

# PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

**APRIL 2022** 

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## PARKLAND READS TOGETHER

All nine elementary schools participated in *Parkland Reads Together*, a new program designed to engage readers. Every student received the book *The World According to Humphrey*. Various leaders volunteered to read a chapter so that families could

engage with their students at home while reading the book together. Classrooms also read and discussed the book and did various activities that tied to this book.

Families were invited to share pictures of themselves reading at home and here are some of the ones we received!











## KINDNESS CRUSADE UNITES OUR SCHOOLS

Parkland elementary schools launched Kindness Projects to help unite our community in the fall. The projects were presented at the January School Board Meeting and will be on display at this year's Festival of the Arts on May 21st at Parkland High School. We hope you can join us for that very special event when we will have art on display, festival food for sale, artist vendors and music and dance performances. Here is a list of the special projects that our elementary schools completed:

- Cetronia collected money for Camp Smile, a summer camp for kids with cancer organized by the Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley.
- Fogelsville made art to don the walls at a new St. Luke's Pediatric facility.
- Jaindl raised funds to help the Sanctuary at Haafsville, a local animal shelter.
- Kernsville organized a car wash for first responders.
- Veterans Memorial collected shoes, clothing and supplies for foster children and painted kindness rocks for the The Kindness Project, an organization helping foster families that is based in Emmaus.
- Schnecksville organized a Kindness Closet by taking in gently used clothing, washing it and setting up a free shop that allowed families in need to take what they needed at no cost (pictured at right).
- Kratzer created and shared seed pops and planted some in a garden and shared the harvest with community members.
- Ironton collected school uniform pieces for Allentown School District's Ramos Elementary
  School
- Parkway Manor students decorated river rocks with positive messages and each class distributed them at locations within the community in hopes of brightening another person's day.





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Robert B. Heintzelman, Supervisor 4906 Route 309 Schnecksville, PA 18078 (610) 799-3125 www.heintzlemancares.com



## **TEACHER SPOTLIGHT:**

## MARLANDA BIRNS, ART TEACHER, FOGELSVILLE ELEMENTARY





Back in 2017, proceeds raised from Festival of the Arts were used to provide all Parkland art teachers with iPads and digital pencils. Art teachers then had the opportunity to learn and play with the creative tools, but were unable to scale an idea out to an entire class for students to learn them. Fast forward to this school year when our technology department transitioned 1st graders from iPads to Chromebooks. They then gave the iPads to the art teachers to use with their classes since iPads contain so many creative apps. The pictures at left are an awesome example of how our very creative Fogelsville art teacher, Marlanda Birns, used them with her students. She tested the durability and usability of Logitech Crayons, which are versatile, pixel-precise digital pencils that can be used to draw on iPads. They learned about three famous works of art: *Mona Lisa* by DaVinci, *The Scream* by Munch and *The Thinker* by Rodin. They talked about the cultural references that these three works of art have had on society just because of their pose! For example, Macaulay Culkin strikes the "scream face" in the movie *Home Alone*.





Each student had to 'strike' one of the three poses and Mrs. Birns snapped their photo in the Colorscape app. The students then had to transform their pose using the tools within the app. Some of the tools and techniques they had to use were zooming in/out for details, changing brush sizes and blending colors with the use of the Logitech Crayons. The Logitech Crayons added a whole new level of complexity when adding smaller details.

Mrs. Birns was overjoyed with her students' creativity and the students were very excited to try the Logitech Crayons. She stated, "I feel the lesson was a great success: creativity was achieved, art history was learned and technology was used in the art room."

The photos from upper left and clockwise are by: Nayaeli Bali, Mark Malate, Matthew Albarracin and Carly Kudryk.

## WELCOME NEW SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS





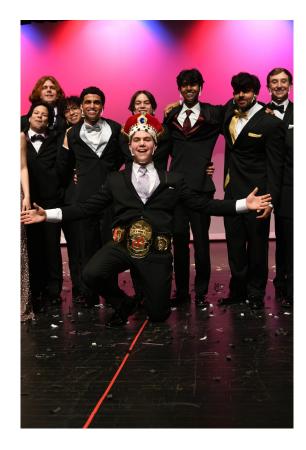


The Parkland School Board welcomed Jarrett Coleman, Annette Wilcox and Jay Rohatgi to the School Board as David Kennedy, Bob Bold and Linda Perlman-McKenna departed from the Board. We thank them for their volunteer service and commitment to Parkland Schools.

Also, David Hein, President of the Parkland Board of School Directors, began a new role as President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association this year, taking on a state leadership role in addition to his leadership at Parkland.

We thank everyone for their volunteer service to this community.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. PARKLAND 2022**





Congratulations to Jared Sussman, this year's Mr. Parkland! He is seen dancing with escort Natasha Tretter during the Mr. Parkland contest on February 12th at Parkland High School. Ten seniors started the evening with an opening group dance followed by the swimsuit contest. Next was the talent contest with each young man showing his unique skill. Following the talent contest, it was time for the formalwear presentation and the individual dances.

Contestants included: Priyanshu Dey; Shlok Dholakia; Wesley Engelbert; Michael Glick; Justin Minyety; Noah Rode; Jamian Roman; Marcus Shin; Ollie Stroup and Jared Sussman.

Special thanks to this year's judges: Landon Annoni, PHS Class of 2017 and Celebrity Fashion Archivist; Joe Sibilia, PHS Class of 2014 and producer of The Joe Piscopo Show; Andre Williams, PHS Class of 2010 and 4-year veteran of the NFL and owner of AW Selvedge Denim; and Parkland parent Melanie Falcon of Channel 69 News. Thanks also to C.E. Roth who provided the formalwear.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of Mr. Parkland.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parkland Community,

Welcome Spring! This has been a long and cold winter, but spring has sprung and a return to normalcy is abound in Parkland Schools. As of February 14th, masks are no longer required at school. The community shifted from a winter spike in COVID-19 cases to a dramatic decline in cases and transmission rates. This has been welcome news and the students and staff are excited about returning to a more normal environment. The District is pleased to announce that it is planning spring field trips, field days, a Prom and Post Prom Party, 8th Grade trips to Camp Fowler, the 19th Annual Festival of the Arts, elementary spring festivals, senior citizen dinners and so much more as we resume normal operations. While I was so impressed with how our schools were able to build community connections by holding events with staggered visits and outdoor events in the fall, I know everyone is ecstatic to be able to mix and mingle in a more normal way this spring and we are so excited for all that Parkland has in store for this community. Please review this newsletter for information about our many offerings and plan to join us for a concert, activity, class or festival.

Our School Board and Administrative Team are in budget planning mode 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 3.4%. Revenue is trending in a positive direction as real estate values remain strong and our neighbors in corporate industry are performing well. Of course, the rising cost of fuel oil and general supplies is a definite concern for all of us as we prepare to estimate costs for next school year. The Governor has earmarked \$13.5M in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSERS) funds to help Parkland subsidize learning loss initiatives and infrastructure upgrades in the wake of COVID-19. However, there is uncertainty about the House and Senate adopting the proposal. We are still waiting to see how much will be distributed once the state passes its final budget. 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.

While the pandemic may have slowed things down in certain areas of the economy, I can tell you that construction plans in Parkland have not slowed at all. Schnecksville Elementary School is wrapping up an extensive renovation project and new addition with plans to demolish the original main entrance area this summer. In that entrance space, we will install a wonderful outdoor learning courtyard with a synthetic turf surface that we are confident the staff and students will be able to use extensively. The new Bus Garage/Transportation Office that replaced the one that burned in a fire several years ago was completed in March, offering the ability for our Transportation staff to move on campus from the Troxell Building and now be on site with all of the buses. Furthermore, we will begin an addition to Kratzer Elementary School later this spring to help us account for an increase in student enrollment.

I am happy to report that, in addition to the Kindness Crusade Projects listed on the front page, our 16th Annual District-wide Food Drive was able to occur in February where we collected more than 12,000 items for our school food pantries and school snack pack programs which are given to students in need. Additionally, we successfully completed a Parent Reunification Drill that allowed us to plan for emergencies.

Spring has marked the time when the Parkland Pride Award nomination forms open. 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 do that at www.parklandsd.org/ParklandPride.

I am continuing to get to know all of the wonderful people in the Parkland community. In February, I held a Legislator Breakfast to get to know our local lawmakers. As noted in this newsletter, I was part of the team in the District to reach an early agreement with the support staff union that has enabled us to ratify a two-year contract extension. That, alongside the teacher union contract announced last winter, will ensure labor peace for years to come and I am thankful for the collaborative environment that allowed for both of those contracts to be approved by all parties. We have some long-time employees retiring and all four of our core leadership team members will be new within one year, so interviewing and planning how the new organization will operate to best meet this community's future needs has also been a huge priority.

While the school year has been challenging, hope is in the air and our students are doing great things, whether in academic competitions, on the athletic field or on stage. I invite you to follow us on social media to keep abreast of the many achievements.

Best wishes,

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



Follow me on Twitter @ParklandSupt

# KEY DATES IN THE 2022-23 BUDGET TIMELINE

APRIL 29 – Budget Seminar - Board Meeting where budget is reviewed in detail with Administration and Board

MAY 17 – Adoption of Proposed Final Budget

JUNE 10 - District newsletter is mailed out to all residents and includes Budget Overview

JUNE 21– Adoption of Final Budget by the School Board



# CHECK OUT THE #PARKLANDPRIDE PODCAST With DR. MARK MADSON

LISTEN TO THE EPISODES AT WWW.PARKLANDSD.ORG/SUPERINTENDENTMADSON



## A FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

### ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Mental health has become a major concern for students and adults alike as we've weathered the pandemic. In Parkland, staff have received training with the goal of developing "trauma sensitive school" environments. The focus has been on helping staff understand the warning signs of mental health issues, techniques and protocols in which to address them, and the importance of providing a positive classroom environment for all. Two years ago, Pennsylvania rolled out the Safe2Say Something Anonymous Reporting System, which is state-mandated for all schools. It enables students, teachers, school administrators and others to learn how to detect and report potential threats of violence (to self and others) and other problems before they occur. Once a report is made, it is reviewed by a crisis center analyst, triaged, and sent to law enforcement and school officials (as needed). The key is to make sure the student is safe and that support is provided, if needed. All staff and students receive yearly training about how to utilize this program and our community is utilizing this service.





To register, please visit

www.sluhn.org and search the Events Calendar

for the session and registration link.

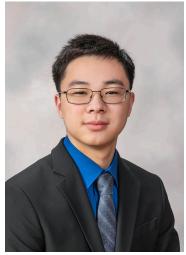
In Parkland, there are a variety of resources that assist students. At the elementary level, students participate in the *MindUP Program*. This program gives students mental fitness "tools" to utilize when they experience emotional or behavioral challenges. The *MindUP Program* teaches the strategies and skills children need to find optimism, build resilience and create solutions for life's challenges. Each Parkland School has a certified school counselor and school psychologist who incorporate research based programs to assist students with emotional and/or behavioral challenges, traumatic experiences, social skills, self-care and overall wellness. *Student Assistance Program (SAP)* teams are also available in all Parkland Schools for those who are experiencing challenges that may require outside services. The SAP team meets with parents to discuss various outside programs and assists parents in securing those supports.

Supports at the secondary level include SAP and also various seminars that are run by trained school counselors. The seminars include, but are not limited to: Mindfulness, Conflict Resolution, Reducing Test-taking Anxiety and Support for Students Exposed to Trauma. The More Than Sad Program is offered during 7th and 9th grade health classes. This is a suicide awareness and prevention program that focuses on helping students understand mental health and where to go for help if they or a friend may need it. The Mentoring Program is another program offered at Parkland High School. Students who are referred to this program are paired with a counselor or teacher who provide guidance and supports that may be needed. In addition to these programs, the district partners with St. Luke's to offer YESS Program services. The YESS Program, Your Emotional Strength Supported, provides therapy via a licensed St. Luke's clinician at OMS, SMS and PHS during school hours.

If you feel any of these services would benefit your child, please reach out to your child's school counselor. We will have more information for families at our Health and Wellness Symposium on May 14th, 9 AM - 12 Noon, at PHS. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

## PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### **VICTOR CAI AND ALEX FORGOSH**



Victor Cai represented himself and Parkland in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2022, a prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors. Scholars were chosen based on their exceptional research skills, commitment to academics, innovative thinking and promise as scientists as demonstrated through the submission of their original, independent research projects, essays and recommendations. The top 40 finalists competed in Washington, D.C. on March 15th where Victor won 2nd place and a \$175,000 scholarship.

Victor created a short-range, narrow-bandwidth radar that calculates distance by transmitting two signals at different frequencies and then measuring the phase difference between them. By combining a multiple frequency continuous wave radar algorithm with software that replaces specialized hardware and then writing additional algorithms to correct inaccurate readings, he created a radar accurate to within 12 cm. Victor's research could help pave the way for more self-driving vehicles on the road with less concern over bandwidth.

Alexander Forgosh is one of 150 high school seniors who will each receive a \$20,000 Coca-Cola college scholarship and join a family of more than 6,600 alumni who are leading positive change in their communities and around the world.



Less than 1/4th of 1% of applicants were chosen to receive this extremely competitive award. The 150 students, who were selected from an initial pool of more than 68,000 applications from across the country, not only exemplify superior leadership, service and academics, they are change agents, positively affecting others in their communities.

Alex is a member of the Lehigh University High School Scholars Program, Lacrosse Team Captain, President of the Latin Club, and Senior Editor and Co-founder of the International Outlook Journal focused on global events and trends. He is the Regional President of Liberty Region BBYO (a Jewish teen movement intended to build the identity of Jewish teens and offer leadership development programs), a firefighter with the Tri-Clover Fire Department, an Intern with StandWithUs (an international and non-partisan Israel education organization) and a lifeguard at Kaybrook Swim Club. His volunteer involvement is with the HEADstrong Foundation (a non-profit organization that offers financial, residential and emotional support to families affected by cancer), Lehigh Valley Women's 5K Classic, Israeli National Lacrosse Team and the Boys and Girls Club of Allentown.

Congratulations Victor and Alex! We can't wait to see where you go next after graduating from Parkland this June!



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## PARKLAND SENIOR CITIZEN CLASSES

## **REGISTER at WWW.PARKLANDSD.ORG/SENIORS**





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 11, 2022, online at www.parklandsd.org/seniors.

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 11th. Kindly refrain from contacting the office until after April 13th if you have not yet received confirmation. Thank you.

#### WATER AEROBICS

**Parkland High School Pool** Wednesdays, April 13-June 1, 6:00-7:00 PM Saturdays, April 23-June 4, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (No Class 5/21)

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. This class is being sponsored by Upper Macungie Township. Swimmers should enter through the lower entrance at the back of the Athletic Wing. The classes will be held in the Parkland High School Pool located at 2700 North Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104.

#### **QIGONG** (pronounced "chee gong")

**Parkland Administration Center Board Room** Wednesdays, April 13-May 25, 9:30-10:30 AM

Qigong is an exercise for health and longevity and an essential part of Classical Chinese Medicine. Qigong focuses on coordinating one's intention, breath and movement. No equipment is needed; the exercises are done standing. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothing that allows free movement. Maximum of 30 participants. The Parkland Administration Center is located at 1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104.

#### **ZUMBA GOLD**

**Kernsville Elementary Gym** Thursdays, April 21-May 25, 4:30-5:30 PM

Zumba Gold is a dance fitness class designed for the active senior and will be taught by a certified instructor who is volunteering her time to teach Parkland seniors. The class will feature dance routines set to Latin music as well as some pop hits. The class includes easy to follow low-impact moves, great rhythms and lots of FUN! Come join the party! Kernsville Elementary School is located at 5051 Kernsville Road, Orefield, PA 18069.

#### INTRO TO THE IPHONE

**Parkland Administration Board Room** Monday, April 25, 5:00-7:00 PM (Doors will open at 4:50

Your iPhone can link you to so much in the world today! However, how to use it and all its options can be overwhelming. This course is designed to help you learn how to use your iPhone. The topics covered will include making phone calls, FaceTime, texting, downloading and using apps, how to navigate your phone and more! This class will be taught by Parkland staff member Jared Howard. You MUST have an iPhone, this class is not for Android phones. Maximum of 20 participants. The Parkland Administration Center is located at 1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104.

#### **GOOGLE INTRODUCTION CLASS**

**Troxell Computer Lab** Monday, May 2, 5:00-7:00 PM

Google is one of the top internet brands in today's age. There are countless things you can use Google for such as saving files (with basically unlimited space!), video chatting with friends, saving passwords, as well as sharing documents, calendars and so much more. This class will show you easy ways to navigate Google Drive, Gmail and many other applications that Google has to offer. There will be computers provided for the class. Maximum of 15 participants. You MUST already have a Gmail account to participate. This class will be taught by Parkland staff member Jared Howard. The Troxell Building is located at 2219 North Cedar Crest Boulevard, Allentown, PA 18104.

AARP is offering online Safe Driver courses along with other online course offerings at aarpdriversafety.org.



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# SENIOR CITIZENS INVITED TO SPRING DINNER AND CONCERT

**SPONSORED BY:** 





ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW.PARKLANDSD.ORG/SENIORS

Join us for one of our most popular spring concert events this year! Parkland Senior Citizens are invited to enjoy a FREE dinner at Parkland High School and then adjourn to the auditorium for some great music by talented student musicians. Seniors can choose to attend the Parkland High School Band Concert on Wednesday, May 4th, or the Parkland High School Orchestra Concert on Wednesday, May 11th.

On both nights, doors open at 5 PM in the Parkland High School cafeteria. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM and the concerts begin at 7 PM. Residents should select only one so that we can host as many people as possible.

Reserve a seat at

## www.parklandsd.org/seniors

NOTE: ALL GUESTS MUST BE 55 OR OLDER AND RESIDE WITHIN THE PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT.

PLEASE CALL 610-351-5578 IF YOU DO NOT HAVE COMPUTER ACCESS AND WE WILL ASSIST YOU.

For any questions pertaining to the Senior Citizen Program at Parkland, please contact our Office of Community Relations at 610-351-5578.



## 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 2022. Applications can be downloaded from the web at <a href="https://www.parklandsd.org/departments/business-administration/senior-citizen-tax-rebate">https://www.parklandsd.org/departments/business-administration/senior-citizen-tax-rebate</a>.

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.

The deadline for filing is June 30th.



## PARKLAND FINALIZES SUPPORT CONTRACT

The Parkland School District Board of School Directors and the Parkland Education Support Professionals Association (PESPA) reached a two-year contract extension for the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. PESPA includes approximately 650 Parkland support staff, including bus drivers, hall monitors, teaching assistants, paraprofessionals, custodial, maintenance, cafeteria, secretarial, computer/data/financial technicians and other part-time support staff.

The contract includes an annual salary increase of 3% for the two-year term of the contract for all employees. Healthcare insurance employee contributions will remain frozen during the two-year period. Bus Drivers will continue to be eligible for bonuses related to the number of days they drive a bus throughout the school year, which is part of a new incentive program that was started in January 2022.



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

## **GRADUATION LAWN SIGN SALE**



#### 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 the week of May 23rd.

**DEADLINE TO ORDER is May 18th.** 

Visit our website to order and pay for your \$25 sign online at www.parklandsd.org/foundation



**Joseph Bergstein (1989) Executive Vice President and Chief** Financial Officer, PPL Corporation

Erin Bried (1992) Founder and Editor Kazoo Magazine/ Author

For ticket and sponsorship information: www.parklandsd.org/foundation



Camelot for Children, Good Shepherd, Veterans' organizations and countless

**Bryan Knouse (2009)** Co-Founder/CEO, Project OWL

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PHS Spring Musical MAMMA MIA!, PHS Auditorium 7:30 PM April 20-23 PHS Spring Musical MAMMA MIA!. PHS Auditorium 3 PM April 24 April 27 SMS Chorus Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium 7 PM April 28 OMS Chorus Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium 7 PM April 29 MS Orchestra Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium 7 PM May 2 OMS Band Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium 7 PM SMS Art Show 6 PM May 3 PHS Band Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium May 4 7 PM 5:30 PM May 4 PHS Senior Citizen Dinner, PHS Cafeteria May 5 Ed Foundation Distinguished Alumni Celebration 4 PM May 5 **OMS Art Show** 6 PM May 6 5th Grade Band & Strings Concert, PHS Auditorium 7:30 PM May 11 PHS Orchestra Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium 7 PM PHS Senior Citizen Dinner, PHS Cafeteria May 11 5:30 PM May 12 SMS Band Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium 7 PM May 14 Parkland Health & Wellness Symposium, PHS 9 AM - 12 PM May 19 PHS Student Art Show 6-8 PM May 19 PHS Chorus Spring Concert, PHS Auditorium 6:30 & 8 PM May 20 Parkland's Got Talent Show, \$5 Admission, PHS 7 PM May 21 19th Annual Festival of the Arts, PHS 10 AM-4 PM June 7 PHS Class of 2022 Commencement, PPL Center 7 PM







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PARKLAND NEWSLETTER -

1210 SPRINGHOUSE ROAD, ALLENTOWN, PA 18104

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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.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE CALL (610) 351-5630.