

NEW

BEGINNINGS...



**THE
KINDERGARTEN**

EXPERIENCE



**PARKLAND
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Educating for Success, Inspiring Excellence

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Cetronia

3635 Broadway, Allentown, PA 18104

610-351-5860

Fogelsville

312 S. Route 100, Breinigsville, PA 18031

610-351-5800

Fred J. Jaindl

1051 Weilers Road, Breinigsville, PA 18031

610-351-5880

Ironton

3135 Levans Road, Coplay, PA 18037

610-351-5810

Kernsville

5051 Kernsville Road, Orefield, PA 18069

610-351-5840

Kratzer

2200 Huckleberry Road, Allentown, PA 18104

610-351-5820

Parkway Manor

768 Parkway Road, Allentown, PA 18104

610-351-5850

Schnecksville

4260 Sand Spring Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078

610-351-5830

WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Kindergarten Parent:

First and foremost, I would like to extend my most sincere welcome to you and your child. You are no doubt just as excited as your little one is to begin this first chapter of his or her educational journey. And that is what it truly is - an adventure that starts the moment they walk through the entrance of their kindergarten room door for the first time and ends with their confident stride out of Parkland High School.

Know that your child is in the best of hands at his or her new elementary school. Our dedicated, well-trained staff and robust curriculum will help this year not only be educationally-rewarding, but also an enjoyable one for your child. We encourage you to stay active in the school and the community, as your schedule allows, and to get to know your child's teacher and other key staff members. When the school and home are working together on behalf of children's needs, there is nothing we can't accomplish.

I hope that you will find "New Beginnings...The Kindergarten Experience" a helpful tool as your child embarks on the exciting experience of Kindergarten. Please feel free to voice any concerns or questions you may have with any of us here at school.

Finally, be assured that Parkland School District is a community dedicated to "educating for success and inspiring excellence." This vision statement guides all staff members throughout the year and is one we are all committed to.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you and your child. Best wishes to your little one for a wonderful school year!

Yours truly,
Richard T. Sniscak
Superintendent of Schools



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to the Parkland School District! The first year of school is certainly a milestone for all young children and their families, and we look forward to working with you and your family to ensure that it is a year filled with many memorable moments. Our Kindergarten classrooms provide a warm, caring learning environment that honors the unique characteristics of each child. Our goal is to help each child uncover a passion for learning and succeed to the best of his or her ability.



This handbook has been prepared to provide you with a glimpse of various Kindergarten experiences and activities in which your child will participate. We hope that you will find it to be a valuable resource in answering many questions that you may have about your child's new school experience.

It is our belief that children succeed through the teamwork of parents and educators. We are excited to work together with you to provide your child with the best learning experience possible and can't wait to get started.

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Jamie Giaquinto, Principal, Cetronia
Lynette Smith, Principal, Ironton
Brenda DeRenzo, Principal, Fogelsville
Diana Schantz, Principal, Fred J. Jaindl

Michael Gehringer, Principal, Kernsville
Karen Aulisio, Principal, Kratzer
Scott Bartman, Principal, Parkway Manor
William Bowen, Principal, Schnecksville



OUR DISTRICT

The Parkland School District is located in a suburban-rural setting approximately 60 miles north of Philadelphia in the region known as the Lehigh Valley. The regional population is approximately 625,000, including Allentown, the fourth largest city in Pennsylvania. The Lehigh Valley International Airport, Interstate 78 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike have attracted numerous industries and commercial businesses to the Lehigh Valley in recent years. With eleven colleges and universities enrolling more than 50,000 students, the Lehigh Valley maintains a strong commitment to educational excellence.

The 72 square miles of the Parkland School District encompass three townships – North Whitehall, South Whitehall and Upper Macungie – and a small portion of Allentown. The cultural advantages of the city and the residential advantages of the suburban-rural lifestyle are readily available to Parkland residents. We have a total population of approximately 9,300 students in kindergarten through grade 12.

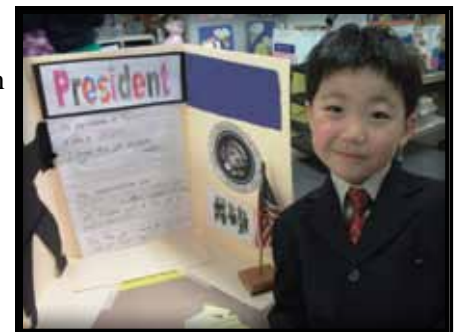


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DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Visual and Performing Arts – Offered at all levels, Parkland features a Visual and Performing Arts Department that includes a series of arts programs ranging from music lessons that start in grade 3 to artists-in-residence who work with children in grades k-12. Each year, over 25 art shows, concerts, plays, and more are brought to the Parkland community by all levels of students. An annual Festival of the Arts is the culminating activity that showcases the entire arts department during a 3-day event.



Elementary World Language Program - This experiential program will provide a rich, multi-sensory, second language environment that takes advantage of your child's energy, curiosity, and natural ability to acquire language. In a relaxed atmosphere, students will begin to develop listening and speaking skills.

Environmental Laboratories – Outdoor sites support the K-12 science curriculum and allow for hands-on enrichment.

Technology Department – A technology team assists in the implementation and coordination of a comprehensive K-12 plan for instructional technology that includes more than 4,300 computers for the district's population of just over 9,000 students.

School Volunteer Program – Approximately 800 volunteers serve the district's ten schools each year. Active Parent-Teacher organizations are involved in every elementary school and provide enrichment opportunities for students as well as family-centered events. We encourage you to get involved.

Library/Media Centers – An excellent center in each school supports the programs of each building. The centers are designed for research purposes. Students, staff and the community have in-house access and home access to many authoritative online research databases.



Blake Shuttle – The world's most unique, most advanced mobile classroom, the Parkland Space Shuttle Blake, has completed many years of educational missions since its completion in 1995. Approximately 4,000 students each year are launched into a multimedia space exploration experience that is unique to Parkland alone.



PARKLAND'S KINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY



The Parkland School District Kindergarten Program is designed and implemented to help each child reach his/her potential in a challenging, yet nurturing environment. Teachers plan engaging activities that meet very strict state and district standards as well as each child's individual needs. Children develop at their own pace with varying strengths, needs and interests. Therefore, the curriculum is designed to support the needs of every learner and address all areas of development including intellectual, social, emotional and physical. The kindergarten classroom is a safe, supportive and welcoming environment. Your child will grow, learn and change in so many ways this year. Your child's teacher will help him or her feel empowered, independent and successful.

As you prepare to send your child off on his/her first day of school, you will feel just as many emotions as your son or daughter. The bus ride, the backpack, the schedules, etc. will all seem overwhelming at first. Allow your child time to relax after school and know that it will take time to adjust to a new school, a new teacher and a new schedule. Please know that your child's kindergarten teacher will be happy to answer any specific questions or concerns you may have at any time.

We are eager to welcome your child to kindergarten and we share your excitement as we go through this amazing year together.

For a complete guide to the kindergarten curriculum, please visit us online at www.parklandsd.org.



MORNING OR AFTERNOON SESSION?



The assignment of a child to either morning or afternoon kindergarten is generally dictated by the established bus routes. Kindergarten buses traverse approximately one half of the district's 72 square miles in the morning and the other half in the afternoon.

Notifying parents whether their child is assigned to morning or afternoon session is a major concern for both school officials and parents. Final assignment decisions cannot be made until August, when school officials are reasonably certain of the number of kindergarten children that must be accommodated on the first day of school.

Parents will be notified by postcard prior to the opening of school with the following information: name of school, bus number, time of return and the bus stop to be used by the child.

To help children locate their bus and to aid bus drivers, ***please have your child wear this postcard for a few days at the beginning of the school year.***

Questions related to the assignment of kindergarten children may be directed to the district transportation office at 610-351-5690.



KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE & ATTENDANCE

Regular Daily Schedule

Morning Session: 8:50 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

Afternoon Session: 12:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Modified Kindergarten/2-Hour Delay

Morning Session: 10:50 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.

Afternoon Session: 1:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Note: Bus pick-up for Afternoon Session students will be approximately 1 hour later than normally scheduled pick-up times.

1:45 PM Early Dismissal (occurs 4 times per year, see calendar for dates)

Morning Session: 8:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

Afternoon Session: 11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Note: Bus pick-up for Afternoon Session students will be approximately 1 hour earlier than normally scheduled pick-up times.

Regular attendance is important for your child to develop a good attitude toward learning and to get the most out of the Kindergarten program. However, if your child is ill, he/she should be kept home until fully recovered. It is very important that ALL PUPILS, kindergarten through grade 5, attend school regularly and be at bus stops on time. When tardiness is frequent, parents will be notified.

Parents are asked to telephone the school Absentee Hotline before 9:00 a.m. for Morning Session Kindergarteners and by 1:15 p.m. for Afternoon Session Kindergarteners on the day of the child's absence stating the reason for the absence. If no call is made to the school, the office will attempt to notify the parent or guardian. A note can be sent to the office prior to the absence. If this is done, there is no need to telephone the Absentee Hotline. After three (3) days of absence, the school nurse, principal, or school secretary may call the home to inquire about the reason for the absence.

Parents will be given an Absentee Hotline magnet during Kindergarten Orientation to help keep the number and schedules handy.

ABSENTEE HOTLINES

Cetronia	610-351-5900 Extension 23711
Fogelsville	610-351-5900 Extension 22711
Fred J. Jaindl	610-351-5888 Extension 28711
Ironton	610-351-5900 Extension 25711
Kernsville	610-351-5900 Extension 27711
Kratzer	610-351-5900 Extension 21711
Parkway Manor	610-351-5900 Extension 26711
Schnecksville	610-351-5900 Extension 24711



SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

Your child's health and safety are of utmost importance to everyone. The goal of the school health service program is to assist in maintaining and improving the health of district students. The school health service provides health supervision, first aid and emergency care for pupils and school personnel. The Parkland School District professional health staff includes certified school nurses and health room paraprofessionals. Various health screenings are conducted by the school district nurses as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health: vision, hearing, height and weight, and dental.

The school health record is initiated at the time of school admission and becomes part of the cumulative health record throughout the child's school career. The district nurses ask that you report any important health information in order to keep the child's record updated.

Parents must complete an Emergency Information Card each year. Alternative telephone numbers are requested in the event of an emergency occurring when the parents are unable to be contacted. Please notify the school of any changes immediately.

Do not send your child to school when the following conditions are present: • A fever of 100 degrees • Vomiting or diarrhea • Severe head cold, persistent cough or severe sore throat

Please notify the school if your child has a contagious disease or condition such as chicken pox, pink-eye, impetigo, or head lice.

Administration of Medication - In the event a child needs medication because of illness, the parent or guardian should try to give the medication before or after school hours.

If a prescribed medication must be administered at school, parents must complete the appropriate forms provided by the school nurse. A physician's note may be required.



NOTE: Medication should be sent in a sealed container and must be labeled with the child's name and grade; the name of the medication; the amount of the medication to be taken; and the time the child must take the medication. It is the parent's responsibility to assure an adequate supply of medication is in the Health Room. Any changes in the dosage or time of administration require new forms to be completed by the parent and/or physician. If your child needs to have prescribed medication with him/her on any field trip, it is the parents' responsibility to personally notify the school nurse before each scheduled field trip so that arrangements can be made to comply with your request.

Any questions regarding the Parkland School District health program can be answered by a school nurse. The nurse may be contacted through the building principal's office.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Support personnel that are available in every building and will be happy to assist you include the following:

- **Student Services** – The Student Services department is comprised of a director, a supervisor of special education, and three special education coordinators. The department also is responsible for overseeing the school nursing staff, guidance counselors, school psychologists, and behavioral support. There is a full time nurse and guidance counselor in each of the elementary buildings.
- **Professional Staff** – The district employs an outstanding staff of approximately 800 educators. More than 60% of the professional staff have earned advanced degrees.
- **Food Services** – All schools provide on-site lunch programs. A food court is available at the high school and middle schools. Students may use a debit card program. Visit www.parklandsd.org/departments/food-services to view menus and prices.
- **Transportation Services** – A district-owned fleet of 150+ vehicles travels 1.6 million miles annually to transport 95% of the student population.



- **Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII)** – The elementary schedule allows for a daily intervention and enrichment block of time that gives struggling students a chance to practice concepts and gives other students instructional opportunities designed to promote problem solving and higher order thinking. The new schedule allows for all students within a grade to attend “specials” together such as art, music, gym and library and in turn, gives teachers across a grade level to have some common planning and collaboration time.
- **Curriculum Services** – Four full-time professionals provide coordination of quality programming K-12 and professional development for all staff.
- **District Remedial Program (DRP)** – DRP is a reading and mathematics reinforcement program available in all elementary and middle schools.
- **Adapted Physical Education** – Modified or remedial activities are provided for all students who cannot participate in the regular program.
- **Reading Specialists** – A full-time certified specialist in each school supports the reading program.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The following items are helpful for your child to know before school starts:

Full Name

Parents' Name

Full Address

Telephone Number

How to Dress Him/Herself

How to Use Toilet Facilities

How to Print First Name - first letter only capitalized

How to Hold and Use Pencil & Scissors



Cooperation and communication between home and school are the keys to a successful educational experience. Some additional helpful hints for parents/guardians include:

- Encourage your child to share the events of the day.
- Be consistent in discipline.
- Give your child responsibilities (making the bed, setting the table).
- Ask about your child's work and display it at home.
- Discuss traffic signals, safety and reinforce bus safety rules with your child.
- Read aloud to your child.
- Take an active part in your child's education. Join the school's parent organization or serve as a school volunteer.
- Support your child through love, security and acceptance.

DAYCARE

Various day care facilities are available within the attendance area of each elementary school and some offer transportation to and from school. Some daycares are serviced by Parkland school buses, while others do not have available transportation to and from our elementary schools. A complete listing of daycares and transportation information is available at www.parklandsd.org/community/day-care. You may also ask your elementary school main office staff for a list of neighborhood daycare centers.



Educating for Success, Inspiring Excellence

1210 Springhouse Road

Allentown, PA 18104

(610)351-5503

www.parklandsd.org

All About Me in Kindergarten

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

School: _____



I am _____ feet and _____ inches tall and weigh _____ lbs.

My favorite books are: _____

My favorite movies are: _____

My favorite songs are: _____

My favorite toys are: _____

My favorite sports are: _____

My favorite vacation spots are: _____

My favorite foods are: _____

PLACE 4x6" PHOTO HERE

My first day of Kindergarten