



# PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Student Services & Special Education

1210 Springhouse Rd, Allentown PA, 18104 (610) 351-5555

Dear Parents,

The Parkland School District believes in providing the highest quality of education for every student. To meet this goal, we implement an approach to learning known as Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). The essential elements of an MTSS approach include providing scientific, research-based instruction and interventions in general education, monitoring and measuring student progress in response to the instruction and interventions, and using measures of student progress to shape instruction and make educational decisions. The MTSS process places students into one of three tiers which can change throughout the year depending upon student progress. This three-tiered approach is used to differentiate instruction for all students while identifying and providing early intervention to struggling students. Below is a brief description of each tier:

Tier 1: Students participate in the Core Curriculum with opportunities for additional instruction and/or enrichment in the core program.

Tier 2: Students participate in the Core Curriculum with an evidence-based intervention due to an identified area of weakness.

Tier 3: Students participate in the Core Curriculum with more intensive and frequent interventions than Tier 2 due to continued identified areas of weakness.

Staff determines in which tier to place students based upon multiple assessment measures including classroom-based assessments and universal screening results. The Parkland School District has selected *STAR Early Literacy Enterprise* and *STAR Reading Enterprise* as our universal screener to monitor kindergarten to second grade student progress throughout the year. *STAR* universal screenings are administered three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). For students in third through fifth grade, the District uses the *Pennsylvania Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT)* as the universal screener to monitor student progress throughout the year. *CDT* universal screeners are administered two times a year (Fall and Winter).

Throughout the year, you also will receive information on how your child performed on classroom-based assessments as tests are given and sent home. Data from these tools and a variety of other sources will help staff to not only make informed decisions regarding tier placement but also the frequency, time, intensity, and type of intervention provided. This extra instruction and intervention typically takes place during a 40 minute period each day. If a child is at a Tier 3 level, more time is allotted for interventions.

The Parkland School District recognizes that all students learn differently, and we are committed to helping all students succeed. You are encouraged to participate in this process and will be made aware of any changes in your child's progress or tier placement. Thank you for your continued interest and support in your child's education!

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Carlson, Psy.D., ABPP  
Director of Student Services