

July 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to Parkside for the 2018-2019 school year. I hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are excited about the first day of school, which is right around the corner.

There are a number of new and exciting things that will happen during the 2018-2019 school year to enhance the learning experiences of all of our students. For example, grades 3-5 will be departmentalized. This means that teachers will be able to focus on and plan for one content area. By doing this, the level of instruction is expected to be more engaging and student centered resulting in higher student achievement. Also new next year is Gifted Clustered Classes for students in grades 1-2. As we move toward becoming IB authorized, homeroom classes in these grade levels will be made up of 49% gifted students and 51% of students not gifted. These classes will be taught by a Gifted Certified teacher and there will be two on each grade level. Understanding the importance of diversity, we made sure that these classes represent the student body at Parkside.

Because literacy is one of our priorities, we will implement a reading lab for students in grade K-5. This lab will serve the lowest 25% of students in each grade level by providing 45 minutes of daily intensive reading instruction based on the deficiency of the student. We also will offer band to students in grade 4 & 5. Other new happenings for next year are a focus on SEL, after school programs for students and Parent University.

So as you can see, my team and I have been planning to make this a GREAT year for our Parkside Pandas. I hope you will continue to support our efforts to make Parkside Elementary School the neighborhood school of choice. Remember, we are a uniform school and all students are expected to be in uniform Mon. – Thurs.

Sincerely,

Timmy Foster, Principal

Important Dates: Open House 07/30 10:00-12:00 / First Day of School 08/01 7:30