

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

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...AND MUCH MORE!

COMMUNITY SURVEY QR CODE





FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ANALYZE GROWTH PROJECTIONS & CAPACITY FOR NEXT 10 YEARS

In Parkland School District, we offer a public educational program that values the ability to offer a wide variety of experiences for students in Academics, the Arts and Athletics. As a staff, we are dedicated to the District's vision statement, "Educating for Success, Inspiring Excellence." A significant challenge in recent years has been that our population continues to expand. To meet growing needs, the Parkland School District Administration and Board of School Directors have initiated a feasibility study with RLPS Architects, which will analyze enrollment projections, future building of commercial and residential real estate within the District, and the capacity of our existing facilities. The Feasibility Study from 2015 showed us that there was a need to address elementary overcrowding, which ultimately led us to build the Veterans Memorial Elementary School as well as increase classroom space at Kratzer and Schnecksville Elementary Schools. Details from that Study highlighted that, by 2030, there would be a need to address capacity at PHS. Today's Feasibility Study is focusing on future capacity issues related to PHS, OMS and SMS along with future educational program needs.

Alongside the study, we'd like to collect feedback from community stakeholders. The survey will be open through April 21, 2023. Please take our survey online by scanning the QR code below. Updates for future meetings and copies of presentations will be included on our dedicated webpage, <u>www.parklandsd.org/vision2030</u>.





Keep your eyes on the road. Arrive Alive!

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Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2023

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parkland Community,

Hello and welcome spring!

In March, all of our elementary school students and families read the book *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* through a collaborative reading project led by our Reading Specialists. Also of note in March, our secondary schools celebrated World Language Week where students and staff enjoyed food, movies, dancing, singing, games and cooking events from cultures around the world. Classes donated proceeds from the week of festivities to the Red Cross for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. And, back by popular tradition, was the PHS Door Decorating Contest, where students create vibrant posters that celebrate world cultures and languages. On March 20, we had a very special day of string music when Time for Three visited Parkland students in grades 4-12 who play in the school orchestras. The event was sponsored by the Parkland Education Foundation and included master classes with professional musicians during the day and ended with a district-wide student/Time for Three concert at night.

Parkland is in full bloom as we head into April with many exciting events on the horizon. Our spring PHS stage show *Oklahoma!* is the first musical written by the duo of Rodgers and Hammerstein, and the cast and crew can't wait to perform it for our community on the big PHS stage April 12-16. Spring sports are fully underway and the spring concert season is upon us. New this year, we are excited that PHS students are volunteering their time to teach technology-focused classes for Parkland Senior Citizens ages 55+. Check out all of the offerings on page 6. And, visit page 7 for a list of upcoming events you will not want to miss!

Our Administrative team and School Board have been spending a lot of time planning for the future of Parkland. As such, the District has contracted RLPS Architects to conduct a Feasibility Study to address growing enrollment and educational programs. The scope of the feasibility study includes assessing enrollment projections, future growth of the district, and the capacity of our existing facilities as it relates to enrollment projections and future planning. Community input is welcome and the first phase of input is being conducted by the survey that is noted on the front cover of this newsletter. Please take time to share your thoughts with us. We will continue to study options and update our community on the progress of our planning process. Watch for meeting announcements on social media and our Feasibility Study webpage: www.parklandsd.org/ vision2023.

In addition to studying the enrollment and seating capacity across our school district, Parkland has hired Alloy 5 Architecture to help us develop a capital improvement plan that will include assessing all school district facilities, prioritize capital improvements, and create a 5-year budget plan to ensure maintenance of our facilities. The plan will also include assessing the athletic department, the arts department, food service and a plan to make improvements to the aging Orefield stadium.

Spring is also a time when we begin finalizing the budget for the upcoming school year. I am pleased to report that the School Board has already passed a resolution that promises not to exceed the State's Act 1 Index threshold for Parkland of 4.2%. Revenue is trending in a positive direction as real estate values remain strong and our neighbors in corporate industry are performing well. Of course, inflation is a concern for all of us as we prepare to estimate costs for next school year. Plans that emanate from our Feasibility Study will be studied closely as we dissect the financial impact a new construction project will make for many years to come. Key dates in the budget timeline appear in the box to the left and I invite the community to contact me directly with any questions or concerns related to the budget.

Schnecksville Elementary School is wrapping up an extensive renovation project with the installation of a wonderful outdoor learning courtyard. An addition at Kratzer Elementary School offers increased seating capacity and will be completed this summer. Our new Operations Center will break ground this August and allow us to relocate the offices that are currently housed in the Troxell Building. The building will be approximately 40,000 square feet and will accommodate office, storage and workshop areas for the Facilities/Maintenance/Custodial, Food Services and Technology Departments.

Spring marks the time when the Superintendent's Parkland Pride Award nomination form opens. I am happy to continue that long-standing tradition and invite community members to nominate Parkland staff or volunteers who have gone the extra mile this school year to make you proud to live in Parkland or be a part of the Parkland staff. You can nominate staff at www.parklandsd.org/ParklandPride.

In closing, I thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you at a concert, the spring musical, a sporting event, or the annual Festival of the Arts. #ParklandPride

Best wishes,

Mark J. Madson, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Follow me on Twitter @ParklandSupt



LISTEN TO THE #PARKLANDPRIDE PODCAST

WWW.PARKLANDSD.ORG/SUPERINTENDENTMADSON





KEY DATES IN THE 2023-24 BUDGET TIMELINE

APRIL 28 Budget Seminar - Board Meeting where budget is reviewed in detail with Administration and Board

MAY 16 Adoption of Proposed Final Budget

JUNE 9 District newsletter is mailed out to all residents and includes Budget Overview

> JUNE 20 Adoption of Final Budget by the School Board



Tell us about a Parkland School District staff member who has gone the extra mile this school year!

Nominations are due April 15th

All nominations must be made online at www.parklandsd.org/ParklandPride

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. PARKLAND 2023



Congratulations to Nate Metcalf, this year's Mr. Parkland! He is pictured in the center alongside runner up Aditya Singhvi (right) and 3rd place Lucas Lee (left). Nate choreographed a Broadway-style original performance with a student cast, while Aditya performed magic and Lucas played his electric violin. Twelve seniors started the evening with an opening group dance followed by the swimsuit contest. Next was the talent contest with each contestant showing their unique skill. Following the talent contest, it was time for the formalwear presentation and the individual dances.

Contestants included: Rishi Baru, Nikhil Chitluru, David Diehl, Brian Hulse, Dan Lawler, Lucas Lee, Kai McGalla, Nate Metcalf, Varun Pandian, Paul Parkinson, Nick Seladones, and Aditya Singhvi.

Special thanks to this year's judges: Shaadi Elias, Mr. Parkland 2004 contestant and owner of Red Tomato Pizzeria; Jared Sussman, Mr. Parkland 2022; Stephanie Wells, morning show host on WAEB-FM; Kenny Yeboah, Tight End, NY Jets, and 2017 Parkland Graduate; and Parkland parent Melanie Falcon of Channel 69 News. Thanks also to C.E. Roth who provided the formalwear.

This year marked the 26th anniversary of Mr. Parkland.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS







Congratulations to 10th grader Brandon Cai for qualifying for the United States of America Junior Mathematical Olympiad (USAJMO), which is considered one of the most prestigious awards for 10th grade students in the United States! The USAJMO is a six-question, two-day, 9-hour essay/ proof examination. The top-scoring AMC 10 participants (based on a combination of American Mathematics Competition for 10th graders and American Invitational Math Exam score) are invited to take the USAJMO.

Recycling Made Easy

Tushar Mehta is a freshman at PHS and is proud to have recently won the 2022 Pennsylvania Congressional App Challenge. The Congressional App Challenge is the most prestigious prize in student computer science. His winning web app: RecycleBot: Machine Learning Based Automated Waste detection and Classification, will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building and featured on the House of Representatives' website, House.gov, and he will be invited to the #HouseofCode Capitol Hill Reception in Washington, D.C., where he will have the opportunity to demonstrate his winning app. Tushar also received congratulations from Congresswoman Susan Wild in a press release dated December 23 where she stated, "I'm continually blown away by the passion and talent behind the apps submitted to our Congressional App Challenge. Technological innovations are the solution to many of our world's most pressing issues — and the young leaders who possess the skills to design, execute, and operate these inventions hold the keys to our nation's future."

Tushar's goal in creating the RecycleBot app is to help people quickly identify which items people throw away that can be recycled by using their camera phone and technology to identify recyclable materials. His hope is to help improve sustainability and reduce individual carbon footprints.



Giving Flowers New Powers

Siddhant Khandelwal is a Parkland senior who has started Bloomerang as a community service project. He repackages donated flowers from all kinds of events and delivers them to long-term care patients at hospitals, senior centers and retirement homes to help brighten their day. If you have an upcoming event and want to donate your flowers to this cause, please reach out to Sid at sid@bloomerang.org or check out his website at https://www.bloomerang.org/.

Sid is also one of 35 Youth Ambassadors to PennDOT. The Youth Ambassadors Program seeks to build community stewards and civic leaders by inspiring young Pennsylvanians to beautify their neighborhoods and become ambassadors in their community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Backpack Wish List Program

The Parkland REACH (Resources Enhancing All Children's Health) team is a group of staff who volunteer their time to create opportunities for students and families to have the essential resources (food, clothing, school supplies, family engagement programs, outreach services) to be successful in our school community and society. They help food insecure students take backpacks filled with food home over weekends. They also deliver holiday meals and food boxes to families for Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks.

Last summer, more than 350 backpacks filled with school supplies helped students start the school year ready to learn. We are collecting donations from our community for this program. YOU CAN HELP: Shop from our Amazon Wish List and have the items delivered to our doorstep so that we can prepare the backpacks for distribution again this August. Or, you can drop off items at the Administration Center at 1210 Springhouse Rd., Allentown, PA 18104 any weekday between 8 AM - 4 PM.

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR OUR AMAZON WISH LIST:



DID YOU KNOW?



OF PARKLAND STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR A FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH BASED ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME LEVELS.

The income of a family of four would have to be under \$36,075 to qualify for a free lunch and under \$51,338 to qualify for a reduced lunch price.

April 15, 2023 | Pop-up Science Day at Grange Park, 11 AM - 2 PM

Location: Grange Park - 360 Grange Rd, Allentown, PA 18106

Families are invited to join us at Grange Park where Upper Macungie Township will sponsor a day of inflatables, food trucks, vendors, and the highlight will be the Curiosity Cube from Millapore Sigma. This is a 'science lab on wheels' that travels the world, and we are super excited that it is coming here to Parkland. Check out their website at https://thecuriositycube.com/.

May 12 & 13, 2023 | Concerts on the Grange

Location: Grange Park - 360 Grange Rd, Allentown, PA 18106

Upper Macungie Township will be rockin' on the nights of May 12 and 13 for the first-ever Concerts on the Grange. This is a new collaboration project with ArtsQuest to bring two nights of great music, food, and drinks to Grange Park. Friday night's entertainment includes DJ Jamal Knight and Face 2 Face: A Tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel. Saturday's bands are The Ultimate Doors and Splintered Sunlight. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. For tickets and more information, visit to https://www.artsquest.org/upper-macungie/.



June 23 - 25, 2023 | Upper Mac Days

Location: Grange Park - 360 Grange Rd, Allentown, PA 18106

Upper Mac Days is another Township/ArtsQuest collaborative project that will include a three-day family-friendly celebration that will include firefighter competitions, bounce houses, bungee trampolines, magicians, bands, pie eating contests, lawn game tournaments, great food and much more. A portion of the ticket fees will be donated to the Upper Macungie Township Community Fund to assist the township in their efforts to expand the park's usage. For more information and ticket purchase (ArtsQuest Members and the general public), visit https://www.artsquest.org/uppermacdays. The festival kicks off at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 23.



PARKLAND SENIOR CITIZEN CLASSES REGISTER at <u>WWW.PARKLANDSD.ORG/SENIORS</u>



The following classes will be offered this spring to Senior Citizens, ages 55 and older, who reside in the Parkland School District. **The classes are FREE of charge. Please register before the class deadline of April 10, 2023, online at <u>www.parklandsd.org/seniors</u>. If you don't have Internet access, call us at 610-351-5578 and we will assist you. We ask that people do not register unless they can attend a majority of the sessions. All classes will be reserved via a lottery system. Parkland School District will send out course notifications starting on April 10. Kindly refrain from contacting the office until after April 12 if you have not yet received confirmation. Thank you.**

WATER AEROBICS Parkland High School Pool Wednesdays, May 3-June 7, 5:45-6:45 PM Saturdays, May 6-June 10, 1:00-2:00 PM

This class features low-impact aerobics (conducted in shallow water) specifically geared to seniors. The class will focus on the use of all muscles and limbs, breathing and stretching. Water shoes or old clean sneakers are suggested for safety. Swim noodles are provided at the pool. Swimmers should enter through the lower entrance at the back of the Athletic Wing. For the Wednesday classes, please arrive between 5:15 and 5:30 PM to ensure entrance to the building and time to change in the locker room. Please note that no one will be allowed to enter the building before 5:15 PM. For Saturday classes, please arrive 15 minutes early to ensure time to park and change before the class begins. The classes will be held in the Parkland High School Pool located at 2700 North Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104.

DOABLE YOGA FOR SENIORS

Mondays, April 10-May 22, 4:30-5:30 PM, Kernsville Elementary School Gym Wednesdays, April 12-May 24, 4:30-5:30 PM, Schnecksville Elementary School Gym

The class will provide a gentle practice to improve the connection between body and mind. Through a combination of seated floor positions (no chairs) and standing flow, you will learn to maintain or increase range of motion as well as improve balance. Guided meditation will also focus on stress relief. Please bring your own yoga mat. Marie will be collecting donations at her class. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the class starting. Maximum of 40 participants per class. Monday classes will be offered at Kernsville Elementary School, 5051 Kernsville Road, Orefield. Wednesday classes will be offered at Schnecksville Elementary School, 4260 Sand Spring Road, Schnecksville.

ST. LUKE'S CHAIR & STRENGTH CLASS Parkland Administration Center Board Room Wednesdays, April 26-May 31, 9:00-9:45 AM

We are excited to bring back the popular class sponsored by Upper Macungie Township Recreation and the Friends of UMT Parks and Recreation. The chair strength and mobility class is a low-impact program designed to improve strength and mobility for adults of all activity levels. It is movement-based training for persons that want to work on balance, coordination, agility, and functional strength. This class is led by a St. Luke's Instructor. Maximum of 30 participants. The Parkland Administration Center is located at 1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown.

INTRO TO VIDEO STREAMING

Parkland High School Library Classroom Tuesday, April 11, 3:15-4:15 PM

This class will be led by Parkland High School technology students and will focus on the basics of video streaming. Students will be teaching how to start and join Zoom meetings, Google Meet meetings, the basics of video streaming, and there will be some discussion of video streaming programs, such as Netflix and Hulu. Participants should bring their own smart phone, or other device, to the class. Maximum of 15 participants. Parkland High School is located at 2700 North Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown. Please enter through the main entrance.

INTRO TO MISINFORMATION

Parkland High School Library Classroom Monday, April 17, 3:15-4:15 PM

This class will be led by Parkland High School technology students and will focus on digital misinformation. Learn about different scams, how to find reputable websites, and how to determine if information online is trustworthy. Participants should bring their own smart phone, or other device, to the class. Maximum of 15 participants. Parkland High School is located at 2700 North Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown. Please enter through the main entrance.

INTRO TO COMPUTERS AND FILE STORAGE

Parkland High School Library Classroom Thursday, April 27, 3:15-4:15 PM

This class will be led by Parkland High School technology students and will focus on the basics of computer file storage, basic computer troubleshooting techniques, and basic internet and computer skills. Participants should bring their own computer device to the class. Maximum of 10 participants. Parkland High School is located at 2700 North Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown. Please enter through the main entrance.

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS INVITED TO REVIEW DATA COLLECTED TO BEST PREPARE STUDENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN

Students who enter kindergarten at Parkland are assessed during their first 45 days of school via assessments that measure 30 cognitive and non-cognitive indicators. This data highlights strengths and needs of kindergartners so that teachers can provide prescriptive learning opportunities for students. This year, data was anaylized by preschools that student groups came from, which allowed the district to provide child care programs with data specific to their facility. In February, the early childhood center directors and teachers were invited in to review their most recent students' data to see what areas of learning they could potentially target in the future to better prepare children for kindergarten. Staff from 16 area preschools attended the session that was offered and content was shared by reading specialists, kindergarten teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists and curriculum personnel. Strategies for how to target certain learning areas were shared by all. This was a win-win partnership opportunity to help children in our community start school with success from the very earliest of ages. We thank everyone for their attendance and willingness to learn!





TAX REBATE REMINDER FOR SENIORS

and Other Qualifying Claimants with Limited Incomes

The Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Rebate allows a portion of property tax dollars to be rebated to senior citizens and other qualifying claimants with limited incomes.

- The tax rebate program refunded approximately \$100,000 throughout the community over the last three years.
- Parkland School District will once again be conducting the rebate program in 2023. Applications can be downloaded from the web at <u>https://www.parklandsd.org/departments/business-administration/</u> <u>senior-citizen-tax-rebate.</u>
- A list of frequently asked questions is also available on the District website at the same web address.

For further help or information, please call the Business Office at 610-351-5510 between 8 AM and 4 PM, Monday – Friday.

PARKLAND RECEIVED \$75,000 IN STATE'S COMPETITIVE SAFE SCHOOLS TARGET GRANT

Parkland is among approximately 20% of state school districts who were recipients of school safety grant funding. A little over \$8 million in competitive Safe Schools Target grants have been awarded to 166 schools across Pennsylvania.

The grants aim to improve school safety, and the funding can go toward purchasing safety equipment, implementing new programs, and hiring security personnel and school resource officers, among other uses.

Parkland will use the funds to help offset the salaries of School Resource Officers who serve all of our schools.

The deadline for filing is June 30.



PARKLAND WINS TOP WORKPLACE FOR 6TH TIME



Parkland School District has been awarded a Top Workplaces 2023 honor by Morning Call Top Workplaces. The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by employee engagement technology partner Energage LLC. The confidential survey uniquely measures 15 culture drivers that are critical to the success of any organization: including alignment, execution, and connection.

"Earning a Top Workplaces award is a badge of honor for organizations, especially because it comes authentically from their employees," said Eric Rubino, Energage CEO. "That's something to be proud of. In today's market, leaders must ensure they're allowing employees to have a voice and be heard. That's paramount. Top Workplaces do this, and it pays dividends."

Dr. Mark Madson, Superintendent, stated, "Parkland School District is thrilled to receive this award for the 6th time. Our people make us the great school district that we are. We realize that in order for our staff to serve our students with the utmost care and concern and be at their best every day, we need to be a Top Workplace."









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MAY 18 - MAY 20

Thursday, May 18th

Friday, May 19th

PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS CONCERTS 6:30pm & 8:00pm PHS Auditorium Free - all are welcome to enjoy an evening of choral music!

PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ART SHOW

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm **Trojan Art Gallery:** Senior Art Award Recipients **Gallery Showcase:** 2023 East Central Pennsylvania Regional Scholastic Art Awards **Art Studios:** Parkland Student Art Show

PARKLAND'S GOT TALENT \$5 GENERAL ADMISSION 7:00 pm

Parkland is excited to announce the 9th annual Parkland's Got Talent, open to residents of all ages and talents.

Do you have a flair for dance or a juggling prowess?

Does your canine companion do extraordinary tricks?

We want you! Complete contest rules can be found at: www.parklandsd.org/got-talent

Saturday, May 20th

ARTISTS ON THE QUAD 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Kids Crafts
- Arts and Crafts Marketplace
- Elementary, Middle &
- HS Art Exhibit
- Character Parade & Meet and Greets
- Art & Basket Raffle
- Festival Food
- Instrument Exploration
- Indoor Percussion & Colorguard
- Dance Showcases
- Performances by PSD
- Music Ensembles





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Lisa Ervin Executive Director, Parkland Education Foundation ervinl@parklandsd.org 610-351-5572 www.parklandsd.org/foundation



ATTENTION PARENTS OF PARKLAND SENIORS

The Foundation is pleased to announce its GRADUATION LAWN SIGN SALE. Each sign is customized with the senior's name and is available for pick up at PHS mid-May.



DEADLINE TO ORDER is May 8th. Scan the QR code to order and pay for your \$25 sign or visit www.parklandsd.org/foundation



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 4, 2023 Distinguished Alumni Ceremony at Parkland High School 4-5 PM (FREE) Celebration at Lehigh Country Club **6-8 DM** (TICKETED EVENT)

DR. KIMBERLY LEGG CORBA (1985)

Direct Primary Care Family Physician. Owner Green Hills **Direct Family Care**



DR. JAMIE GIAQUINTO (1990)

Principal Cetronia Elementary School



DOUG PATT (1962)

White Company, Realtors



JESSICA HOLTZ STEINBERG (2003)

Co-Head of Professional Basketball at CAA Sports



ANDRE WILLIAMS (2010)

Former Professional Football Player

THE FOUNDATION THANKS ITS CORPORATE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION









AmericanBank





ALVIN H. BUTZ CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 13-15	PHS Spring Musical Oklahoma!, PHS Auditorium
April 16	PHS Spring Musical Oklahoma!, PHS Auditorium
April 26	SMS Chorus Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium
April 26	OMS Band Spring Concert, OMS Auditorium
April 27	OMS Chorus Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium
April 28	MS Orchestra Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium
May 2	SMS Art Show
May 3	PHS Band Concert, PHS Auditorium
May 3	PHS Senior Citizen Dinner, PHS Cafeteria
May 4	OMS Art Show & Jazz Ensemble
May 4	Ed Foundation Distinguished Alumni Celebration
May 5	5th Grade Band & Strings Concert
May 8	SMS Band Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium
May 10	PHS Orchestra Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium
May 10	PHS Senior Citizen Dinner, PHS Cafeteria
May 18	PHS Chorus Spring Concerts, PHS Auditorium
May 18	PHS Student Art Show
May 19	Parkland's Got Talent Show, \$5 Admission, PHS
May 20	20th Annual Festival of the Arts, PHS
June 6	PHS Class of 2022 Commencement, PPL Center





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PARKLAND NEWSLETTER VOLUME 55 NUMBER 3 Published 4x annually in September, January, April and June.

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- Dr. Michelle Minotti, Assistant Superintendent
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Editor, Nicole McGalla

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, visually or hearing impaired, you may qualify for special services/instruction/equipment 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.

