



PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parkdale Scholars and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! It's hard to believe but it's that time of the year again. With the beginning of the 2021-22 school year just two weeks away, we are just as excited and eager as you to return to the building, five days a week, to engage our scholars in rigorous, student-centered activities and instruction. We will welcome new and returning students back to in-person learning on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. *We are committed to leading change, challenging minds and transforming lives!*

Safe and Supportive School Environment

Like you, we are closely watching COVID-19 infection cases rise across the United States. While we want to assure you we are doing our utmost to follow mitigation strategies from our School System, the CDC, and the US. Department of Education, we also want to share some strategies you can use to help support keeping everyone safe at home starting now.

1. Mask wearing - all PGCPS students, staff, and visitors are required to wear masks while on PGCPS property.
2. Ventilation Improvements - like last year, PGCPS will continue to work hard to monitor and improve the ventilation in all school buildings. As a result, all of our ventilation systems have MERV-13 filters installed, which assist with providing cleaner air. In addition, air purifiers have been placed in classrooms with windows that do not open.
3. Hand washing etiquette - we will again be asking our scholars to wash their hands every two hours.
4. We will continue to encourage social distancing practices in our classrooms and cafeteria. All students, staff, and visitors are required to wear a face-covering at all times, except when eating and drinking. In addition, all PGCPS staff must be fully vaccinated and/or submit to weekly COVID testing. Also, all students age 12 and up are encouraged to get the vaccination.
5. Checking for symptoms at home - PGCPS will continue to support contact tracing as an important part of continuing to limit the spread of COVID-19. Self-monitoring by staff and students in case of signs of illness is a part of that practice. We need you to continue to be vigilant in checking scholars before they come to school each day. Please keep your child at home if there are any signs of these [symptoms](#). Should we need to call you to pick up a child with any of these symptoms, we need you to have a plan in place to arrive at the school in 60 minutes or less. If you cannot make it in that time, make sure you have identified the name of multiple individuals authorized to pick up your child on emergency contact sheets given out at the start of the school year.

Student Identification Badges

Student IDs and pictures will be taken for all students on **Monday, August 30th** for students with last names A through H, **Tuesday, August 31st** for students with last names I through Q and **Wednesday, September 1st** for students with last names R through Z from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students must be in uniform shirts and wear a face mask.

Student Orientation

Parkdale High School will host an in-person orientation on Friday, September 3, 2021. All 9th grade, 10th grade, and new students are encouraged to attend. Students will be transported to Parkdale via school bus. During the orientation, students will have an opportunity to meet teachers/staff, review classroom expectations and tour the building. Students are expected to be in full uniform, which consists of khaki colored pants, shorts and/or skirt, a white, black or green polo shirt with collar, a face mask that covers their entire nose and mouth and a student ID.

School Uniforms

With our return to in-person learning, we are returning to being a mandatory uniform school. The mandatory uniform consists of khaki colored pants, shorts and/or skirt, and a white, black or green polo shirt with collar. Please refer to the [Parkdale High School website](#) to view our uniform expectations commercial.

Staying Engaged and Connected

PGCPS alert system called [School Messenger](#) is an important means of school-to-home communication. All contact information in this alert platform is imported directly from the School Max Family portal. It is important that we have the correct phone numbers, email, and home addresses for your scholar. Click here to learn how to [register](#), reset your password, or change your [address information](#).

Student Technology

Prince George's County Public Schools has become a one-on-one device district during the Worldwide Pandemic. Labeled devices and chargers need to be carefully carried from home to school each day. Only PGCPS devices will be able to access the internet at school. For those of you who have yet to receive a PGCPS device from either Parkdale High School or a previous school, we will facilitate the distribution (or redistribution) of devices during the first two weeks of school. [Click here](#) to read the PGCPS student device usage agreement that we ask you to sign upon receipt of a device. It outlines your liability for non-working devices. It is our understanding that cases will be arriving for Chromebooks to help protect them in bookbags and classrooms, but remember it is your child's responsibility to keep them clean and functioning.

Breakfast and Lunch Information

Meals will be free for all students regardless of meal benefit status for school year 21-22. Students will receive breakfast and lunch in school and a pre-packaged after-school supper meal to take home. Free and reduced meal applications are now available online at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>. Although meals are free for all students, we ask that all families still complete the application, because the eligibility for school meals is used to determine eligibility for Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and other district-sponsored programs.

Transportation

Transportation information for the 2021-2022 school year will be available beginning Monday, August 23, 2021. Please make sure your address and contact information is correct in [Scribbles](#), no later than Friday, August 20, 2021, in order to be assigned a bus for the first day of school on Wednesday, September 8th. The postcards with students' bus information for the 2021-2022 school year will be mailed out on Monday, August 23, 2021. They will be sent to the latest address you have provided for the school registrar in School Max. Scholars living more than 1.5 miles from school should qualify for transportation. Beginning Monday, August 23, 2021 you can check on bus stop locations [here](#). Once a bus has been assigned, you can contact the lot that the bus originates from with any concerns or questions. Those numbers can be found [here](#). In addition, Transportation will be using a new phone app called Stop Finder which is available in the [Google Play](#) and [Apple](#) App stores to track where buses are in real-time.

There's a lot of excitement ahead of us, including new teachers to meet, new books to read, new friends to meet and new skills to master...and I look forward to you sharing in those exciting times. With all stakeholders' working together, we know our scholars will be ready to meet the demands of the 21st Century!

Please help us to ensure your scholar's academic success by:

- making attendance to school a priority - instruction begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. daily.
- expecting and monitoring homework Monday through Friday and projects on a regular basis.
- monitoring weekly academic progress through SchoolMAX.
- allotting time for reading and reviewing lessons on a nightly basis.
- communicating on a regular basis with teachers.
- stressing the importance of following all school policies and procedures.
- Remaining respectful and appropriate while participating in virtual learning.

Parents, for the remainder of the summer, please encourage your child to continue to read, complete summer homework packets, earn community service hours, research scholarships, colleges and universities, gather information for FAFSA, practice SAT/ACT questions on Khan Academy, and explore other educational opportunities.

We look forward to a very positive and productive year. Parent(s)/Guardian(s), we want, we need, and we value your involvement and support in your scholar's education, for it is key to the success of all of our Parkdale Panthers. Thank you for your commitment to your child's education.

Important Dates to Remember

- **August 27, 2021** - SchoolMax Family Portal opens
- **September 3, 2021** - Student Orientation (½ day) In-Person
- **September 6, 2021** - final day to file a formal grade appeal for the 4th Quarter of the last school year. Please direct all appeals by email to the classroom teacher and copy Mr. Garrett Tucker, Assistant Principal.
- **September 8, 2021** - First Day of School for all scholars.
- **September 16, 2021** - Schools and Offices Closed
- **September 22, 2021** - Virtual Back to School Night

Sincerely,

Tasha Graves

Dr. Tasha Graves
Principal