completing the yearbook. The photo can include only the student. Submission of the photo must meet the deadline as communicated by the yearbook advisor. If a student does not have a photograph submitted for the yearbook, they will be listed as members of the classroom with the label "Picture Not Available."

16. Are all assessments mandatory to be done while at home. How quickly should assignments and assessments be completed?

Assessments assigned by the online teacher are a mandatory component of the curriculum. These assessments provide teachers with the feedback needed to differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of your child. Assessments should be completed within the time frame posted by the classroom teacher. Keep in mind that completing an assessment in a timely manner after the instruction and review, will help students display the characteristics of a successful learner.

Hybrid questions:

17. What are my child's requirements on the days he/she is not in school?

Students are expected to complete and submit their daily assignments and connect virtually based on the synchronous weekly schedule. In order to stay productive from home, we recommend that students follow a schedule that allows them focused time to complete schoolwork along with brain breaks and physical activity. We encourage students to reach out to teachers for clarification or guidance when needed. We appreciate parent support as we all adjust to the hybrid schedule.

18. When do I need to fill out the PSD Wellness Form?

This form should be completed each day your child is scheduled to be physically in school. The forms do not change daily and all links can be found at www.parklandsd.org/screeners. If your child will be absent on one of those days, the form must still be filled out. This form is utilized to track illnesses related to COVID-19 symptoms and notify the school nurse of these symptoms. A call to the absentee hotline or an e-mail to the Attendance mailbox is still necessary.