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And Much More!



After careful and extensive planning considerations with our Administrative Team, School Board, and medical partners, along with the fact that all Parkland Elementary Staff were given the opportunity to be vaccinated for COVID-19 in early March, we will increase in-person instruction for all Parkland Elementary Schools to FOUR DAYS PER WEEK of IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION (from TWO DAYS) starting April 12, 2021, while continuing the option for students to remain in the Parkland Online Program.

We are happy to report that the remainder of Parkland's staff, including all secondary teachers, bus drivers, food service and administrative staff, were given the opportunity to be vaccinated March 27 and 28. However, transmission levels remain at the SUBSTANTIAL designation in Lehigh County. At that level, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that we keep secondary students 6 feet apart to the greatest extent possible. (The CDC recommends 3 feet of social distancing to the maximum extent feasible for elementary students). We are able to greatly comply with this measure in the current TWO DAYS PER WEEK of IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION model, but this becomes far less feasible if we were to bring all students back for more days of in-person learning. We continue to monitor the situation and are providing regular updates to families via email.

MARK J. MADSON APPOINTED NEXT PARKLAND SUPERINTENDENT

The Parkland Board of School Directors appointed Dr. Mark J. Madson as Superintendent of Parkland Schools effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Madson currently serves as Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Support Services at Nazareth Area School District and will replace Richard T. Sniscak who will retire at the end of June.

Mark Madson started his career in education in 1998 where he served as a High School Business Education and Technology Teacher and Assistant Football Coach in Newton, Massachusetts. He joined Nazareth Area School District in 2001 in the same teaching and coaching capacity and steadily rose through the ranks by serving as Head Football Coach and then transitioning to Assistant Principal at Nazareth Area High School in 2008. In 2012, he joined the Central Office Administration Team to become the Director of Secondary Education and Educational Technology until he was promoted to his current position as Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education and Support Services in 2017.

Dr. Madson received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Shippensburg University, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Wilkes University and his Doctor of Education in Administration and Leadership Studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has taught as an Adjunct Professor in Delaware Valley University's Doctor of Educational Leadership, Master of Education and STEM Endorsement Programs since 2014.

Dr. Madson and his wife, Lauren, have three children: Katie (18) Luke (16), and Cooper (10).





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PARKLAND NEWSLETTER



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parkland Community,

As we begin to embrace the spring season and reflect upon the past seven months, it would be fair to state that this has been a school year like no other. Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic and twists and turns in our school schedule because of the winter weather, I could not be prouder of our school community. Our students, staff and parents have been most resilient throughout the myriad of obstacles we've needed to navigate.

Diagnostic testing in reading and mathematics indicates consistent performance by our students despite the challenges encountered with fully remote learning and hybrid learning. We recognize the role of teachers and parents in engaging and motivating our students throughout this school term and believe this has been a critical factor in student success rates.

Addressing Learning Loss During the Pandemic

As stated earlier, data indicates Parkland students are performing consistently in comparison to last year (prior to COVID) in both reading and mathematics. At the elementary level, teachers utilize diagnostic screeners to assess student growth regarding reading levels. For our struggling learners, each of our elementary schools maintain an intervention and enrichment period to offer additional support and resources for students identified with specific deficits in learning. Additionally, the district will provide a summer program that will focus on engaging learners who need intervention in literacy skills. At the secondary level, an analysis of student performance by subject, based upon current student performance data in comparison to student performance data last year prior to COVID, also demonstrated consistent performance levels, but with a slightly higher number of struggling students. Upon examination of performance of our students in the hybrid model compared to students learning 100% fully remote, we see both cohorts of students are learning and demonstrating growth. Administrators, counselors, and teachers are continuously examining student performance and offering tutoring sessions and interventions to help students who are requiring additional support.

Summer Credit Recovery

Our initial focus is working with our senior students and assisting them with plans to graduate and utilizing our summer school option for credit recovery if necessary. Students who need summer credit recovery will graduate in August. Our normal summer school program will also be available for 9-11th grade students in need of credit make-up. At the elementary level, we have identified students eligible for summer camp which will focus on reading remediation strategies designed to diminish learning loss identified during the pandemic. These programs will be funded via the American Rescue Plan (ARP) federal funds which have allowable uses that closely mirror details provided in the CARES I and CARES II federal funding plans.

Professional Development

The Parkland School Board and Administration have historically provided robust professional development opportunities for our staff. We have extremely talented educators who willingly share their expertise and coach their colleagues throughout the year. Our Curriculum, Student Services and Technology Departments are closely aligned, and they work collaboratively to provide professional development opportunities for our staff. Workshops and programs are offered regularly throughout the year to help our K-12 staff learn and grow their craft.

Vaccinations

During the last two weeks in March, the entire educational workforce in Pennsylvania was offered the opportunity to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This added layer of COVID-19 protection in schools for our staff has permitted the District to increase in-person instruction at the elementary level beginning on April 12, 2021 as noted on the front page of this newsletter. We continue to monitor the environment regarding community transmission of the virus as we evaluate our ability to increase in-person instruction at the secondary level.

Staff Recognition Week

School Staff Recognition Week is May 3-7, 2021. Please consider thanking a school district employee. Share your thanks via social media, email, handwritten note, or nominate someone for a Parkland Pride Award (see details below). I know all school staff would appreciate your sentiments, especially this year.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a safe and healthy spring season.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Sniscak Superintendent of Schools



NOMINATE AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER SUPERINTENDENT'S PARKLAND PRIDE AWARD RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Students, parents, residents and staff are invited to participate in the **Superintendent's Parkland Pride Award Program** which recognizes outstanding employee and volunteer achievements within Parkland School District. I invite you to tell us about a Parkland School District staff member or volunteer who has gone the extra mile this school year to make you proud to live in Parkland or be a part of the Parkland staff! Don't delay - nominations are due April 15th.

All nominations must be made online at http://bit.do/ParklandPrideAward



Now open: Children's ExpressCARE-Fogelsville. Kids need health care partners too, especially if they have a common illness or minor injury. When your child can't wait for an appointment, Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital offers walk-in care just for kids at Children's ExpressCARE, now open at Health Center at Fogelsville. Learn more at **LVHN.org/expresskids** or call **888-402-LVHN.**

Health Center at Fogelsville | 1431 Nursery Street, Fogelsville





DISCOUNTED WI-FI COMING SOON FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Parkland families who qualify for free and reduced lunch may be eligible to receive a \$50/month discount on their Wi-Fi bills. The benefit is part of the Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program). Please check with your Internet Service Provider to see if you are eligible for the discount and watch your email and social media for further details or visit https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-program.

A CALL FOR CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM

THE ISSUE: CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM



The current funding mechanism for charter schools forces school districts to overpay for charter schools, especially for cyber charter schools and special education students attending charter schools. Overpaying charter schools, in addition to rising costs, not only impacts school district budgets, but also impacts every taxpayer.

PRIORITY: Provide access to high-quality education for 80,000+ students in Lehigh County.

WHAT DO WE **SPEND ON**

CHARTER SCHOOLS?

School district costs are not reduced when students attend charter schools. **Lehigh County School Districts pay**



\$12,832 per student and \$28,959 per special education **student** who attends a charter school



Tuition payments to charter schools are based on the home district where the student resides, not the charter school the student attends.

School districts in PA overpaid charter schools in excess of \$100 million for special education services. (2016, PSBA)



Lehigh County School Districts will spend \$89 Million, funded by taxpayers, on charter school

tuition for the 2020-2021 school year

THIS IS MONEY LEAVING YOUR SCHOOL



Lehigh County School Districts offer in-house cyber education at a cost that is, on average, between 20-30% less than what districts pay in cyber charter tuition.



















IDEAS FOR MOVING FORWARD:

- Develop a more equitable funding formula which is critical for both school districts and the taxpayers they serve. Under the charter school law, tuition payments are calculated based on the budgeted expenditures of the student's district of residence. By bringing funding of cyber charter schools in line with the actual cost of educating a child in a virtual environment, school districts will not have to pass the unnecessary charges on to their constituents in the form of property tax increases.
- Increase the oversight of charter school budgets. This is necessary in order to create a level playing field among school districts and their charter school counterparts. Because charter schools are funded by the same taxpayer dollars as school districts, the accountability for funds should be the same across the board.



- Ensure charter school expense **transparency**, equivalent to the requirements for school districts. Charter Schools are exempt from many educational mandates that public school districts must follow. **Transparency** regarding how much a charter school is spending on educational needs, compared to administration and other costs, will help parents and caregivers make more informed decisions, and will help school districts educate taxpayers on the costs associated with tuition payments to charter schools.
- Continue to promote the availability of high-quality cyber education options offered through the student's home district. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, many school districts offered a local option for cyber education. Since the pandemic, these have become an increasingly viable option for students and families. With increased support from the state level, school districts can continue to provide a high-quality education in an evolving environment.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

www.PACharterChange.org



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact your legislators to tell them we need charter funding reform now Support Governor Wolf's proposal of \$9,500/cyber school student that will save Lehigh County taxpayers \$2.8 Million dollars.



Contact your local school district to find out how to help or consider enrolling in your local school district's cyber program.



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TRACY SMITH ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Parkland School District Assistant to the Superintendent for Operations, Mrs. Tracy Smith, announced her plans to retire this spring. The announcement marks a 30-year career in public education. Mrs. Smith serves as one of four core leadership team administrators for the District who oversees 1,500 employees and 9,500 students. She has been employed by Parkland for the last 13 years. She oversees the Technology Department and is also integral in serving as a liaison between the Curriculum and School Operations Departments at Parkland School District.

Tracy is focused on maintaining a reliable infrastructure and successfully integrating technology throughout the school district. During her tenure, Tracy is credited for:

- Rolling out a robust Wi-Fi network on all Parkland campuses
- Creating an annual FREE Teacher Technology Conference for the region's educators
- Launching a 1:1 program to give all school students a personal learning device
- Designing a Digital Citizenship course to help students understand their role in Internet responsibility
- Offering a certification pathway for Parkland High School students to become accredited in Microsoft IT Academy courses
- Developing a computer science pathway of courses that expose Parkland High School students to various careers in Information Technology (IT)
- Overseeing the launch of a National Girls Who Code Chapter at the middle and high school levels

MICHELLE MINOTTI APPOINTED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Michelle Minotti was appointed Assistant Superintendent and will replace Tracy Smith upon her retirement. Dr. Minotti has served as the Principal at Springhouse Middle School since 2006. Prior to her leadership role at Springhouse, she served for three years each as Assistant Principal at Springhouse Middle School and Parkland High School. She also taught English at Saucon Valley High School before coming to Parkland in 2000.

Dr. Minotti will assist the Superintendent, School Board and Administrative Staff to establish and carry out district goals and initiatives, ensure the oversight of district policies and procedures, supervise and support District staff, evaluate resources and formulate long-range plans. Dr. Minotti will oversee and coordinate with the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development to support technology integration and participate in curriculum development activities.

Dr. Minotti serves as a dedicated member of the Parkland CARES Food Pantry Board. She and her husband Bob have three daughters; Talia (15), Liana (12), and Zara (9). She is an Institute for Educational Leadership Fellow, an adjunct professor, and a Challenge 5 United Way Committee Member. She has a passion for community and is proud of initiating the Parkland Parent

University series of parent workshops and for establishing R.E.A.C.H., which provides food, clothing, and school supply assistance pantries on-site at Parkland Schools with the goal of enhancing all students' health, happiness, and success.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S CORNER



Refreshing your driving skills from home could reduce your auto insurance costs

The award-winning AARP Smart Driver course will help you refresh your driving skills and increase your confidence on the road. You'll also learn the latest traffic laws and proven safe-driving strategies. Plus, when you complete the course, you could qualify for a multiyear discount on your auto insurance.*

25% OFF

Register at:

aarpdriversafety.org
Use promo code: DRIVINGSKILLS
Offer valid through August 31, 2021 for the online course only.**

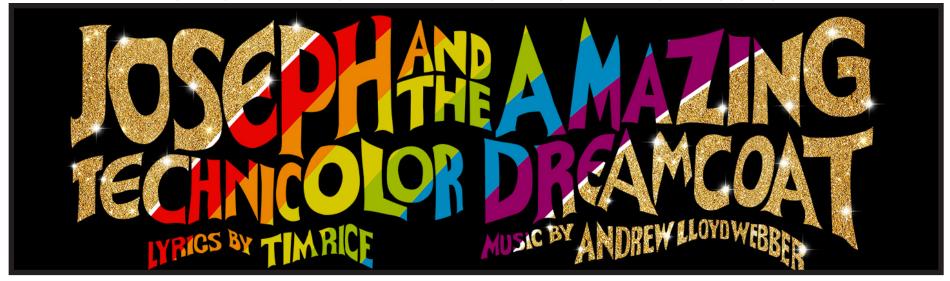
AARP has cancelled all in-person learning, classes and information programs until at least September 1, 2021. They are offering the on-line course with a 25% discount until the end of August 2021. Parkland residents can take the on-line class for automobile insurance discounts and keep their certificates current.

VIRTUAL JOB/VOLUNTEER OPPS

Our students will find some great job and volunteer opportunities on the PHS Virtual Job Board. Employers were asked to provide summer opportunities for students interested in gaining work experience.



PHS TO PERFORM VIRTUAL SPRING MUSICAL



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat will be livestreamed the weekend of May 21-23, 2021. The production will be filmed live and presented through our virtual ticketing partner, ShowTix4You. Tickets will go on sale May 3rd at https://www.showtix4u.com. Tickets will allow patrons access to view the livestreamed performance at one of the designated show times: Friday, May 21st at 7:30 PM; Saturday, May 22nd 7:30 PM; or Sunday May 23rd at 3 PM. Ticket prices are \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers and \$45 for family access (3-6 viewers).

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a musical comedy with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The story is based on the "coat of many colors" story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis. This was the first Lloyd Webber and Rice musical to be performed publicly. It's a family-friendly story. Familiar themes and catchy music have resulted in numerous stagings. According to the owner of the copyright, more than 20,000 schools and amateur theatre groups have staged productions (including Parkland High School exactly 30 years ago).

The production is being rehearsed and performed live on stage while still maintaining all of the necessary requirements to keep our students and staff safe.

While there will be no live audience, you and your family will be able to enjoy this energetic new production together in the safety of your homes.

CARDBOARD AUDIENCE CUTOUTS FOR SALE

Since live audience members will not be allowed in the auditorium during the production, we would like to continue to support the cast and crew 'in spirit' in the form of cardboard cutout audience members (just like the major sporting events)! Our goal is to fill the auditorium with cutouts just as we would a live audience. Cutouts will be displayed throughout the auditorium during all performances, and we will arrange special camera pans of the theatre so the at-home audience will be able to see our cardboard audience.

Parents, grandparents, faculty/staff members, area businesses, friends, family pets, aunts/uncles can all be on display for this year's production! If you are interested in supporting this year's production, please visit this website to register your support and submit your image(s):

$\underline{\text{https://www.parklandsd.org/cutout-fundraiser}}$

Each cutout can only feature one individual (no couples or groups) or company logo. Pictures should be submitted vertically and feature an individual's head and torso. We cannot accept pictures with arms in the air or off to the side as they will be cut off in the cutout. All photographs must be family appropriate; any questionable images will not be printed. Cutouts will be placed randomly throughout the auditorium and we will not be able to take requests for specific seat assignments. We will, however, be happy to seat family members and other members together if requested (please indicate those requests under 'special seating requests' on the electronic form).

Our production cannot be successful without your support. If you or your business would care to support our production as a cardboard cutout, please consider purchasing one of the following packages:

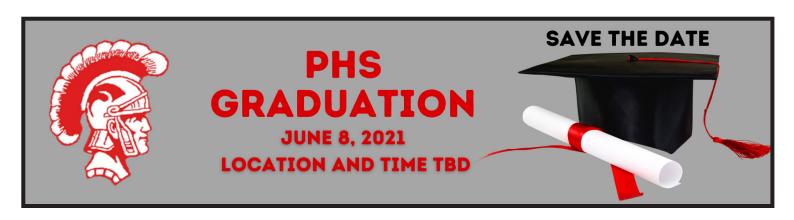
1 CUTOUT - \$40 2 CUTOUTS - \$70 (2 different images) 4 CUTOUTS - \$125 (4 different images)

Once you have submitted the online form, please write a check to PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL. Please remit payment to:

SPRING MUSICAL c/o Frank Anonia Parkland High School 2700 N. Cedar Crest Blvd. Allentown, PA 18104

ALL CUTOUT REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 8, 2021

Should you have any questions please contact Frank Anonia at anoniaf@parklandsd.org. Thank you for your continued support of Parkland Theatre!



JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMUNITY FORUM



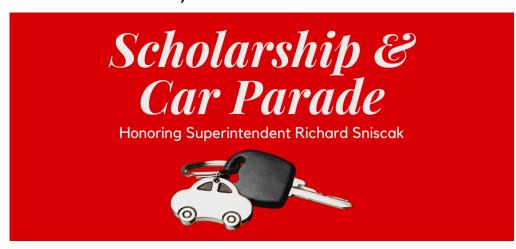
THE FORUM WILL MEET VIRTUALLY AT WWW.PARKLANDSD.ORG/EQUITY



The community at large is invited to participate in Parkland's first community-wide forum that will take place on April 22nd from 6-7 PM. The meeting will be held virtually at www.parklandsd.org/equity.

You'll hear from students, staff and community members with updates on our culture, curriculum and communication goals that are part of the District's Equity and Inclusion Plan. Our panelists will take your questions LIVE during the session. Questions can be submitted on the same page that participants will view the forum at www.parklandsd.org/equity.

CAR PARADE/SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATES OUTGOING SUPERINTENDENT



As Superintendent Richard Sniscak enters the final months of his time as Parkland's Superintendent, we are planning special send-off activities that will honor his legacy! The staff and public are invited to a Car Parade at the traffic circle in front of Parkland High School's Main Entrance from 11 AM - 12:30 PM on June 11th, which is also the last day of the school year. Plan to drop off a card, share a memory, decorate your car, honk your horn, or just wave to Rich as we honor his 26 years in the District.

Additionally, we have set up a scholarship in Rich's name to honor a scholar athlete who plans to study education in college. If you'd like to make a gift, please donate at http://bit.do/SnizScholarship.

EASTERN PA CONFERENCE SCHOLAR ATHLETE NOMINEES

Boys cross country - Benjamin Esquieres

Girls cross country - Ava Bendetti

Field hockey - Aubrey Semler

Football - Isiah Rico

Golf - Alexander Doe

Boys soccer - Mustapha Salau *

Girls soccer - Abigayle Lytle

Girls tennis - Sophia Lee

Girls volleyball - Jacqueline Malitzki

Boys basketball - John Siggins

Girls basketball – Lindsay Berger

Cheerleading – Samantha Massad

Boys swimming – Shawn Kushner

Girls swimming – Olivia Stevenson Wrestling – Garrett Fitzgerald

* Congratulations to Mustapha Salau who also won the Overall EPC Boys Soccer Scholar Athlete Title.



SAVE THE DATE - October 1, 2021 Golf at Brookside Country Club

Contact Lisa Ervin at 610-351-5572 or ervinl@parklandsd.org for sponsorship information.



Parkland School District

Education Foundation

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GOLF OUTING



US PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

Congratulations to Parkland High School Seniors named as candidates in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in the community and school activities.

They are:

Prathysha Kothare Ankhitha Manjunatha Tanya Mehta Dharshan Tharumia Taran Anantasagar

NATIONAL CENTER OF WOMEN IN INFO TECH AWARD

Congratulations to PHS student Uma Purani, a 2021 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing (AiC) award recipient from the National Center of Women in Info Tech.

DEBATE TEAM HONORS

Congratulations to PHS Debate students who qualified to Nationals with the NCFL in May 2021!



Reva Gandhi
Placed 3rd in
Declamation in the

Allentown Diocese

Forensic League



Siddhant Khandelwal

Placed 3rd in Original Oratory in the Allentown Diocese Forensic League



Rishika Rohatgi

Placed 1st in Extemporaneous Speaking in the Allentown Diocese Forensic League



Benefitting the



The Parkland Education Foundation's online auction will run from April 7-14 and include 50+ packages including Parkland treasures such as FRONT ROW tickets to a GRADUATION CEREMONY of your choice, a private performance by the Parkland Strolling Strings, and a one-year parking spot near the front of Parkland High School. We've also included certificates to all your favorite restaurants and excursions (Eagles Game, Dorney Park Family Pack to name a couple) and some really cool artifacts. Highlights of the auction include a custom-made whiskey barrel table and chair set donated by our trio of Superintendents and an antique school bench from South Whitehall Township High School donated by Dentist Walt Johnson whose father taught there. Make sure you mark your calendar to place your bids starting at 12 noon on April 7 at http://bit.do/ParklandAuction. All money raised goes to support programs that help enhance the educational experience of our students.

HERE'S a SAMPLE of WHAT YOU'LL SEE IN OUR LIST of 50+ AUCTION ITEMS



Authentic PSU, Eagles and Steelers helmets.



Original whiskey barrel



helmet.



Original artwork by Fogelsville Elementary Students -The POWER of YOU!



Antique schoolhouse bench from South Whitehall Township High School.



Lisa Ervin, Executive Director Email: ervinl@parklandsd.org Phone: 610-351-5572

www.parklandsd.org/foundation



WHAT: We are looking for your funniest videos. Our hope is that we can unite as a community and share some laughter together.

WHEN: Submissions are due May 1st. The event will air live on YouTube on May 20th at 7 PM.

WHO: Teachers, Students, Parents, Community members. Anyone associated with Parkland can participate.

HOW: If you would like to participate, please follow the steps below:

- Pre-record your video (1-2 minutes max.)
- Fill out the Google form and upload your video at www.parklandsd.org/foundation (100Mb size limit)
- We will choose 3 winning videos 1st place will be a \$100 gift card, 2nd place \$50 gift card and 3rd place \$25 gift card.

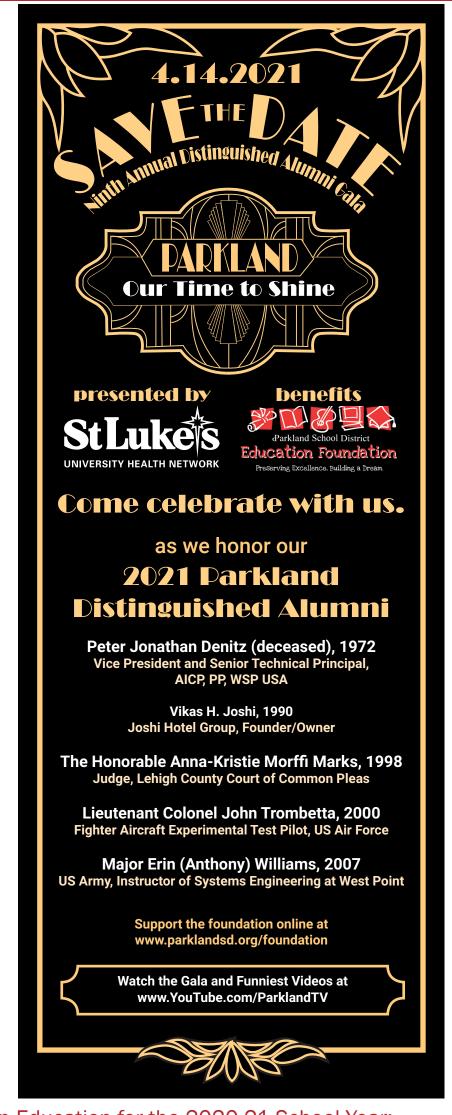
We can't wait to see your videos! Grab your phones and start filming!

Show premieres May 20 at 7 PM on www.YouTube.com/ParklandTV

GRADUATION SIGNS

The Parkland Education Foundation wants to create a special gift for the class of 2021 and we need YOUR help! We plan to buy all 813 Seniors a personalized Graduation lawn sign to honor and recognize their efforts during this challenging year. We are collecting donations to reach our goal. Please visit www.parklandsd.org/foundation to help us to show these seniors how much our community cares.





The Foundation thanks its Corporate Partners in Education for the 2020-21 School Year:

















PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 1 Grant Submission Deadline for Parkland Education Foundation Celebrate Innovation Grant Program
- April 7-14 Parkland Education Foundation Auction
- April 12 Elementary HYBRID Learners Begin 4-Day In-Person
- April 14 Parkland Education Foundation Virtual Gala, 7 PM on www.YouTube/ParklandTV
- April 15 Superintendent's Parkland Pride Nomination Deadline
- April 22 Community Forum on Equity and Inclusion
- Mav 1 Parkland's Funniest Home Video Submissions Due
- May 8 PHS Prom
- May 20 Parkland's Funniest Home Videos
- May 21-23 PHS Spring Musical (Virtual performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat)
- June 8 Class of 2021 Graduation
- June 11 Last Day of School/Car Parade Honoring Rich Sniscak

K-12 SUMMER CAMPS AND SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON **OFFERINGS LISTED ON OUR**

SUMMER CAMPS WEB PAGE

WWW.PARKLANDSD.ORG/CAMPS



CONFIDENCE

to shine

When you smile with confidence, it can make a huge difference. Help make your school a happier and brighter place by sharing your smile.



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NONDISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY

In accordance with TITLE VI, TITLE IX, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Parkland School District does not discriminate either in the educational or vocational programs and activities which it operates or in the employment of personnel, on the basis of sex, handicap, disability, race, color, national origin, age, or religion. If your are physically or mentally disabled, or hearing impaired, you may qualify for special services/instruction modifications so you can successfully complete the education program or participate in activities. All inquiries concerning this policy/questions regarding specific programs, services, and facilities for the disabled should be directed to the District Equal Rights Officer, Assistant Superintendent, Parkland School District, 1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA at (610) 351-5505

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE CALL NICOLE AT 610-351-5630.

