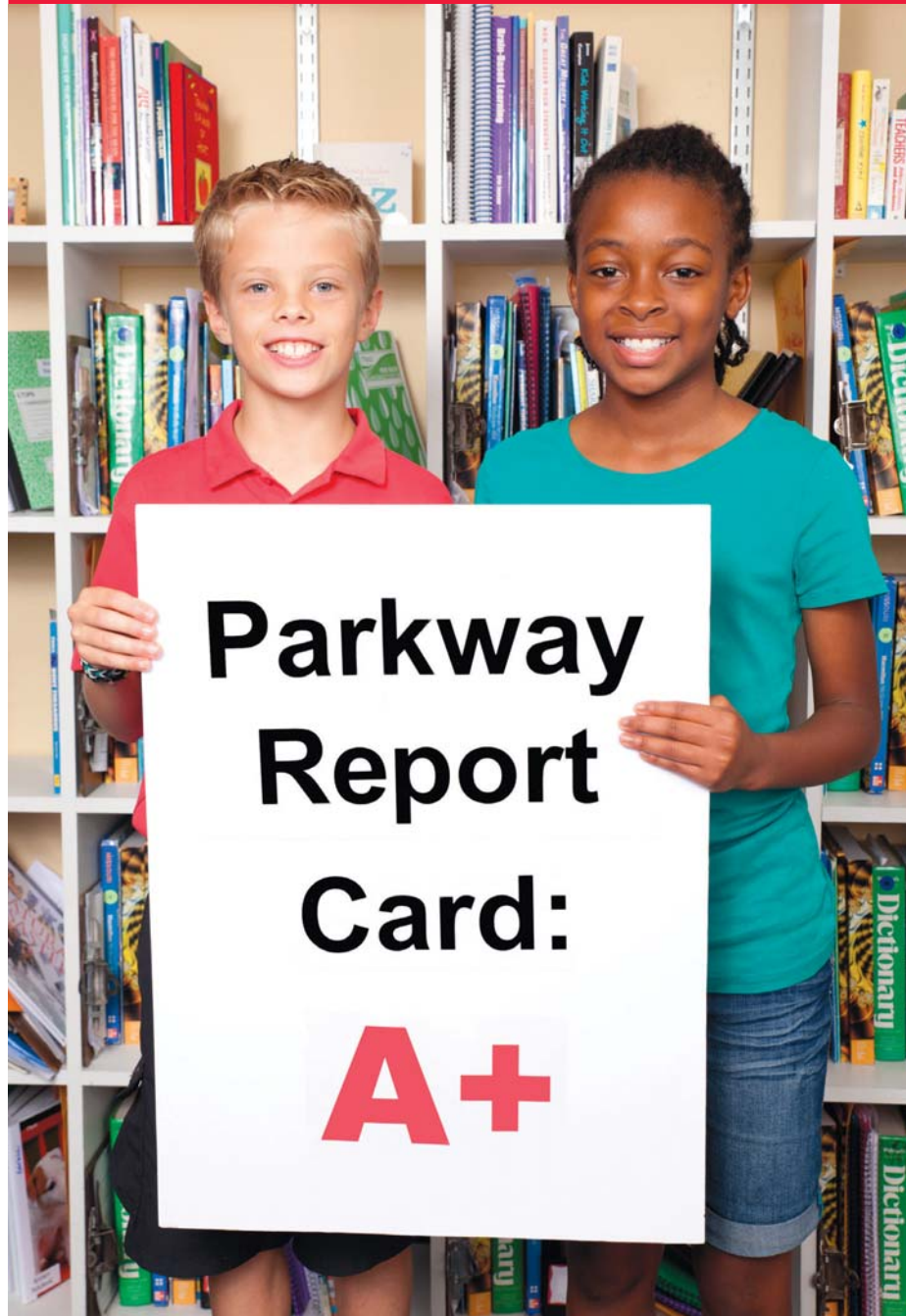


PARKWAY today

News and information for residents of Parkway School District

Fall 2013

Accredited with Distinction



Hudson Ribble and Shemaiah Saunders, Claymont Elementary, proudly display Parkway's top grade in the state's new school rating system.

Top Grade for Parkway!

Parkway's 99.6 percent score is the highest among Missouri school districts with more than 1,000 students.



- ▶ **Hudson Ribble and Shemaiah Saunders, Claymont Elementary, display Parkway's top grade in the state's new school rating system.**

Parkway earned a 99.6 percent, nearly a perfect score, in the state's new rating system for schools. This report card for Missouri schools was released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in August. Parkway's score was the highest among Missouri school districts with more than 1,000 students.

"I was delighted but not surprised that we scored so well," says Lisa Merideth, Parkway's assistant superintendent of teaching, learning and accountability. "For the last 14 years, we have received outstanding scores from the state. This was a continuation of our excellence."

Parkway Score Is Highest Among Large Missouri School Districts

In the state's new rating system, schools and districts need to show improvement from year to year and among student subgroups such as minorities, students who qualify for free or reduced lunches and special needs students. Otherwise, scores suffer.

The new and more rigorous rating system is driven by Missouri's effort to rate as a "top 10" state in education by 2020. Schools are evaluated on the following standards:

- Academic achievement
- Subgroup achievement
- College and career readiness
- Attendance and graduation rates

The New Rating System Is More Specific And Demanding

The new system is more specific than the old rating system. College and career readiness, for instance, is calculated differently. With Advanced Placement course data, districts now earn points for how many students pass tests for college-level courses, rather than earning points for just offering them.

Superintendent Keith Marty believes numerous factors account for Parkway's top score. Among them are:

- A rigorous, relevant and varied curriculum and use of technology that gives students freedom to learn beyond the classroom and to explore art, music, career and technological educational opportunities;
- Safe and positive learning environments; and
- Parkway's commitment to all students, which includes ensuring all juniors take the ACT college entrance exam, pushing accelerated and gifted students into AP courses and the MOSAICS accelerated program, and finding new ways to intervene and target student deficiencies immediately.

Professional Learning Communities

Over the last two years, Parkway has implemented professional learning communities (PLCs), where teachers work in teams to "share and pool strategies" to reach all kids, says JoAnn Brenner, an Algebra II and Trigonometry teacher at South High.

The PLC model is strengthened by strong intervention. If a student is struggling in say, Algebra I, that student is strongly encouraged to participate in an after-school study session. Schools may also rely on teachers' aides and academic coaches to sit in on classes with students to monitor their progress and give them help on the spot if they need it. With PLCs, "we are not just talking about students who struggle. We are talking about students who do well, too. It is taking each child as high as they can go," says Brenner.

superintendent's corner

Start Spreading the News

Dear Parkway Community:

You have often heard school personnel in Parkway say that we are one of the top school districts in Missouri. Now we have more data and results to prove this claim. Missouri's new school rating system ranks Parkway as the top performing school district in the state with enrollment of over 1,000 students.

It is not a given that a traditionally high achieving suburban district can maintain a high rating. Today, Parkway families face far more financial pressures than 10 or 15 years ago. As a district, we have also experienced greater financial and resource challenges.

How does Parkway achieve a score of 99.6 percent for all students, including students in poverty,



**Superintendent
Keith Marty**

minority students, and special needs students? Parkway's top score is for student achievement, graduation rates, attendance, and career and college readiness and planning.

There is not just one simple recipe for success, but rather an extensive list of what makes Parkway number one. The list includes:

- Supportive community and active, supportive parents;
- Engaged students;
- Outstanding teachers and administrators;
- Professional development time for educators;
- Project Parkway (strategic plan) and its focus on student learning;
- A strong board of education;
- New technologies; and
- A wonderfully relevant and rigorous curriculum.

In the future, we will continue to work hard as a team to achieve success for all our students. Parkway's top score, of course, wouldn't have

Parkway ranks as the top performing Missouri school district with enrollment of over 1,000 students.

been possible without our parents and our community. It is my turn to thank each and every one of you for your support. Together, we can continue to ensure the success of all our students.

Before closing, I would like to invite you to follow me on Twitter @ParkwaySupt.

Sincerely,

**Keith A. Marty, Ed.D.
Superintendent**

Celebrating America's Best High Schools!

This year you will notice something new in Parkway high schools: big bold banners with the words, "Recognized as one of America's Best High Schools."

All four traditional Parkway high schools – Central, North, South and West – made *Newsweek* magazine's 2013 list of America's Best High Schools.

Though Parkway high schools routinely rank among America's best, as designated by *Newsweek* or, say, *U.S. News & World Report*, Parkway administrators and staff usually celebrate the news quietly.

"We wanted to announce the rankings loudly this year," says Superintendent Keith Marty. "This is a great honor, and we think it is important to see a reminder banner every day as we walk into our high schools."

Newsweek's annual list highlights public high schools across the country that do the best job of providing college-ready graduates.

Last spring, South High was also named one of the country's best high schools by *U.S. News & World Report*, and West High was ranked as "one of the most challenging high schools" in the country by *The Washington Post*.



► **Four Parkway high schools make *Newsweek* magazine's 2013 list of America's Best High Schools. Above, Parkway principals stand in front of new banners recognizing Parkway's ranking. From l to r, Tim McCarthy, Central High; Patrice Aitch, South High; Jenny Marquart, North High; and Jeremy Mitchell, West High.**



► When Jennifer Rushing, center, came to interview for a teaching assistant position at Wren Hollow Elementary, she was met by a panel of fifth graders in the interview room.

Students Interview and Select Teacher for Job



When Jennifer Rushing came to interview for a teaching assistant position at Wren Hollow Elementary, she was met by a panel of fifth graders in the interview room.

Carter Beierman, Lauren Bles, Sneha Chandra, Nathan Greenwalt, Jack Litteken and Jami Carpenter recently participated in a student-led interview process with a little help from Principal Matt Miller.

Three Candidates Were Interviewed

The students interviewed three teaching candidates. Each student asked one question, and practiced interpersonal skills during the interview, including active listening, making eye contact and using a loud voice. After the interviews, students reflected on each candidate's strengths and areas of concern.

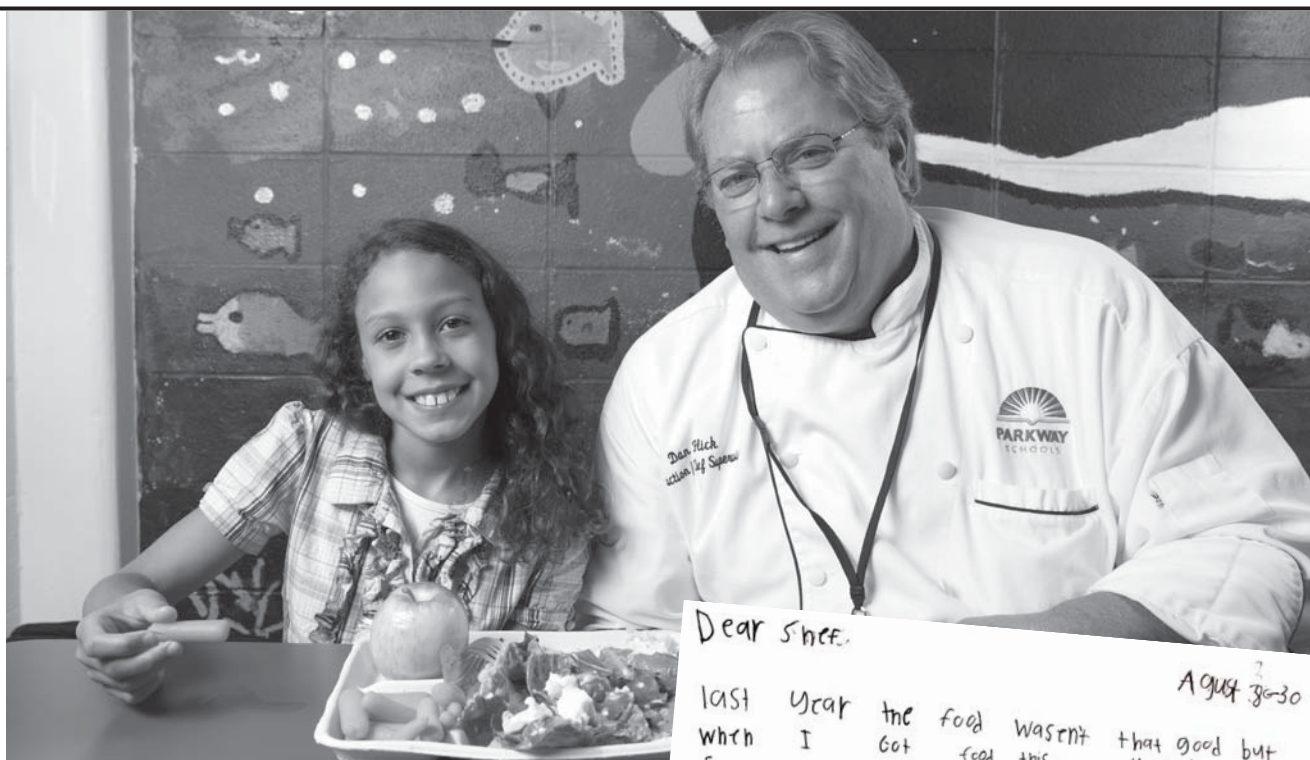
Students Were "Spot-On" With Feedback

When asked why he thought to include students in interviews, Miller said, "Every child is a leader at Wren Hollow, and we just find opportunities for them to apply their own leadership skills. Student-led interviews naturally made sense. The kids know what they need in a teacher. They were actually spot-on with their feedback on the candidates!"

Miller, the new principal at Wren Hollow, says he will continue to invite students to participate in interviews for all positions. He also plans to invite students to join other school and district committees.

Rushing says the interview experience as a candidate was great for both her and the kids. "The students who were involved in the interview recognized me on my first day, and were so excited to see me. They said, 'You got the job!' or 'Hey, I voted for you!' You could tell they were very proud to be a part of the process and of the decisions they made together," she said.

When asked why he included students in interviews, Principal Matt Miller said, "The kids know what they need in a teacher."



► Laila Jones, Green Trails Elementary, writes a fan letter to Chef Dan Flick, above, after tasting his new healthy menu items in Parkway cafeterias.

Dear Chef Dan

Fan letters are usually written to rock stars and celebrities, but Parkway's new chef, Dan Flick, has just received a delicious note all his own. Laila Jones, a Green Trails elementary student, wrote to Dan after tasting some of his new menu items in Parkway cafeterias. Dan's healthy new offerings include everything from Southwest Chicken Salad—spiced with cilantro to avoid too much salt—to brownies with black beans.

"Dear Chef [sic]," Laila began, "Last year, the food wasn't [sic] that good but when I got food this year it tasted [sic] so good and so real. I love this year's food. I wish I made food this good."

"The letter was special," says Green Trails Principal Rene Sommers, because it was unsolicited. Early this year, Laila asked Sommers why the cafeteria food was so good, and Sommers responded that Parkway was trying to prepare healthier foods for students and had hired a new chef. Laila didn't let the matter drop. The cafeteria food used to be "terrible," she told Sommers, "and now it tastes good, like real food." Whereas once Laila had insisted on bringing her lunch, now she looked forward to buying lunch at school.

Given her passion for the new menu, Sommers suggested Laila write Chef Dan a letter. Thus was born Chef Dan's first elementary-school fan letter.

Chef Dan, also a production supervisor for Parkway, has plenty of other fans as well, of course. "My fifth grader and high-school student have also commented on the good and healthy food," says Laila's mom, Jennifer Cordes-Jones. Recently, Central Middle students gave outstanding reviews to

Chef Dan's beef stroganoff.

"We are one of the few districts in the area that still has its own food service operation," says Dan. "We are trying to revitalize our entire program and do more scratch cooking."

Dan's boss, Marlene Pfeiffer, is a dietitian and the new director of Parkway food services. Better quality food for students has been her main goal.

"Dan makes the food more appealing and knows how to spice food with more flavor but with no more calories or fat," says Pfeiffer. For instance, his Southwest Chicken Salad, a favorite of Laila's, relies on cilantro and a salsa of black beans and corn for much of its flavorful seasoning.

Pfeiffer says Dan's background as a chef at L'Ecole Culinare appealed to her when she hired him. "I knew he could teach others how to carry out the recipes."

Dan would also like to set up a garden to produce some food that can be used in district kitchens. Parkway has three regional kitchens at high schools, which produce food for all 28 schools.

Meanwhile, Laila's mom says she is happy to know her children can receive a nutritious lunch at school that is enjoyable. "I am so busy running them around after school, what with ballet and other activities, etc., that there isn't always time to eat. As a parent, it is really important to me to know they have received at least one nutritious meal for the day."

Dear Chef.

August 30-30

Last year the food wasn't that good but when I got food this year it tasted so good. and so real. I love this year's food. I wish I made food this good. I hope the front vegibels (and) all your food.

from Laila

Chef Dan's healthy menu includes Southwest Chicken Salad and Black Bean Brownies.

Flipping the Classroom

Student grades are improving with a new teaching strategy called flipping the classroom.

S

tudent grades and motivation are improving with a new teaching concept called flipping the classroom. With the strategy, students learn their subject matter at home and do what is typically considered homework at school, enabling teachers to spend more time helping students one-on-one in class.

At South Middle, math teacher Kelly Bettlach produces short videos for students to watch at home. In these videos, Bettlach explains the math modeling concepts of say, expressions and equations. When students arrive at school the next day, they put what they learned online at home into practice by solving problems and graphing a function.

"Students who once spent no time outside class on math are coming to school prepared," says Bettlach. "I can tell the students watch the videos at home by the specific questions they ask."

Since flipping her classrooms last October, Bettlach says student grades have improved by nearly one letter. If a student typically had a 76 percent average in class, that student jumped to nearly 86 percent.

Students Learn at Their Own Pace

One helpful feature of the flipped classroom is that students can return to the lecture videos to review a concept again and rewind if they don't understand something. They can learn at their own pace. Once in the actual classroom, the teacher can work individually with students.

"Flipping the class frees up more time in the classroom for clarification and enrichment activities, so I can be more effective," says Scott Kreher, who teaches English 1 and journalism at North High. Kreher has tried the flipped classroom concept with his English 1 classes. His students watch YouTube videos with grammar, writing and reading skills that he and his curriculum learning team members have created. Since flipping his classes, Kreher has noticed a 10 percent improvement in grammar skills with students.

Tara Stepanek, a journalism teacher at Central High, has seen the power of flipping the classroom. Sometimes she even has her students develop the content for home consumption. "It allows students to access the content they need when they need it rather than when I present it to them," she says.

"A lesson that normally takes a 50-minute period to explain can now be presented in a more concise 15-20 minute (or less) video," says Ruth Knop, who has flipped her honors pre-calculus class at West High. "I spend the extra time in class with small groups or one-on-one with students, in follow-up activities."

To focus on students who need help in class, Bettlach sets up signs at four tables. At table one, a sign reads, "Wait, I have a question." At table two, a sign reads, "I think I have it." At table three, a sign reads, "Challenge me, I am ready to move on." Students assess themselves by sitting at the table that best describes their understanding of a concept.

Nancy Overby, who just flipped her honors pre-calculus classes at North High, says "student needs become apparent more quickly because so much individual attention is able to be given during class time. The improvement has been tremendous with a large growth in top scores."

To be sure, creating the videos for home consumption is a Herculean effort, taking anywhere from an extra 30 minutes per day to hours. "It takes four to five hours to create a good 20-minute flipped video," says Overby. Some teachers say the time constraints have prevented them from flipping all their classes. "My goal is to use the flipped classroom in all my classes, but it is a very time-consuming endeavor," says Ruth Knop. In all, roughly 30 Parkway teachers are using some version of the flipped classroom.

Kelly Bettlach, who has flipped all of her math modeling classes, says the time spent producing videos and follow-up activities for students has been tremendous. "But it won't be time-consuming next year," she says, "because all the work is up-front. I will have everything completed then."

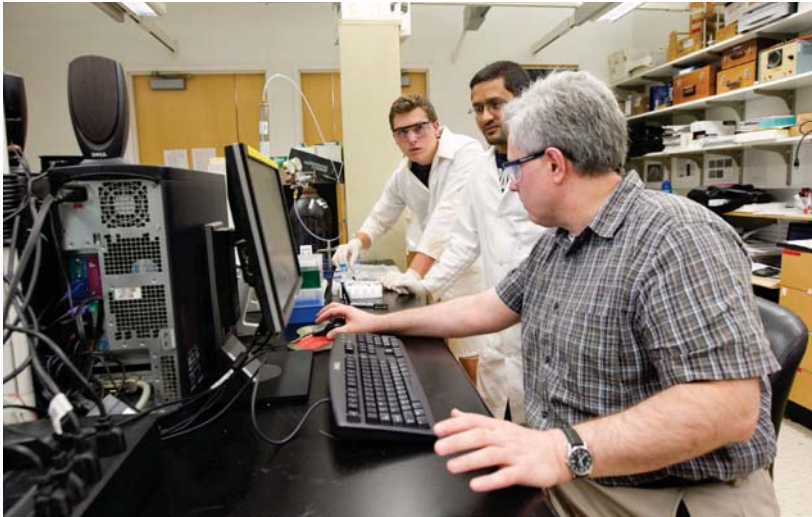
Meanwhile, Bettlach's video audience now includes parents. "I hear your voice while I am cooking at home," one parent told her. "Parents also tell me a particular concept is much easier to understand now than when they were kids," she says.



Grades have improved by one letter grade since she flipped her class, says South Middle math teacher Kelly Bettlach, above. With the new strategy, teachers spend more time working one-on-one in class and students spend more time learning from class lectures at home.

class acts

Parkway students and schools win top awards for science, math and ACT perfection.



► Central High's Alex Mesnier (left) worked in the lab of Keith Stine (right), professor of chemistry at UMSL as part of the 2013 Students and Teachers as Research Scientists (STARS) program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Fourteen Parkway students, the highest number of any local school district, were selected to participate in STARS.

Five aspiring Parkway scientists have won the LMI Aerospace Inc./D3 Technologies Award for Excellence in Research. All five distinguished themselves in the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) Students and Teachers as Research Scientists (STARS) program.

The STARS program pairs students and teachers with research mentors from universities and well-known science facilities. The five winners and their projects are as follows:

- **Claire Ji**, Central High School, "The effect of chemically doped bioactive glass on neuronal survival."
- **Sumrah Khan**, South High School, "Characterizing serum iron binding proteins: is there a unique form of ferritin?"
- **Alexander Mesnier**, Central High School, "Detection of carcinoembryonic Antigen through the use of localized sur-

face plasmon resonance spectroscopy."

- **Benjamin Ratliff**, West High School, "Effects of GLUT1-T478 and p38 mitogen activated kinase on GLUT1-mediated transport and reactive oxygen species in cultured muscle cells."

- **Ellen Wang**, North High School, "Investigation of the genetic transmission of the AtGLE1 mutation and its effect on embryogenesis in Arabidopsis thaliana."

Wall Street, Here I Come!



Tyler Kinzy, a fifth grader in Parkway's MOSAICS Academy, won first place in Missouri in the "InvestWrite" essay competition, which challenges fourth to 12th graders to analyze an investment scenario and write an essay offering investment advice.

Perfect ACT Scorers



► Matthew Melinda Joshua

Three Central High students recently learned they scored a 36 – the highest possible score – on the ACT college admissions and placement exam. The students are **Melinda Lai**, **Matthew Wallach** and **Joshua Zeid**.

Excellence in Math

Rachel Zhang, South High, qualified for the U.S. Mathematical Olympiad, a nine-hour, six-question test. She was one of 500 out of 210,000 in the nation who qualified for the elite test. She then went on to become one of 53 out of the original 210,000 to make it to the next round, a three-week math camp. She loves the logic involved in math.



Parkway School Board Receives State Award

The Missouri School Boards' Association has selected the Parkway Board of Education as a Missouri Outstanding Board of Education for 2013. The award was announced at the MSBA annual conference at the Lake of the Ozarks in October.

The Board was recognized in physical and environmental resources for the following:

- Changes in the physical environment: lighting, air quality;
- Safety and security: AEDs, secure entrances, numbering building entry points;
- Technology: bring your own device, upgraded wireless infrastructures;
- Outstanding environmental practices: solar panels, compostable lunch trays, compressed natural gas buses, recycling;
- Partnerships with the community: Community Education partnership, synthetic athletic fields for 24/7 access; and
- Long-range planning: Facilities 2020, completion of \$90 million bond issue for capital improvements.

Thanks to the board for its outstanding service to Parkway.



► Parkway board seated l to r, Kim Appelbaum; Dee Mogerma, vice president; Beth Feldman, president; standing l to r, Chris Jacob; Bruce Major; Tom Appelbaum; Sam Sciortino.



► By donating bone marrow, Northeast Middle teacher Cryslynn Billingsley pushed a “re-start” button on a student’s life. “We all have the capacity to change a life,” she tells her middle schoolers.

Saving a Life

Northeast Middle teacher Cryslynn Billingsley chose an unusual locale for her birthday this summer.

She spent time in a hospital, donating bone marrow. Due to confidentiality protections, the recipient’s age and gender can’t be mentioned, but Cryslynn does identify the recipient as a child who may be able to attend public school because of the bone marrow transplant. “As a teacher, I was really excited to hear that.”

Cryslynn shared many of the public details of the transplant with her English language arts students. The experience, she told them, changed her life. “I almost was rejected as a donor because I was carrying too much weight,” she says.

Since the transplant, Cryslynn has lost 40 pounds, primarily through portion control. Her maxim today: Stay healthy, stay positive. “In case my child needs anything more,” she says referring to the recipient, “I want to be available. I would do anything to help save that child’s life.”

A mother of three, Cryslynn signed up to become a bone marrow donor 10 years ago after her own stepson was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia. “Though his illness wasn’t terminal, I knew how much better his life could have been with a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, bone marrow transplants are limited for African Americans,” she says. “We need people to do this so other people have a chance to live.”

To be sure, Cryslynn’s four-week recovery was painful. Sore in her back, she couldn’t submerge herself in water for two weeks. Her bones had been penetrated and the risk of infection was too strong. A day at Six Flags wiped her out. “But I was able to chill the next day,” she says, “and I felt better.” Now she walks, does Zumba and rides a stationary bicycle. This fall, in addition to teaching, she plans to do more writing and begin work on a doctorate.

The transplant seems to have infused her with Herculean energy. She relishes sharing the same blood type and the same birthday with her recipient. “Recipients always count the donation day as their second birthday,” she explains.

Then and now, Cryslynn tells students: “It is possible to care about someone you don’t know. We all have the capacity to do something to change an entire life. It feels as if I have been able to press a re-start button and save someone’s life.”

New Website Features for Students and Parents

In October, Parkway launched My Edline – a more personal web experience for parents and students. Parents asked for an easier way to stay connected to school and their children, so the new web features include the following: a personalized login for quick links to schools, an activity feed that puts all your teachers’ web postings in one list, one combined calendar of school events for your family, and more. Edline is particularly helpful for parents with children in more than one school and parents whose teachers post often on teacher webpages.



SCAN THIS NOW

Take an Edline Tour with Parkway
This video will show you how to get started.



Check Out Parkway’s Free Mobile App!

More than 7,000 people have downloaded Parkway’s new mobile app since its August launch. The app makes it easy for parents to do things such as access Infinite Campus, track cafeteria balances and deposit lunch money into their children’s accounts directly from their mobile device.

Parkway’s app ranked among the top 100 education apps in the Apple App Store in August.

Within the first two weeks, 5,000 people downloaded the app, which also received a five-star rating.

The mobile app is compatible with iPhones and Android phones.

To use the mobile app, parents simply need to download it from the Android marketplace or the Apple store. Search for Parkway Schools in either place, and you will find Parkway’s free mobile app.



SCAN THIS NOW

Get Parkway’s Mobile App
This video explains explain how to use the Parkway app.



Parkway and Rockwood Approve Partnership

The Parkway and Rockwood school districts made history at a joint board of education meeting in September. The boards established a community education partnership beginning next school year. The approval came after nearly 18 months of discussion and research that included community workshops.

During the September vote, the Parkway and Rockwood school boards noted that a combined community education program will create greater efficiencies for both districts and could better serve the interests of both districts and patrons. The following benefits were noted:

- A partnership builds upon both districts’ existing advantages, such as location, convenience, quality and affordability with a focus on student/patron safety.
- A partnership offers a broader scope of programs/services for patrons than can be achieved through maintaining separate programs.
- A combined resident base of 250,000+ would provide capacity needed to sustain programs for long-term as both districts’ enrollments and demographics continue to change in coming years.

“We appreciate the foresight of the boards of education from both districts in approving the partnership. We believe this can become a national model for community education and set an example of what can be achieved when large school districts proactively work together,” noted Superintendent Keith Marty.



► L to r, Rockwood Superintendent Terry Adams; Rockwood Board President Bill Brown; Parkway Board President Beth Feldman and Parkway Superintendent Keith Marty



Cafeterias Go Green with Food Composting

Three Parkway students helped initiate a district-wide food composting program this year. Food waste and scraps are picked up daily from all Parkway schools and then composted, saving about 720 tons of material from going into landfills. That amount of tonnage equals the weight of roughly 103 elephants. Food waste is the biggest single contributor to landfills, accounting for nearly 20 percent of waste, according to estimates.

Armed with these statistics, students Jacqueline Sotraidis, Abby Lammers and Julia Goldman presented a strong case to the Parkway Superintendent's Council Action Team for food composting and recyclable lunch trays last spring. At the time, Sotraidis and Lammers attended North High and Goldman attended Central High.

All three students were encouraged by Erik Lueders, sustainability manager for Parkway, who is passionate about pursuing green initiatives. As a result, Parkway switched to recyclable lunch trays last year, abandoning the standard styrofoam trays district-wide. In the North region, a food composting program was also successfully piloted.

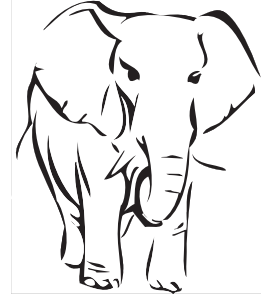
This year, the food composting program was expanded across the district.



► **Jacqueline Sotraidis, above, formerly of North High and now a student at the University of Minnesota, and two other students made the case for food composting.**

Parkway's green legacy actually began 23 years ago, when Sorrento Springs Elementary students prompted the district to begin a recycling program. Since that time, Parkway has gained a national reputation as an environmental leader. Recent awards include:

- In 2005, Parkway was the only school district to win a national recycling award;
- In 2006, Northeast Middle was the first school in St. Louis to get an external solar panel;
- In 2006, Parkway received the Outstanding Achievement – Education Category Award from the Missouri Waste Control Coalition;
- In 2008, Parkway received the Outstanding School Recycling Award from the Missouri Recycling Association;
- In 2009, Parkway received the Growing Green Award for Education from the U.S. Green Building Council – Missouri Gateway Chapter;
- In 2009, Central High's new science building, which incorporated sustainability planning in its design, became a LEED registered project;
- In 2010, Parkway received the American Forest and Paper Association recycling award;
- In 2012, Parkway launched a major solar project, the largest one in Missouri school history at the time;
- In 2013, Parkway received the Energy Star Leader Award from the EPA for a 10 percent reduction in energy usage across the district.
- In 2013, Parkway received the Growing Green Award for Operational Excellence from the U.S. Green Building Council – Missouri Gateway Chapter;
- This year, in addition to food composting, 30 new Parkway buses will run on cleaner natural gas instead of diesel; and
- Once again this fall, Parkway received an award from the Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) for its "Small Organics Diversion Program." Business and community leaders nominated Parkway for the award.



► **Daily food composting saves 720 tons from going into landfills – roughly the equivalent of 103 elephants.**



► **Food scraps and trays are composted daily at all schools.**



► **Erik Lueders, Parkway sustainability manager, helped students make the case for food composting.**

Facilities Long Range Planning

Parkway has started looking at ongoing facilities needs for the future. Facilities teams and residents are now meeting through Project Parkway to evaluate buildings and develop priorities for the future. All meetings are open to the public, and attendance is encouraged. The next quarterly meeting is from 7 to 9 p.m. November 18 at West High School, 14653 Clayton Road, Ballwin, 63011.

For more information, visit www.parkwayschools.net and click on Project Parkway under Quick Links.



A Veteran's Story

One veteran will be missing from Oak Brook Elementary's Veterans Day celebration this fall. The school typically holds a huge celebration, saluting roughly 100 veterans.

The veteran, James Robert Clugh, did attend the celebration two years ago. Driving to the school from Rockford, Ill, he was excited to be invited by his great grandson, R.J. Bell, then an Oak Brook fifth grader.

As part of the celebration, R.J. presented his great grandfather with a medal thanking him for his years of service. The medal presentation is a tradition at Oak Brook. Principal Chris Shirley has the medals specifically made for veterans and asks students to present them to relatives.

After receiving the medal two years ago, James Robert Clugh thanked his great grandson and the school, waving to all the students as they waved the flags. Then he drove home.

No one knew just how much that medal meant to James Robert Clugh until he died recently. During his last days, he told his wife Delores that he wanted to be buried in his Oak Brook medal. "The celebration was one of his favorite memories," says Delores.



▶ **Veteran James Robert Clugh, with great grandson R.J., asked to be buried in the medal he received from Oak Brook Elementary.**

This is Parkway... *at a glance*

- ▶ "Accredited with Distinction" by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- ▶ Percentage of certified staff with master's degree or above: Parkway: 79.4% Missouri: 59.1%

- ▶ Recognized for "Distinction in Performance" by DESE for 14 consecutive years

- ▶ 14 U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards

- ▶ **ENROLLMENT**
Enrollment: 17,067
18 elementary schools
Five middle schools
Four high schools
One non-traditional high school
One early childhood center

- ▶ **FINANCES**
2013 Residential Tax Rate: \$4.074 per \$100 of assessed value

- ▶ **EMPLOYEES**
Teacher Salaries: \$61,616 (Parkway Average) \$46,214 (Missouri Average)

▶ ACHIEVEMENT

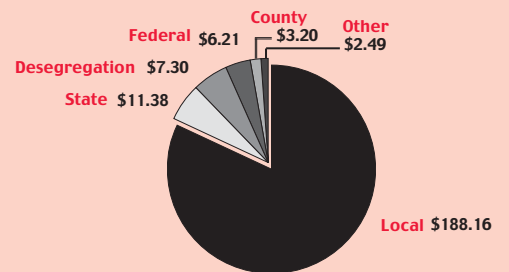
- National Merit Scholars = 45
- Semifinalists: 22
- Commended: 23

- ▶ ACT Composite Test Score
Parkway: 23.3
Missouri: 21.6
USA: 21.1

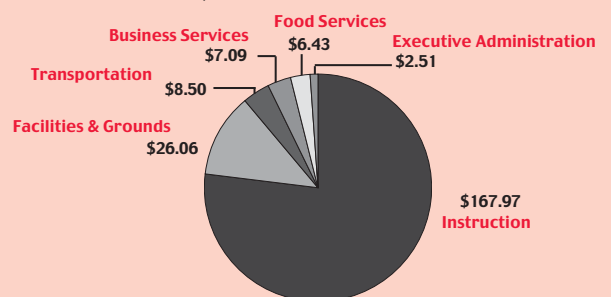
- ▶ Parkway gives the ACT to all juniors at no charge.

- ▶ SAT Combined Test Score
Parkway: 1864
Missouri: 1756
USA: 1498

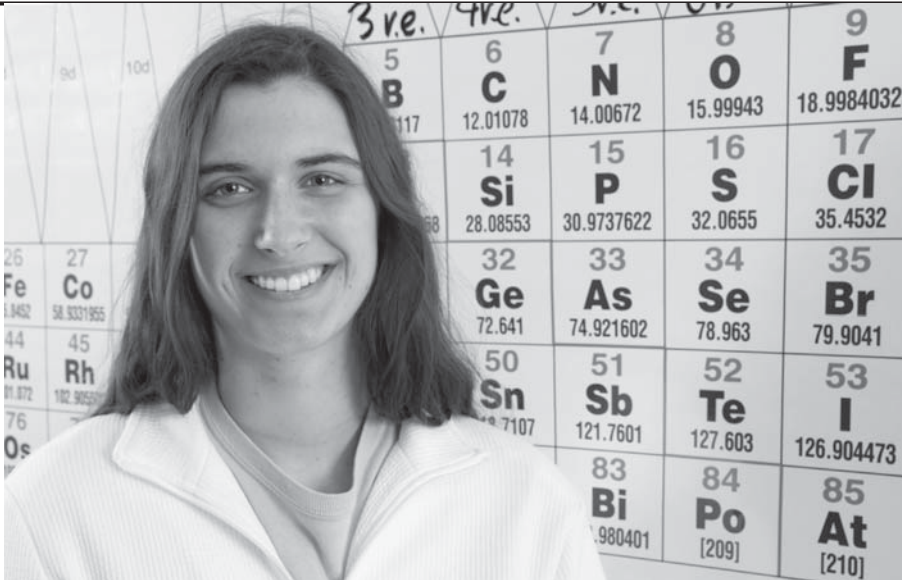
2013-14 Operating Revenue: \$218.74 million



2013-14 Operating Expenditures: \$218.56 million



To view the 2013-14 budget, visit www.parkwayschools.net, and under the "About Us" tab, click "Financial Information."



► **Elaine Reichert, a National Merit Semifinalist from Cental High, was also the only Missouri student selected to attend the Research Science Institute at MIT this summer.**

Forty-Five Students Named National Merit Semifinalists or Commended

Forty-five Parkway students have either been named National Merit Semifinalists or Commended in the 2013 National Merit program. The Parkway semifinalists scored at least 214 out of a possible 240 on the PSAT test to earn their distinction.

National Merit Semifinalists

Here are the Parkway semifinalists:

Central High: Rakshya Devkota, Elizabeth A. Gibson, Sandy Gu, Allyson B. Kang, Connor J. Kraus, Melinda Lai, Simon H. Lu, Elaine C. Reichert, Jennifer N. Romine, Kevin D. Tian, Michael S. Wang, Christopher H. Zhao.

North High: Alicia J. Carr.

South High: Brian T. Cheng, Katherine A. Estep, Hannah M. Kloppenburg, Duncan S. Scanlon.

West High: Thomas H. Christensen, James D. Lister, David E. McKnight, Brendan C. McMorow, Rigel L. Robinson.

An additional 23 Parkway students were also Commended in the 2013 National Merit program. They placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students. They appear below:

Commended Students

Central High: Patrick Cannon, Michael Gu, Kaitlyn Hogan, Zach Kimberg, Gregory Kosinski, John Langa, Aidan McCarter.

North High: Smrithi Chidambaram, Allan Khariton, Kaycie Shrine.

South High: Timothy Bain, Rachel Cheung, Austin Flick, Samuel Rudnick, Jessica Wallace, Rachel Wipler.

West High: Padraig Hennessey, Neil Maitra, Zarfán Osmawi, Ben Ratliff, Brenna Ryan, Elijah Seigel, Alexandra Vietor.

The National Merit Scholarship program is an annual academic competition, which identifies seniors who represent the top of their graduating class. This is measured by their performance on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), which measures the likelihood of success in college. Students take the PSAT as juniors. Of the 1.5 million juniors who take the PSAT, only 16,000 advance to the semifinalist category. For additional information, visit www.nationalmerit.org.

Your School Board

Putting faces with names

Beth Feldman
President



Dee Mogerman
Vice President



Kim Appelbaum



Tom Appelbaum



Chris Jacob



Bruce Major



Sam Sciortino



The board meets at 7 p.m. on designated Wednesdays at Central Middle. For more information on board policies or meetings, which are also streamed live, please visit our website at: www.parkwayschools.net/boe/boe.cfm.



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Calendar

www.parkwayschools.net/pages/ParkwayC2/News___Calendars

November 27-29
Thanksgiving break
No school

**Dec. 23, 2013 to
Jan. 3, 2014**
Winter break
No school

Please Note: Because Parkway mails this publication by carrier route to save postage costs, some individuals who do not live in Parkway may receive this mailing.

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Check out
Parkway's
website!

Check out new features on Parkway's website. In October, Parkway launched "My Edline," a more personal web experience for parents and students. The new features are based partly on parent input through Project Parkway and include:

- A personalized login for quick links to schools;
- An activity feed that puts all your teachers' web postings in one list;
- Enhanced communication capabilities between teachers and parents; and
- Improved calendars, allowing parents to download them into personal calendars and view more than one school's calendar at the same time.