

August 27, 2021

Hello Returning and New Kernsville Families,

I hope you are having a nice summer and that your families are healthy. Our staff is excited to have our students back in school, and I am eager to start my 22nd year as the principal at Kernsville. The school and staff will be ready for the **first day of school on Monday, August 30, 2021**. Although it is my 28th year in public education, in some respects, it feels like my first year. I am confident in our staff, students, and families that we share common goals for a safe and healthy return. Thank you for taking the time to read this important document. If you have any questions about the information, feel free to call the main office at 610-351-5840. **Please note that the student day begins at 8:50 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. this year.**

Mr. Michael F. Gehringer
Principal, Kernsville Elementary School
Parkland School District

HOME HEALTH SCREENING TOOL

What if someone in your house gets sick, is diagnosed with COVID or is identified as a close contact. We'll guide you through the steps [on our Home Health Screening Tool for each school building](#).

Teacher/Classroom Assignments and Bus/Transportation Information

This information is available now in [Home Access Center](#), Parkland's Online Parent Portal.

Please review your students' information in [HAC](#) . **If any of this information is inaccurate please call the school office immediately**. It takes several business days to have this corrected and the volume of calls may lead to further delays.

If you need technical assistance logging in to HAC please e-mail HAC@parklandsd.org or call 610-351-5602.

WEEKLY E-COMMUNICATIONS

- Every Friday our [Kernsville Weekly Update](#) website is updated. This page is our primary form of communication with our families. All school-wide information is posted here along with PTO news, District and Community news, school events and additional information that our families need.
- Every Friday you will receive an e-mail notification after this site has been updated. Please take a moment to visit the site to prepare for the upcoming week.

- If you do not receive these e-mail notifications, please call the office at Kernsville.

ABSENTEE REPORTING PROCEDURES

- School attendance is required and a state law. In addition, students are more likely to reach their potential when present. However, I recognize students get sick and unexpected events occur that require your student to miss school. Thank you for following our absentee procedures when this happens.
- If your child is absent, please call the absentee hotline number at 610-351-5900 extension 27711 NO LATER than 9:00 AM or you may send an e-mail to KVAttendance@parklandsd.org. State your child's name, their teacher's name, and the reason for the absence.
- By reporting your child's absence, we can ensure that all students have arrived at school safely. The office staff will keep a log of all calls made before 9:00 AM and, therefore, an absence note from a parent will not be necessary. You may also request homework when you leave a message.
- If an absence is **NOT** reported by 9:00 AM, the attendance secretary will call the designated number to inform the parent of the child's absence. If they are unable to speak with anyone, a message will be left. Please send in an excuse note upon your child's return. If we do not receive a phone call or a note after 3 school days, the absence could be considered unexcused/illegal. A letter will be sent home for all unexcused/illegal absences. Regular illegal absences are cause for a required school improvement conference and possible court action.
- If you are requesting assignments/homework, in fairness to our teachers, call the main office **@ 610-351-5840 BEFORE 11:00.**

NEW KERNSVILLE STUDENTS

It is strongly suggested that NEW students in grades 1 through 5 come to school the first week with an index card containing the following information:

- Their first and last name
- Name of their homeroom teacher

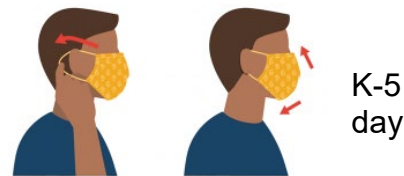
We plan on having all available staff at the entrances to assist students with locating their classrooms and this will expediate the process. Please instruct your children to hold this card when entering the building. For younger students, you may want to put the card on a piece of yarn so they can wear it around their necks.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade students will receive a tag for their backpacks that will help all staff and bus drivers know what bus they are riding. This tag must remain on their backpacks for the entire school year and may not be altered

Open House will be virtual on **Wednesday, September 1st**. We will still provide you with the necessary information needed to have a great year. You will be emailed the teachers' Open House presentation at approximately 5:00 PM on the evening of September 1st. **These links will also be pre-recorded and you can view them at your leisure.**

FACE COVERINGS (recommendation from CDC)

Face coverings are required for students and staff and visitors. Students are encouraged to have a backup face covering in their backpack. Be sure your child's name are on their face coverings. students will receive face covering breaks throughout the school maintaining 6 ft. social distancing during breaks.



All students will wear a face covering

- at the bus stop if unable to maintain social distancing (6 feet)
- directly and prior to entering and on the school bus
- when entering and exiting the building
- in the classroom
- during any movement through building
- in the cafeteria, however once seated 6 feet apart to eat, the face covering may be removed until the student finishes eating

CUSTODY AGREEMENTS

PLEASE ALERT OR CALL OUR MAIN OFFICE (610) 351-5840 WITH ANY NEW CUSTODY AGREEMENTS OR REVISIONS. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. Students will be only be released to their custodial parent unless written or verbal permission from the custodial parent is received to do otherwise.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD WASH OR SANITIZE THEIR HANDS?

Students will wash their hands:

- Before eating lunch (in their classroom)
- After recess(in their classroom)
- Before and after gym class (in their classroom)
- After using the toilet
- After blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing

Students will sanitize their hands:

- Prior to and after eating breakfast (in the gym)
- After lunch and before going onto the playground (gym exit)
- Exiting the nursing suite
- As necessary within the classroom and hallways



SOCIAL DISTANCING AT KERNSVILLE

- Family Communication: There will be a section added to weekly E-communications on how families can help *Stop the Spread*. The information will be consistent across schools.

- School's weekly TV programs will make announcements &/or show videos about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Students will be taught hand washing, hand sanitizing, social distancing, and mask procedures during the first two weeks of school. The lessons will be taught in conjunction with the Kernsville Paw Patrol lessons.
- Signs will be posted in prominent locations and will describe how to Stop the Spread of Germs.
- Signs will also be posted to remind students about hygiene and social distancing around school.

CLEANING, SANITIZING AND DISINFECTING AT KERNSVILLE

- Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting will be performed in accordance with current CDC, and DOH guidelines. EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements and staff will be trained on how to appropriately use these products.
- Water fountains will be closed for use in both hallways and classrooms. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle. Students will be able to use our refilling stations.

LUNCH AT KERNSVILLE

- Lunch will be in the gym this year. Children will have an assigned seat. They will eat lunch before recess.
- Menu choices will be reduced. No ala carte items except milk and water.
- Students MUST wash hands with soap & water before going to lunch. Classroom teachers will be responsible for overseeing hand washing.
- Lunch boxes will be stored in student backpacks until lunchtime. Students will carry their own lunch boxes to lunch. You are encouraged to use disposable items when packing. Lunch boxes will be placed at recess following social distancing guidelines.
- Each menu item is displayed and student points to order.
- Servers will bag or box meals and add appropriate silverware and condiments.
- Server allows students to grab a bag or box at the end of line.
- Cashier identifies student by picture and homeroom.
- Students must sit 6 feet apart to remove mask and eat.
- Students may not get out of seat without putting mask on.

KERNSVILLE BREAKFAST

- We serve an OPTIONAL breakfast for our students. Breakfast begins at 8:35 in the cafeteria and is over by 8:50. Breakfast will NOT be available on the first day of school (August 30). Breakfast includes a choice of cereal or a whole grain breakfast item, low fat milk, and either juice or fruit. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Jean Rappold, head cook, at 610-351-5840 ext. 27530. Upon arrival, students may go directly to the gym for breakfast prior to going to their homerooms.

VISITING KERNSVILLE THIS YEAR

- Staff will utilize virtual meeting tools (Zoom, Google Meet) to conduct meetings with visitors to the greatest extent feasible. Examples include but are not limited to parent/guardian meetings and IEP meetings.
- Visitors and volunteers are by appointment only and with the authorization of administration.

RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS- If you chose Parkland transportation:

- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and drivers on each bus/van.
- Drivers will have extra masks for students who do not have face coverings.
- Until further notice, there will be no field trips
- Buses will operate with a maximum of two students per seat.
- Siblings should sit together on the bus.
- Elementary School buses will be loaded back to front except for kindergarten and first grade students who will sit in the front of the bus.
- The bus drivers will sanitize buses with sprayer using disinfectant solution after the morning runs and following the end of the day runs.
- Students should socially distance while loading and exiting the bus and while waiting at their bus stop.
- The bus drivers will air out the bus/van before and after runs, weather permitting.

VESTIBULE AREA

The elementary school is always locked , and all visitors are required to enter the school through the main entrance. **The Parkland School District has initiated a security protocol, which may require all visitors, including parents, to show identification upon arrival. Be prepared to show your identification.**

After you buzz into the school and enter the school, we ask that you remain in this vestibule area. This vestibule waiting area is where you will:

- sign in a student if late or returning to school from an appointment
- sign out a student if he/she is leaving school early
- drop off papers for the school office
- drop off forgotten lunches/instruments
- drop off papers for our PTO
- pick up your student's homework
- pick up your child from the nurse
- meet the Nurse to drop off medication for your child.

If you have a meeting or a scheduled appointment inside the school, please share that with the school secretary when you first buzz in. The office staff will then buzz you through a second set of doors to gain entrance into the main office. It is a possibility you will not gain entrance into the school if no appointment was made, if there is insufficient information regarding the purpose of the visit, or you do not have an acceptable form of ID.

BUILDING CLOSES @ 4:00

Also, for building security measures, Kernsville Elementary School is open until 4:00 PM. This is important to remember if you are picking up homework for your child because of an absence. The building is closed after 4:00.

STUDENT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

There will be no food or non-edible birthday treats exchanged in school.

ST MATH

Ji Ji the penguin will be at it again this year. Your child's classroom teacher will explain ST Math as it pertains to your grade level at Open House.

LUNCH & BREAKFAST COSTS

All student school lunches and breakfast are free this school year.

Parkland School District has made it faster and easier for parents to apply for free and reduced meals! <https://www.schoolcafe.com>

This free service enables families to receive program benefits faster than using the paper application. Your application is electronically submitted directly to the child nutrition office for processing.

MYSCHOOLBUCKS

The MYSCHOOLBUCKS System can be used in our school cafeteria to assist parents and students in managing lunch money. www.myschoolbucks.com
Signing up is free, simple, and secure. You get low balance alerts and you can pay on the go.

No deposits (cash or checks) will be accepted at school this year. Checks made payable to PSD Cafeteria will be accepted at the food services office, located at The Troxell Building 2219 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown 18104.

You will be alerted when students have a low balance. If an account reaches a negative balance, a letter requesting additional money will be sent home. **Please keep your balance up to date.**

VACATIONS

Vacations are not encouraged during the school year. If a vacation is planned during the school year, you should complete a Vacation/Emergency Form **at least one week** before the leaving date. This allows time to inform teachers and organize their expectations of missed schoolwork. Contact the school office for this form.

- Avoid vacations/appointments during these important dates:

- Grade 1 and 2

Otis Lennon School Ability Assessment January 31st – February 4th

- Grade 3

PSSA ELA Assessment April 25-27

PSSA Math Assessment May 2-3

- Grade 4
PSSA ELA Assessment April 25-27
PSSA Math Assessment May 2-3
PSSA Science Assessment May 4-5

- Grade 5
PSSA ELA Assessment April 25-27
PSSA Math Assessment May 2-3

STUDENT DROP-OFF

- In the event you are driving your child to school, do not drop off your child earlier than 8:35. The doors are not open, and we do not have supervision until 8:35.
- Parents must enter school grounds via Shankweiler Road. Parents and students must remain in their vehicle until directed by a staff member to exit on the west side of the building.
- 8:35 is when students are able to enter the school building.
- Follow the traffic flow in the main parking lot and drive very slowly.
- Several staff members are there to assist the students.
- If you arrive after 8:50, please find a parking spot, enter the Main entrance, and sign-in your child in our vestibule area. Your child is late if he/she arrives after 8:50.
- Try your best to teach your child how to get out of the vehicle independently.
- Have all materials (lunches, backpacks, etc.) prepared and ready.
- **Wait for the car in front of you before pulling away and leaving. Do not pull around a car even though your son/daughter is already out.**
- Drive slowly for the safety of our students.

STUDENT CAR PICK-UP (for students not taking the bus)

- **DISMISSAL IS AT 3:30 P.M. THIS YEAR.**
- Several staff members are there to monitor the safety of the students.
- Students will wait at one of the paws on the sidewalk. You will be instructed to pull up.
- Once all the cars have come to a complete stop, your child will be able to enter your vehicle.
- For the safety of the children and a timely dismissal process, remain in your car. If your child needs assistance getting buckled, you will be asked to pull up out of the loading zone or find a parking spot to assist your child. Teach your child how to get into your vehicle safely and properly.
- Be aware of all children and drive away slowly.

KERNSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Instructions

Parents must enter school grounds via Shankweiler Road and follow the path indicated by the yellow arrows. Parents will remain in their vehicle and drop their child(s) off with a staff member at the drop off area and exit the school grounds via the path indicated by the green arrows.

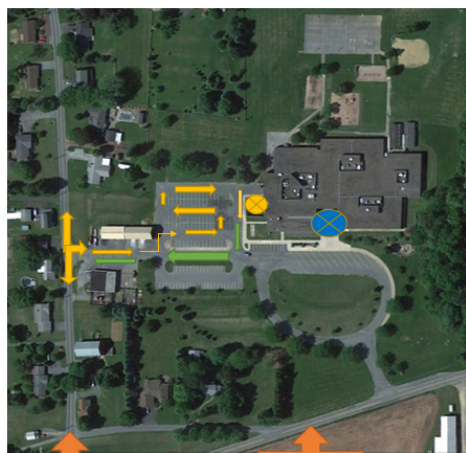
Parent Pick Up at the end of the school day will now follow this same procedure. **Parents will no longer exit their vehicle.** As they pull up to the pick up area their child(s) will be sent to the car.



Drop Off
And
Pick Up
Area



Main School
Entrance
Students arriving
late or leaving
school early



Shankweiler Rd

Kernsville
Road

IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO BE DISMISSED EARLIER THAN THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY:

- A parent must send a written request in the morning, preferably on the “Note to Kernsville School” note paper and it should be given to the classroom teacher first thing in the morning.
- If an unplanned early leave is needed please call the school office at 610-351-5840. Do not e-mail the teacher. Be prepared to show proper identification upon arrival.
Prevent any changes after 2:30 to the greatest extent possible.
- When picking up your student, park your car in a parking spot, buzz into the school, and enter our vestibule area.
- You will sign them out in the vestibule area.
- Your student will come to the office first and then be dismissed to you. They will meet you in the vestibule area.
- In all cases, students will be released only to their custodial parent unless written or verbal permission from the custodial parent is received to do otherwise.

IMPORTANT “BEGINNING OF YEAR” DATES

Monday, August 30-First day of school for students

Wednesday, September 1 – Virtual Open House

Friday, September 3-Holiday/Schools Closed

Monday, September 6-Holiday/Schools Closed



Looking forward to seeing our students again on the first day of school; Monday, August 30, 2021.



Remember to follow our school on Twitter **@KVCoyotes** and Facebook Kernsville Elementary School and share with family, grandparents, and other friends. You will have the chance to see pictures across our classrooms and see what is happening inside our GREAT school.