



## PARKLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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August 26<sup>th</sup> , 2020

Dear Parkland Parents;

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope that all of our families enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer. I know that the news around back to school may have left you with questions. I want to share an overview of what school will look like at Parkland, and I hope this helps answer some of those questions.

Public Health guidelines have required elementary schools to maintain learning cohorts of no more than 60. ***We are very fortunate at our school in that our entire population can be one learning cohort for the year with approximately 45 students and 9 staff members.*** What does this mean? While most of the school day students will be in their own classrooms, the whole school can interact from time to time as long as we include good management around physical distancing and hand washing. Students will still be able to enjoy breaks outside and share in activities with other classrooms. Teachers will be implementing good classroom management strategies to reduce crowding in areas like hallways, and each classroom will continue to have its own entrance into the building and assigned washrooms. Classroom routines will be in place to ensure regular handwashing occurs, and physical space is given for individuals in student work areas.

At this time, masks will **not** be mandatory for students at our school. This is because we are one learning cohort. High school students will be required to wear masks on the bus, but not elementary students. Individuals outside of our cohort may be required to wear a mask.

Maintaining and protecting our learning cohort at Parkland will help us to ensure proper cleaning occurs, and it will aid with contact tracing, should that be required. ***Part of maintaining our cohort will require us to limit outside visitors in the building.*** This means that our outside doors will remain locked during the day, if parents require a meeting with a teacher, please call ahead and make an appointment. If there is an emergency and you need to pick up or see your child, please call and leave a message if we cannot get to the phone, and let us know you are coming. Picking up and dropping off students will be done outside the building. Parents of *students who are on IEP's and require parent support as a part of their programing will be permitted in the school. Those parents will be contacted and guidelines will be in place.*

**The most important part of our return to school plan involves you, the parents.** We need your help with checking your child every morning to make sure they are feeling well. If they are not feeling well, they need to stay home. If your child has a preexisting condition that causes them to exhibit flu like symptoms from time to time (for examples allergies) please make sure you notify myself and/or your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year.

***If your child suddenly develops illness at school, we will contact you immediately and arrange for pickup of your child.*** Sick children will be required to wait for their parents in an isolated spot in the office. Any medical support that your child needs will be at your discretion.

The **first day of school for students will be a half day** on September 10<sup>th</sup>, this day will 2 hour delayed start and 1-hour early dismissal (10:15am to 1pm) September 11<sup>th</sup> will be **the first full day for students** (8:15am to 2pm). Kindergarten students will be slightly different, and Ms. Maclellen will be contacting those parents on September

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to book appointments for students to come in with their parents on the 10<sup>th</sup>.  
***All kindergartens will start full day full time on September 11<sup>th</sup>.***

Guidelines for buses are being developed by the Bus Garage, please watch for information on that. We are still working on a plan for hot lunch, Strongstart, PAC meetings and sports teams. Those decisions will be made at a later date.

Over the next week I will be confirming our classlists for the year. **Please let me know if your child will be returning in September, or if you have moved to another catchment over the summer.** Starting August 31<sup>st</sup> the school will be open from 9am to 2:30pm, please remember to call ahead and book an appointment if you need to come in.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions please feel free to email me or call the school next week.

K.Rose  
Principal  
Parkland Elementary