



Parkside Elementary School • August 3, 2017

# PANDA PAW

404-802-4100 • [atlantapublicschools.us/parkside](http://atlantapublicschools.us/parkside)

## Message From Our Principal



I would like to express my sincere gratitude and enthusiasm about becoming the new principal of Parkside Elementary School. **Diversity**, school **pride** and a strong sense of **community** will be the guiding principles that frame my work and practices along with the administrative team, teachers and support staff. I know that the teachers and staff of Parkside are committed to a strong instructional program that emphasizes literacy throughout all content areas. Because of the academically diverse student population, diagnostic tools will be used to individualize instruction to meet the unique needs of every student. I am dedicated to establishing a safe and nurturing environment for the students and families of Parkside in which students are challenged and are motivated to learn. With your support, we are going to have an outstanding year of Panda Power learning at Parkside.

Principal Timmy Foster, ED.S.

[tfoster@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:tfoster@atlanta.k12.ga.us) • twitter: @principalfoster

## Upcoming Events/Dates

- ◆ August 17 PTA Meeting 5:30 PM
- ◆ August 18 GO Team Meeting 4:00 PM
- ◆ August 31 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Georgia Milestones Parent Meeting 5:30 PM

## Meet our Administration

Mr. Timmy Foster, Principal

Mrs. Mellissa Hugh-Girdhari, Assistant Principal (K-2)

Dr. Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Principal (3-5)



## School Supplies

Our PTA has PRE-ORDERED school supplies for EVERY Parkside student (K-5). The supplies will be in their classrooms on DAY ONE.

- You may purchase ONLINE ---and save money.
- [www.atlantapublicschools.us/parkside](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/parkside)
- Only \$30 (\$50 value)
- Please consider buying extra packs to donate to other deserving Parkside Pandas.

## Uniforms & Dress Code

We are a **UNIFORM SCHOOL** and we “encourage and expect” all students to be in uniforms **MONDAY-THURSDAY** to show their Panda Pride! We will have fun incentives and rewards for students and classes that comply the best.

**Friday** is a Uniform Free Day!!!!

**DIVERSITY • PRIDE • COMMUNITY**

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is an important part of your child's education. Volunteers can be parents, grandparents or interested community members. **Volunteers make a difference in our students' lives** and play an invaluable role in their education and development. Students' behaviors improve drastically when they know their parents or other interested parties are a part of the school. Examples of volunteers include parents/guardians volunteering for a field day or school fair, classroom helpers, in-class tutors, performers and speakers from external agencies.

- ◆ If you would like to volunteer at Parkside, you must complete the Volunteer Training.
- ◆ The training will be held **every Wednesday at 8:30 AM** in the Media Center.
- ◆ Please see **Mrs. Brown, School Counselor**, if you have any questions.
- ◆ New training must be completed every year (even if you have in the past).
- ◆ First Training Session: **August 9, 2017 @8:30 AM**

## Attendance

We are striving for 100% Attendance and we thank you for helping all of our students to strive for that goal. As you can appreciate, it is best to arrive well BEFORE 8:00 AM (not "at" 8:00 AM). We are telling the kids **"AFTER 8 – YOU'RE LATE!"**

Any student who is not in the classroom by 8:00 AM is considered tardy and must sign in at the front office.

## Join Us On "REMIND"

REMIND is an easy way to stay informed and connected with Parkside and Principal Foster. You'll be able to receive convenient text updates directly to your phone. This is convenient, easy, and very helpful with important school-wide information & updates.

**From Your Phone:**

**Text the message: @gfa82**

**To the number 81010**

## Arrivals and Dismissals

We thank you for your patience as we work to make improvements to our morning arrivals (drop-offs) and afternoon dismissal (carpool, buses, walkers). We apologize for any frustrations or inconveniences you may have experienced. Please be assured that we are focused on the safety of our children with every plan and strategy we implement. Every new school year starts with some *challenges* and various *opportunities for improvements*. We look forward to seeing our arrivals and dismissals proceed with vastly improved safety and efficiency in the future.

## International Baccalaureate

We are pleased to announce that the application for candidacy for the PYP (Primary Years Programme) at Parkside Elementary has been approved as of June 2017. Now that Parkside Elementary is a candidate school, we will be taking the next few years to prepare and pursue authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education- that we believe is important for our students.

## Our Big Three Principles

You may have noticed a small change to our Parkside logo (three words added to the black ring). We are excited to emphasize three principles that say so much about us:

**DIVERSITY • PRIDE • COMMUNITY**



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