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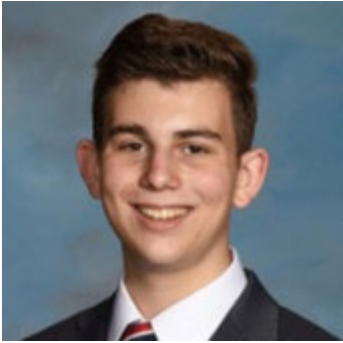
TEDxParklandHighSchool Premieres Sunday





(Allentown) – Parkland High School students will put on the first-ever Parkland TEDx event at Springhouse Middle School on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at 12 noon. This event is **FREE** for students, parents, and members of the Parkland community. Limited seating is available and can be reserved at <https://forms.gle/jGWso2FjMEdqDfKx9>





TEDxParklandHighSchool's mission is to highlight Parkland High School students dedicated to "Building a Better World" and share how you, as an audience, can implement their ideas in your everyday life to help facilitate societal change.

Senior student Rishika Rohatgi organized the event. She stated, "Having had a passion for public speaking and advocacy from a young age, I grew up watching TED talks on YouTube. As I honed my craft through Parkland-sponsored activities such as the Varsity Debate Team and Model UN, I decided that I wanted to help my fellow peers find and refine their voices. In 2019, I established a Youth Toastmasters club, dedicated to providing speech coaching to younger students in my community, and discovered my love for mentoring in the process. In essence, TEDxParklandHighSchool is a way to for me to come full circle, combining my interests and empowering the next generation of public speakers at Parkland High School."

Student speakers include the following:

Name	Photo	Bio
Grant Pinsley		Grant is currently a sophomore at Parkland High School, academically strong with his participation in the Debate, Political Science, and Law clubs. He also has an affinity to the arts and is a part of the Parkland Chorale and Parkland Honors Orchestra groups. Outside of school, he particularly enjoys political activism and volunteer work.

<p>Eshaan Patel</p>		<p>Eshaan is currently a sophomore at Parkland High School and a passionate public speaker who competes on the Parkland Highschool Debate Team among other activities. Eshaan is academically driven and strives to be the best version of himself in both the classroom and the community. In his free time Eshaan enjoys volunteer work in his community, especially mentoring and teaching younger children.</p>
<p>Samith Rohatgi</p>		<p>Samith is a current freshman at Parkland High School who enjoys playing the cello in the Parkland Honors Orchestra and competing in Science Olympiad. Also interested in space history, he placed 4th in the nation during the National History Day Competition with a project on the Deep Space Network. He believes his expertise in conflict resolution comes from being a younger sibling for 14 years and wants to help the world to resolve their conflicts in peaceful and meaningful ways.</p>
<p>Dora Ozcan</p>		<p>Dora is currently a freshman in high school. She is involved in the Parkland Jazz Band as a pianist and takes part in the Political Science Club along with several others. Outside of school, she participates in numerous piano competitions and hopes to spread motivational and positive thinking and mindset locally, and maybe even globally, through the TEDx event.</p>
<p>Vishruth Hanumaihgari</p>		<p>Vishruth Hanumaihgari is a junior at Parkland High School. Throughout his career, he has developed a strong interest in medicine and public speaking through his involvement in debate and various STEM initiatives. He is dedicated to empowering youth across the world by encouraging them to use their voices to initiate positive change in their communities, and he hopes to use TEDx as a platform from which to spread his message.</p>

<p>Rishika Rohatgi</p>		<p>Rishika Rohatgi is a senior at Parkland High School who is extremely involved in student activism, whether it be through interning with a US Congresswoman or serving as a representative on the Parkland Community Advisory Council. She is passionate about workers' rights, and aims to use her voice to uplift those typically marginalized. Aligning with these interests, she plans to pursue a career in Organizational Management, emphasizing ethical practice and effective leadership.</p>
<p>Reva Gandhi</p>		<p>Reva Gandhi is currently a junior at Parkland High School, working at the crossroads of STEM and public policy. Her passions lie in student advocacy and empowerment, working with the Pennsylvania State Board of Education and various other student organizations to elevate the unique perspective of students. An optimist at heart, she hopes to bring diversity, holistic thinking, and sustainability to not only educational institutions, but to society at large.</p>
<p>Sanika Kothari</p>		<p>Sanika Kothari is a junior at Parkland High School, creating her impact on the community through the advocacy of financial literacy. Being a significant crisis worldwide, she is working to directly impact students to understand its importance and begin educating themselves on this subject, such as through her own student-powered initiative known as Money Matters. Through her work, she aims to build awareness, inspire positive change, and develop a proactive mindset in society as a whole.</p>
<p>Siddhant Khandelwal</p>		<p>Siddhant Khandelwal is currently a junior at Parkland High School whose goal is to expose the caveats of social media and misinformation through his interest in technology. Siddhant has given several speeches on hyperpartisanship and how its elimination can bridge our social, political, and digital divides. Passionate about uplifting a variety of perspectives, Siddhant hosts his own radio show called Teen Connect on NPR's WDIY to give the teen angle on various issues.</p>