

The Academies

AT PARKWAY CENTRAL MIDDLE

Over the past year, we asked families, students and teachers, what is most critical to the middle school learning experience. What we heard was:

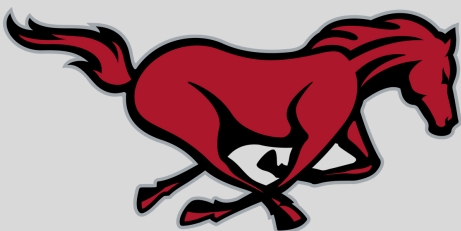
- Middle school should prepare students for high school
- School should be personally and academically meaningful for students and relevant to their life and future goals.

To succeed in our Parkway mission and realize this shared vision for students, next year we will offer new learning academies for middle school students which will provide more choices for our students to meet their individual needs.

Meet the Academies:

The Academies at Parkway Central Middle will provide students and their families options to make the middle school experience more personalized and engaging so they are more successful and uniquely prepared for success in high school and life. In addition to still offering a traditional middle school option, there will be new academies that offer other approaches to learning as well.

- There are four academies for students to choose from - Legacy, Design, Flex and Empower.
- Each academy offers students a unique approach in terms of the learning environment, structure, instruction, and assessment.
- Students and families will make the choice during registration based on their preferences and guidance from the school.



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Legacy

The Legacy Academy uses Parkway's high-quality middle school model. Each student is part of an interdisciplinary team that includes teachers in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students are in classes with same grade-level peers and use a block schedule while mastering the Parkway curriculum.

Design

The Design Academy takes a personalized approach in a multiage environment where students work with their teachers to design their learning. Students demonstrate their learning through projects, presentations, and solving real-world problems. They work with peers across grade levels in a more flexible learning environment where they identify and explore personal interests and passions while mastering the Parkway curriculum.

Flex

The Flex Academy allows students to have the best parts of in-person instruction, supplemental online tools, and opportunities to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. In this multiage environment, This approach allows teachers and students to collaboratively create an individualized pace and pathway for each student to master the expectations of the Parkway curriculum.

Empower

The Empower Academy focuses on students becoming self directed learners by the time they are entering high school. This gradual release of ownership occurs in a multiage environment in which teachers move students from actively participating in learning to co-creating the learning. Students increasingly develop approaches to mastering the Parkway curriculum, becoming more actively involved in the decisions related to learning outcomes relevant to their future.

Sarah

Sarah has always liked school and enjoys working with a variety of adults and peers. She is like a sponge in her environment, and she finds it easy to participate in large and small groups. Sarah enjoys reading independently and puts forth the effort necessary to complete classroom assignments and homework. She enjoys the daily routine of school and it is effortless for her to follow classroom expectations. School just works for her. Sarah is probably a great fit for **Legacy**.



Tamara

Tamara is an outgoing student who wants to be deeply involved in her education and always seems to have creative ideas she wants to put into her schoolwork. She enjoys working closely with teachers and, at times, going beyond the scope of the content being discussed. Tamara prefers to make something rather than simply take a test. She wants to connect her learning with those things outside of the classroom and wants to help solve larger problems in her world. Tamara is probably a great student for **Design**.



Sri

Sri is a very busy student with a lot of demands on his time, inside and outside of school. He can take in a great amount of information quickly and often feels held back by the pace of a traditionally structured day. He wants to use his time wisely and is a self-starter. Sri is successful when provided the opportunity to make choices during the day on his own. He benefits from seeing the lessons and units outlined ahead of time to help him in his planning, and having them available when and where he needs them. Sri is probably a great student for **Flex**.



Colin

Colin is a student who often questions why he has to learn these things in school. He likes learning but sees little point in most of the activities he does. He is a rule follower, earns pretty much straight A's, but often wonders what the point is. He simply complies with the various expectations from class to class. He knows how to do school, but does not know the value of school down the road. Colin benefits from "constants" in his life and excels when he has a personal connection with the adults around him. He is motivated by a learning plan made especially for him where he can accomplish individual goals relevant to him. Colin is probably a great student for **Empower**.



Important things to know:

- The Parkway curriculum is the foundation for each academy.
- Students from each academy will be well prepared for their high school experience. In fact, we believe they will be ready for anything that comes next. Success in high school requires independence, organizational skills, and academic preparedness. Environments that help develop those skills in middle school will help a student succeed down the road.
- When you make the choice of an academy, you are choosing it for a year. You may make changes between years; there is not a three-year commitment required. However, we believe there is a benefit to staying with the same Academy for all three years.
- A goal for each academy is to be representative of our student population. Students from a variety of needs, interests, and backgrounds will be successful in each academy.
- Students will interact with students from other academies at lunch, during electives, and if they choose to stay for after-school activities.

