



NEW FAMILY GUIDE

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

PRESENTED BY THE
PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY PTA

HI, NEW PANDAS!

We're so excited to start the school year and to welcome new family and friends to Parkside. We've put together a few helpful tips so your first week can go as smoothly as possible. Be on the lookout for a more detailed communication guide from the school in the coming days.

HERE WE GO!

SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.

DROP-OFF/ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- Students can be dropped off any time between 7:30 and 8 a.m.
- Bus riders typically arrive at school between 7:30 and 7:50 a.m.
- Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 7:30 to 7:50 a.m.
- If your student doesn't want to eat breakfast at school, s/he will stay in the gym, supervised by staff, until students are released to their classrooms at 7:50.
- **AFTER 8 – YOU'RE LATE!** Any student who is not in the classroom by 8 a.m. is considered tardy and **must sign in at the front office.**
- Pre-K students can be walked to the classroom via the Pre-K entrance; all other students must be dropped off in the rotunda just beyond the front doors. For the first week of school, all parents will be allowed to walk their child to class. (After the first week, say good-bye in the rotunda.) Kindergarten parents will be allowed to walk their students to class the first two weeks of school. (After the first two weeks, say good-bye in rotunda.)

SCHOOL BUS

All students living more than one mile from the school are eligible to take the bus. Information on bus routes will be distributed at the Open House just before the school year begins, and route information can be found on the APS website www.atlantapublicschools.us.

PICK-UP PROCEDURES

- Bus riders, van riders and walkers will be dismissed and led to exit at the front of the building.
- Car riders will be led to the gym, where parents can pick them up after queuing in the gym parking lot (at the intersection of Mercer and Eloise).
- If you want to park your car and walk up to the school to pick up your student, please park in the gym parking lot, but only if you park before 2:25 (when carpool begins) and plan on leaving your car after 2:45 (when carpool is over).
- During afternoon pick-up, please do NOT park on the street, which impedes moving traffic.
- **ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT PARTICIPATING IN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS SHOULD BE PICKED UP NO LATER THAN 2:45 p.m.**

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

At Open House or on the first day of school, you'll be asked to notify the school of your student's typical after-school transportation method or after-school program. On any day that you will not be following the plan you provided, you must let your child's teacher or the main office know in writing before 2 p.m.

DRESS CODE

- All Parkside students (including pre-K students) should wear the Parkside uniform Monday through Thursday. The uniform is a collared shirt (polo or button-down), in navy blue, light blue, white, or (forest/dark) green, and shorts, pants, skirts, jumpers, or dresses in khaki, black, or navy blue.
- Students have PE two days per week and recess outside every day, so we recommend shoes that are comfortable and safe for play. Please don't let your little ones wear sandals or flip-flops – or they'll be asked to sit out during PE.
- Friday is a uniform-free day! But students should still adhere to the APS dress code (found in the APS policy handbook that will go home in the coming days.) Examples: no short shorts, midriff shirts, etc.

FOOD

- Parkside provides free breakfast and lunch for all students through a Community Eligibility Program, or CEP. Students don't need to apply to participate in the program. Menus and nutritional information can be accessed via the school website www.atlantapublicschools.us/parkside.
- If your student wants to bring lunch, you may send a packed lunch from home. Keep in mind, Parkside is a nut-free school, so please don't send peanut butter, nuts, or any items containing tree nuts

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We're excited to announce that our students will have **ALL** of their required school supplies made available on Day One. We consulted with our teachers at each grade level and pre-ordered supplies for our Parkside students. The price per student is \$30 (over \$50 value in supplies). For more information and to purchase (and save significantly!) go to: www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/11641. Please consider donating for another student's supplies to ensure PTA has replenished the supply fund and can continue to provide this service for the whole school again next year.

Note – this does not include backpacks. Supplies are for Kindergarten - 5th grade students. Pre-K supplies are provided, though teachers may have wish list items if you'd like to contribute.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

- The on-site after school program is administered by Preferred School Care www.pscafterschool.com. You can register your student in the program at Open House or at any time after school begins. Care is provided from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$45/week or \$20/day, with a \$30 registration fee.
- Afterschool enrichment classes/clubs (dance, soccer, martial arts, etc.) are also offered for an additional fee. They usually start about a month into the semester; details will be sent home with the students after the school year begins.

COMMUNICATION

The school communicates important information to parents via phone calls, text messages, daily homework folders, and the Green Folder, which goes home with students every Thursday. Talk to your student's teacher to find out the best way to communicate directly with him/her when needed.

On Facebook? You can join the PTA-moderated private parents group by searching Parkside Elementary Parents. You can also "Like" the Parkside Elementary School and Parkside Elementary PTA & Friends pages.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Our teachers love parent volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer in the classroom and/or chaperone a field trip this year, please take the 20-minute mandatory volunteer training, held every Wednesday in the library at 8:30 a.m. (Please call the office during the first week or so to find out when this weekly training begins.)

PRE-K

Pre-K students follow the same schedule and general policies as the rest of the school. They don't go to PE or other special classes, but they do have lunch and recess every day. Pre-K students have a rest period and an afternoon snack each day. Your teacher may ask you to send in a change of clothing for emergencies and a blanket for naps.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students don't have nap or rest time. They do have snack in the afternoon. Some teachers ask parents to send a snack for their student each day, and others ask parents to take turns bringing snack for the whole class. Kindergarten students have homework most days starting in the first week or two of school.

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WELCOME TO PARKSIDE, AND HAVE A GREAT FIRST WEEK!



MEET YOUR PTA

2017-2018 BOARD MEMBERS



Leigh Schrope
President



Eden Mengistu
Vice President



Justine Holcomb
Secretary



Todd Cannon
Treasurer



Kendra Lee
Teacher Liaison

Parkside is lucky to have an active Parent Teacher Association. Our main role is to build strong working relationships between parents and teachers in support of our students. Last year, we raised a significant amount of money for Parkside through our fall festival, monthly bake sales, annual fun run, book sales, and other fundraisers. We use these funds to support great projects, like this year's school supply purchase and general teacher needs.

We need you! Watch out for the date of our first PTA meeting, which will be announced through school newsletters and on our Facebook parent group. The meetings typically occur on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Find out how you can get involved, including joining one of our committees and becoming a room parent. Contact PTA by emailing

COMMITTEES

Fundraising | Communications | Garden & Wellness | Teacher Appreciation | Events

GO TEAM

APS SCHOOL GOVERNANCE TEAM

Did you know? In 2016, APS became a Charter System, giving schools more freedom and flexibility to find innovative ways to boost student achievement. Our GO Team, which is separate from PTA, is comprised of teachers, parents, and community members who work with school leadership to help determine the long-term strategy and budget of the school. GO Team meetings are open to the public, so watch out for the announcement of this school year's first meeting and feel free to attend.