



Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology

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Dear Parkland Magnet Middle School Families:

On behalf of the entire Parkland Magnet Middle school staff, I would like to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year! As I begin my first year as principal of Parkland Magnet Middle School, I look forward to working with the students, staff, and families to ensure the academic and social-emotional success of all students. Our goal is to continue providing a rigorous and engaging instructional program that provides multiple opportunities for students to learn and develop their critical thinking skills which will prepare them for high school. We will also look to enhance our community partnerships to provide students with real world experiences and opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. In this way, we will achieve our vision of every student experience success at Parkland. Every student, whatever it takes!

Instructional Focus

Parkland's Instructional Leadership Team met in July and attended several trainings to plan for the upcoming school year. During this time, we revisited our "why" of teaching and what we hope all of our students will be able to learn and do when they leave middle school for high school and beyond. We also analyzed data from parents, students, and staff, including classroom, county and state assessments, in order to create our instructional goals for this school year. As we continue to develop our School Improvement Plan (SIP), we will continue to collaborate with students, staff, and families to ensure there is alignment with our school vision and clear action steps to accomplish these goals.

PTSA

One of the cornerstones of an effective school is a high level of parent participation and involvement. The primary vehicle for parental involvement in schools is the Parent Teacher Student Association, or PTSA. We are very pleased to have a great group of parents assuming leadership roles in your PTSA. Mrs. Laura Mitchell will be our PTSA President and she will be working with parents and teachers to increase overall participation.

New Student Orientation

There will be a new student orientation on Thursday, August 29, 2019 from 8:15 am to 12:00 pm. A regular bus schedule will run that day. If your student rides the bus, carefully look at the bus schedules on the school's website. New parents and families, please join me on the morning August 29, 2019 from 8:15 am to 8:45 am in the media center. All returning students can come back to school on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

First Week of School

The first day of school is on **Tuesday, September 3, 2019** from 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Upon arrival to school during the first week of school:

- Grade 6 Students will report directly to the cafeteria and sit by their Homerooms.
- Grade 7 and Grade 8 students will report to the gym and sit by their Homerooms.

Drop-off and Pick-up

Parents who drive their child to/from school are strongly encouraged to drop their children at the front of the building. Students can be dropped off in the morning as early as 7:50 a.m. unless a previous arrangement is made with a teacher. Cars entering the parking lot should follow the traffic around to the front of the building, then continue around the loop to the exit. In the morning, there is no parking allowed anywhere along the parent drop-off loop and driveway and no standing at the entrance to the loop. Please note that the driveway to the left of the school as you are facing the school, is for school bus use only and is not to be used as a drop-off area. Blue lined parking spaces are only available after the buses leave during the day until 2:00 p.m. on regular school days. Please pick up your children promptly at dismissal at 3:00 p.m.

Athletics (7th and 8th Graders)

This is reminder to all 7th and 8th grade parents that if your child is going to tryout/play sports this year, they MUST have physicals on file before tryouts. This is an MCPS requirement. All forms are located on the Parkland website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/parklandms/athletics/>. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Brendan Flanagan at Brendan_T_Flanagan@mcpsmd.org.

Vaccinations for 7th Graders

All incoming 7th grade students need to have these required vaccines: Meningococcal (MCV4) & Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis/whooping cough). Please turn in all vaccination forms, if you have not already done so, into the main office at the school this summer.

Food and Nutrition Services Program Information

Students who were eligible for FARMS (Free and Reduced-Meals System) during the 2018-2019 school year are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals through October 16, 2019, or until a new application is processed. This provides benefits to eligible students while the applications are being processed for this year. Once the 2019-2020 applications are processed, that eligibility determination carries through the school year or until another application is processed.

Application Process:

- ***Online applications:*** For faster processing, households are encouraged to apply online at www.MySchoolApps.com
- ***Scanned Paper Applications:*** In order to decrease processing time, the 2019-2020 applications have been redesigned and will be electronically scanned. Due to this change, only ORIGINAL applications can be processed.
- Use only one application (online or paper) for all children in a household who attend MCPS, even if the students attend different schools.
- As a federal government information on the application changes every year, only 2019-2020 applications may be used.

If you have any further questions about the new online/paper application process please contact MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) at 301 284-4900.

Summer Reading and Math Packets

As summer is a great time to have fun and relax, it is also a time for students to prepare for the upcoming school year by completing their summer math and reading packets. Teachers will be asking students for these packets when they return to school.

I encourage you to make our website, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/parklandms/>, your home page or a favorite bookmark. We work very hard to keep all the information you need posted there. You can also follow us on Twitter @PMMSPanthers.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as we work together to provide a world class education for all of our students at Parkland Magnet Middle School. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the school for further information. Please mark your calendar for our **Back to School Night on Thursday, September 26, 2019.**

Sincerely,



Aaron Shin
Principal