



WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



A Guide for Parents



THE MORNING CALL

**IMPORTANT
DATES**

May Visitation: 5th grade students will tour OMS and SMS during a school day field trip in May.

August 24 - New Student Orientation – a Parkland School Bus picks students up at regular stop and time in the morning to run through a mini schedule (dismissed at 10:45 AM).

August 28 - First Day of School

Educating for Success, Inspiring Excellence

Parkland Middle School Mission Statement

The Parkland Middle School is a collaborative effort of staff, students, and community which together cultivates the uniqueness of adolescents and addresses individual abilities, needs, talents, and interests through a challenging, integrated curriculum in a nurturing and safe environment.

Dr. Mark J. Madson	Superintendent
Dr. Michelle Minotti	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Timothy Chorones	Assistant Superintendent

OREFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

610-351-5750

FAX 610-351-5799

2675 PA Route 309

Orefield, PA 18069

Todd M. Gombos, Principal

Dr. Monica A. Ouly-Uhl, Asst. Principal

Thomas J. Stoudt Jr., Asst. Principal

Darvin Faust School Resource Officer

SPRINGHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL

610-351-5700

FAX 610-351-5748

1200 Springhouse Rd.

Allentown, PA 18104

Dr. Jude Sandt, Principal

Amanda Abdelaal, Asst. Principal

Craig Waters, Asst. Principal

Kevin Azar, School Resource Officer



The Parkland Community

The Parkland School District is located in the semi-metropolitan region known as the Lehigh Valley. The Lehigh Valley region of eastern Pennsylvania is made up of Lehigh and Northampton counties and is home to the three cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, as well as numerous townships and boroughs. With more than 600,000 residents, it is the fastest growing region in the state of Pennsylvania. The Lehigh Valley maintains a strong commitment to educational excellence with six major institutions of higher learning - Cedar Crest College, DeSales University, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Moravian College, and Muhlenberg College. The community holds high expectations for students and programs and strongly supports educational endeavors.

The 72 square miles of the Parkland School District encompass three townships with a total population of approximately 50,000. The district's wide socio-economic range results from it bordering the city of Allentown on the southeast and extending to farmland at the western and northern extremities.

The Parkland School District consists of eight elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school and serves approximately 9,400 students.

Curriculum and Schedule

Parkland Middle Schools start each day at 7:45 AM. Dismissal occurs at 2:38 PM. Our middle schools incorporate a team concept. In 6th grade, students are assigned to a team of two teachers who teach Science, Social Studies, Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts each day. In addition, sixth graders participate in exploratory subjects that include Technology Education, Family Consumer Science, Art and Music which may be in the form of general music, band, chorus or orchestra. Other specials include Health, Physical Education and Information Technology. In seventh grade, students are introduced to world languages.

The middle schools have six marking periods and follow a six-day cycle. There are seven periods included in the schedule each day along with a weekly period for intervention and enrichment.



Students who participate in band or orchestra will receive lessons once every six days. During marking periods 2 and 5, band, chorus, and orchestra rehearsals occur every day to prepare for the winter and spring concerts.

All students receive a Chromebook, charger, and case for educational purposes and are trained on the care of the device so that they can make the most of this technology. Students and parents are encouraged to access Home Access Center (HAC) and Schoology on a daily basis to maximize the educational experience.



School Health Program

State law requires that all sixth graders have a physical examination by May 1st of the sixth grade year. Seventh graders are required to have a dental exam by May 1st of the seventh grade year and also must be up-to-date with tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis and meningitis vaccines. Various health screenings are conducted by the school certified nurse as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. They include vision, hearing, height, weight, scoliosis and Body Mass Index (BMI).



Guidance Services

The Middle School Guidance Department strives to help in the emotional, educational, and academic growth between elementary and high school. Through individual student meetings and parent and teacher consultation, the counseling department addresses issues related to social skills, homework, organization, family concerns, and crisis.

As part of the middle school transition, the counseling department conducts course registration presentations and student meetings to aid the students in selecting classes that meet their academic and/or individual career goals.

In seventh grade, guidance classes address a variety of topics crucial to the development of middle school students. Topics such as tolerance and diversity, career interest and research, drug and alcohol resistance skills, respect, communication, teamwork, and emotional coping skills encompass the guidance curriculum. The career interest/research unit is designed to educate students on the world of work, while they begin to explore their own strengths and interests. Students utilize Xello (<https://xello.world/en/>), an engaging college and career readiness software that equips students with the self-knowledge, skills and confidence to build actionable plans for future success. Xello helps students discover relevant college, university, trade, and career options based on their personality, skills, and knowledge.

The Middle Schools offer a peer tutoring program that allows student volunteers to devote their time and services to help fellow students with academic assistance.

Class Chats are facilitated during various times of the year to allow time for students to discuss bullying-related issues and other social injustice with their teachers and peers. The school shows a commitment to anti-bullying activities during this time and encourages students to take a stand against bullying, discuss distresses and also celebrate our district's diversity.

Parent University

Research shows that when all three partners (teachers, students, and parents) make a commitment to teaching and learning, student success is sure to follow. As one third of the partnership, we will do our part to make middle school a successful experience for your child. We invite you to stay involved and committed to your child's education. Please read monthly email communication from the school principal and plan to attend Parent University workshops that will focus on pertinent topics for parents of middle-schoolers.



Home Access Center

Parkland students and their parents can log on to our secure Home Access Center to view grades and report cards, check attendance, and monitor class work. The link to log on can be found on the district website at www.parklandsd.org. Parent login user name and password information is mailed home at the start of the school year. If you need help at any time, please visit the Home Access Center information page under the Middle School Links on our school home page or email hac@parklandsd.org.

Activities & Clubs

Springhouse and Orefield Middle Schools are pleased to offer co-curricular activities and clubs. Here is a sampling of what is offered:

Academic

- Accelerated Reading Program
- Envirothon
- History Day (7th and 8th grades)
- MATHCOUNTS
- Science Fair
- Spelling Bee
- Science Olympiad
- Coding Club
- STEM Day

Literary/Communication

- Newspaper
- TV Studio
- Yearbook

Social

- Dances
- Field Day
- Game Night
- ARP Auction

Arts

- Theatre Arts
- Fall Play
- Spring Musical
- Orchestra/Honors
- Orchestra
- Band/Jazz Band
- Chorus/Chorale
- Stage Crew

Other Activities

- Library Aides
- Student Council
- Intramural Sports
- Charitable Events



Interscholastic Arts & Athletics

Athletic teams, which compete after school against other middle school teams in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, are picked on a competitive try-out basis and are listed below. These sports are open to all 7th and 8th grade students. Teams practice daily until 4:15 PM during their season and transportation home is provided by the District via school bus.

Sport	Level	Team	Season	Sign-ups
Cheerleading	7th & 8th grade	Combined team	Fall/Winter	May (previous year)
Cross Country	7th & 8th grade	Combined team	Fall sport	May (previous year)
Dance Team	6th, 7th & 8th grade	Combined team	Fall/Winter	May (previous year)
Field Hockey	7th & 8th grade	Combined team	Fall sport	May (previous year)
Football	7th & 8th grade	Combined team	Fall sport	May (previous year)
Girls Volleyball	7th & 8th grade	Separate teams	Fall sport	May (previous year)
Boys Basketball	7th & 8th grade	Separate teams	Winter sport	October
Girls Basketball	7th & 8th grade	Separate teams	Winter sport	October
Wrestling	7th & 8th grade	Combined team	Winter sport	October
Softball	7th & 8th grade	Separate teams	Spring sport	February
Boys Volleyball	7th & 8th grade	Separate teams	Spring sport	February



Middle School Websites

Each middle school has an informative website. Check us out online at www.parklandsd.org for more information about the school curriculum, calendar events, registration information and more. Additionally, to keep parents informed, the middle school principals send home a monthly e-newsletter that includes important information.

Parent Teacher Organizations

Each middle school has an active group of parent volunteers who help organize the Accelerated Reader Auction each spring, fundraise for events and field trips, and provide help in the office. Your time commitment can be a little or a lot, but we encourage everyone to get involved in some capacity. Please visit our websites, which are linked to the school sites, for more information.

2022-23 Fast Facts About Parkland

Enrollment

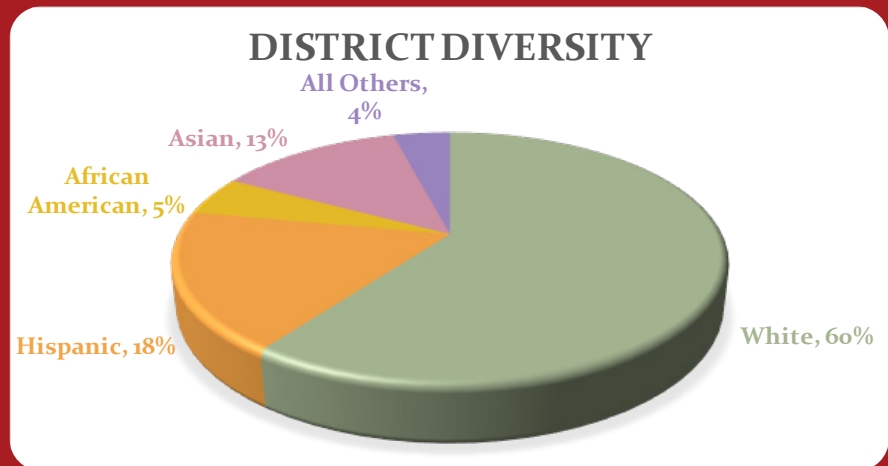
9,852 Parkland School District	923 Orefield Middle School	1,345 Springhouse Middle School	3,220 Parkland High School
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Student Data

32% Eligible for Free/ Reduced Lunch	15% Receiving Special Education Services	5% Receiving Gifted Education Services	322 English Language Learners
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Annual School District Budget \$216 Million

Diversity of the Student Body



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The act defines the term “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Students in homeless situations have the right to:

- Be identified as homeless and receive Title I services
- Be immediately enrolled in school despite their unstable housing situation and despite their inability to produce documents ordinarily required of students who have a permanent residence
- Receive assistance in procuring school records
- Be allowed to stay in the school they attended when they became homeless or the school in which they were last enrolled (called school of origin)
- Be transported from their current place of residence to the school of origin to reduce the need for them to transfer from school to school
- Receive free school breakfast and lunch
- Receive referrals to medical, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services
- Receive assistance in acquiring school supplies, standard dress or uniforms, backpacks, and other provisions needed to succeed in school.

If your family is experiencing housing or food instability, please visit <https://www.parklandsd.org/community/student-and-family-support> for resources and more information on the McKinney-Vento Act.