

# PARKWAY today

News and information for residents of Parkway School District

Spring 2016

Accredited with Distinction

## A Brighter Future Begins with Robots



**PLUS**

**PERFECT  
SCORES**

**BOARD  
CANDIDATES**

**ENTERPRISING  
STUDENTS**

Central Middle students Amiyah Harlan and Ryan Mapes hold new robots.

# A Brighter Future with Robots

*Star Wars* may have popularized the Sphero robot, but the lovable droid made its educational debut more than a year ago.



▲ Central Middle students Amiyah Harlan and Ryan Mapes have been smitten with Sphero, a robotic ball, above, since teacher Ryan Boeckman began using the droid to help teach science skills.

Sphero may look like a golf ball, but the tiny robot blushes, laughs and helps teach students programming skills.

**S**tar Wars may have popularized the Sphero robot, but Parkway students have been smitten with the tiny, lovable droid since it made its educational debut in classrooms and libraries here more than a year ago. The remote-controlled robotic ball laughs, moves, reacts to student commands, and helps teach students programming skills. Sphero also blushes, but not a bright red. Instead, Sphero turns faint pink or blueberry.

#### Sphero Is “Humanistic” with a Face

Central Middle seventh-grader Divine Harrell describes Sphero as “humanistic, with a

face,” but he is equally delighted with Ollie and Romo, two other robots science teacher Ryan Boeckman brings to science class. “Romo has this wonderful laugh,” says Divine, who is learning basic programming skills from the trio of robots -- in particular, from Sphero, who reacts to each student’s personal command.

#### Overcoming the “Play Factor”

Sphero is so much fun that teacher Ryan Boeckman says he sometimes has to make sure his seventh-graders “overcome the play factor” to learn math and science skills. “My students will get so excited about moving the robots that I need to remind them to do the math.”

In one science lesson, students have to move the remote-controlled Sphero in a straight line and measure how far it goes in five seconds. The exercise is similar to what engineers do for the planetary Rover on Mars. The engineers can’t see Rover on Mars, so they have to control Rover from afar. “I want my students to understand how difficult it is for engineers to command Rover from afar,” says Boeckman. “They also work in a mission team setting, so they have to problem-solve to accomplish a common goal.”

Boeckman is one of the first Parkway teachers to incorporate Sphero into middle-school science lessons. A *Star Wars* fan himself, he wrote a grant to fund four Spheros in class lessons. And he brings in his own personal robots, Ollie and Romo, for classroom lessons.

#### The Demand Is Great

Other teachers are following suit. Currently, a total of 25 Spheros are available in Parkway libraries for teachers to checkout and use in their classrooms. “They are hugely popular,” says Bill Bass, Parkway innovation coordinator for instructional technology, information, and library media. “We get lots of requests for them. LaVonda Adams, math facilitator at Sorrento Springs Elementary, was super excited to use them with her students and didn’t want to give them back. Highcroft Ridge Elementary used them at its Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) night and wants them again. We also have some in the Mason Ridge library, and Northeast Middle and West High have also used them.”

“The demand is great,” says Bill Bass. “And it is district-wide. Elementary, middle and high schools have all used them, and principals are interested in them.”

# superintendent's corner

## Looking Ahead to the Next Generation

Dear Parkway Community:

In the fall, the Parkway Board of Education and district administrators committed to hearing from our community to gather important feedback for the next generation of Project Parkway, our strategic plan. We held 113 listening sessions around the district with over 1,100 students, parents, educators and community members participating. In addition, an online survey provided for another 1,535 respondents. I personally participated in 12 sessions and thoroughly enjoyed and valued the input from those we serve.

We are now in the process of dissecting the results and gaining meaning from the feedback. We will use it as we develop direction for the next five years and beyond of our strategic plan.

We certainly heard how much



**Superintendent  
Keith Marty**

pride individuals of all ages and positions have in Parkway. Our stakeholders see the district as a leader and want to maintain that position. We heard pride and support for innovation and preparing students for the “ever-changing world.” Time and again, we encountered individuals desiring Parkway to do whatever is necessary to ensure we continue to make students the focus of our planning and to keep up with the changes and innovations that will become norms in future learning environments and the workplace.

I am proud Parkway is beginning to think outside the box of traditional school and learning norms. This issue of *Parkway Today* will give you a few glimpses of what is occurring in our schools. Many of the changes are student-directed, and there is enthusiasm for new technology and new learning environments.

We cannot forget our need to continue focusing on basic reading, writing and math skills. But staff and students are beginning to see how technology and new approaches create greater relevancy and meaning to teaching and learning.

As Parkway leaders prepare to present the next generation of Project Parkway to our school board, we must take seriously

**“I am proud Parkway is beginning to think outside the box of traditional school and learning norms.”**

our entire mission—“ensuring all students are **capable, curious** and **confident** learners who understand and respond to the **challenges** of an **ever-changing world.**”

Please enjoy reading the stories in this issue, and thank you for helping us shape the future of teaching and learning in Parkway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith A. Marty'.

Keith A. Marty, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## Parkway Receives \$15,000 Grant to Improve School Safety



Photo by J.B. Forbes, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

▲ **During previous intruder training at West High, Scott Bollmann, building manager, simulates an active shooter event.**

**T**his spring and summer, Parkway teachers and staff will take part in more training on how to handle an intruder in a school, thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Missouri School Boards' Association. In Parkway's earlier intruder training sessions in 2014, teachers and employees learned about potential response options including evading, escaping or engaging an intruder. Then and now, teachers will also participate in simulated life-like shooting situations where they are taught to barricade the door, and then lead the students out of the school any way possible. The program emphasizes:

- A greater awareness of your surroundings, and;
- Building the confidence to consider the best options for students and yourself in a potentially dangerous situation.

Those who originally trained others in the program will also be able to refresh their own training this spring and summer. The 2016 training program also offers:

- An opportunity for more employees to be trained as trainers (two full days).
- A one-half day training for new employees or those who were unable to participate in the original training.



▲ Maple Butterscotch is the top seller at the Colt Café, Central's new profitable, student-run coffee shop. Three more coffee cafés will open soon at other Parkway high schools, giving students first-hand business experience. Pictured from left are student managers Carleigh Nichols, Tyler Alms and Kristen Stolte.

## Colt Café: Giving Starbucks a Run for the Mocha

**A**t 9:25 a.m. Tuesday, the regulars are already here. Freshman Lara Coker is seated in one of the 12 chairs in the tiny Colt Café, sipping a \$2 iced cappuccino. Her good friend, Khaliah Booker, sips a Jamaican blend coffee, priced from \$1.25 for small to \$1.50 for large. "We bums are always here," jokes Coker. "We come here to chill out and grab a few minutes of study."

The Colt Café, located in Room 410 of the business wing at Central High, appeals to freshmen like Coker because they can't leave campus, as upper classmen do, to get their daily dose of coffee at Starbucks or elsewhere.

When the café opened in 2015, "the lines were so long we lost business because we couldn't turn out the coffees fast enough," says Kim Carr, one of the Central High business teachers who oversees the student entrepreneurs.

That real-life lesson in supply and demand is the premise behind the Colt Café and three other student-run cafés scheduled to open this spring at South, North and Fern Ridge high schools.

### Profits Used for Supplies and Scholarships

"Our purpose is to provide learning from experience with a service or product that meets market demand," says Kim Carr. Experiential learning is a strong component of Parkway's mission. To that end, all the student-run cafés operate within Parkway's business curriculum. Students get class credit for managing and operating the business and working one half-hour shift per week. The Colt Café is open two days per week, before school and during academic lab from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

In those two plus hours, the Colt Café takes in roughly \$200 weekly. "We began operating in the black within a few months of the initial opening last year," says student financial manager Tyler Rosen.

The profits are used to award college scholarships to

seniors working in the café and to purchase supplies, like the café's signature Ronnoco coffee, and the sugar-free hazelnut and vanilla syrups. All menu items follow Parkway's food service and state guidelines.

### "We Want a More Visible Location"

"We have calculators to determine nutritional content of our items," says Carr. "Coffee is acceptable for high school students, according to state guidelines. We have sweeteners, not sugar. We offer whole grain cookies, a huge seller."

"This café has been more challenging than I could have imagined," says senior Elyssa Beilenson, another financial manager, who eagerly tends to the café's books on her own time.

Like her fellow student entrepreneurs, Beilenson would eventually like to see the Colt Café, and its notable artwork from David Jafari's art students, move to a more visible area in the hallway next to the school's student commons.

"The students are already learning that location is important in a business," says Carr. "Because we are so tucked away, not everyone knows about us."

"Our sales would definitely increase with a move," says Beilenson.

Beilenson and Rosen may be two of the seniors applying for a Colt Café scholarship. The application essay asks seniors to discuss the following:

- Your contributions to the Colt Café through the year;
- The influence the business, marketing, and technology courses had on your leadership abilities as they relate to the Colt Café management; and
- The impact the Colt Café experience has had on achievement of your future career.

**"When we opened, the lines were so long we lost business; we couldn't meet demand," says teacher Kim Carr. That real-life lesson is the premise behind the Colt Café.**



▲ Craig Elementary Principal Bill Senti gives a high five to a student. Craig was recently named a Missouri School of Character.

## Two More for Parkway Missouri Character Awards

**T**wo Parkway schools - Barretts and Craig elementary - are 2016 Missouri Schools of Character. The schools demonstrated that their focus on character development has a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate.

The designation comes from Character.org, a national advocate and leader in the movement to educate, inspire and empower young people to be ethical and engaged citizens. This year, 66 schools and four districts from 16 states were named State Schools of Character for 2016.

The Schools of Character application process is an opportunity for schools and districts to receive thoughtful feedback for growth and excellence in the area of character development through Character.

org's 11 Principles of Effective Character Education framework. It is also a method of recognizing exemplary schools and districts in the nation.

"We are truly proud of this year's designated schools and districts," said Becky Sipos, Character.org's president and CEO. "Their character initiatives have created conditions for learning where students are thriving and growing into ethical and productive members of our society."

Other Parkway schools who have received regional and national awards for character education include:

- McKelvey Elementary
- Oak Brook Elementary
- Ross Elementary
- Sorrento Springs Elementary



▲ Barretts Elementary is named a Missouri School of Character.

## Parkway Earns AAA Rating

**S**tandard and Poor's Rating Services recently reviewed Parkway's finances and reaffirmed our AAA rating, the highest available for school districts. Parkway is one of only four school districts in the state of Missouri to receive the AAA rating.



The ratings reflect the following:

- Participation in the broad and diverse St. Louis regional economy;
- Very strong income and extremely strong market value;
- Strong financial position, supported with strong reserves; and
- Low debt levels

# Moving Toward Digital Techbooks

Digital techbooks are politely elbowing their way into middle schools.

**D**igital techbooks are politely elbowing their way into Parkway middle schools. During the last two years, eighth-grade social studies, sixth through eighth-grade science, and math have all integrated the use of techbooks into classes. The content includes videos, readings, virtual labs and real-life math applications. Social studies is presented from “multiple perspectives,” says Bill Bass, Parkway innovation coordinator for instructional technology, information and library media.

## Content Is Presented from Multiple Perspectives

Consider, for instance, the World Cup. With a traditional textbook, one publisher would present the story from one perspective. But with a digital techbook, students can click videos to hear viewpoints from Brazilians or Americans. Moreover, World Cup information can be updated immediately when a winner is declared.

“Traditional textbooks are outdated the minute you purchase them,” says Dr. Becky Litherland, Parkway science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) coordinator. Litherland and Dr. Courtney Yeager, middle school interdisciplinary curriculum coordinator, led the effort to incorporate Discovery Education’s digital, interactive techbooks in middle schools.

“Coordinators and teachers reviewed many textbook options, and the Discovery Education techbook was most aligned with our mission, vision and learning principles and our board-approved social studies program goals,” says Yeager. “Additionally, this adoption allowed us to get more technology into the hands of our middle school students by adding chromebooks to each of the adopting classrooms.”

The approval process included teachers such as South Middle sixth-grade science teacher, Joel Rademeyer, who is also the department chair.

“We use this as one tool in our teaching, not as the entire curriculum,” says Rademeyer.

## Spanish and French translations are Included

“Digital techbooks more easily engage kids than traditional textbooks,” he adds. “They are also easier for students not yet reading on grade level, and students who speak foreign languages.” Discovery Education techbooks offer French and Spanish translations for students who are not yet fluent in English, and will even read aloud to students.

To use the digital techbooks, eight chromebooks are provided in each classroom for students to share. South Middle has a Bring Your Own Device policy, which Rademeyer says helps to make up the deficit in ensuring each student has a device to use.



▲ South Middle students Sarayu Kalwa and Layla Selk, foreground, and Arjun Dubey and Dennis Kozaryuk, background.

Roughly 5 percent of Parkway students have no home Internet service, so print resources are provided for students who need them.

Middle school is a “fertile place” for these techbooks to be introduced, says Bass. “Middle school students have never known a time when their parents didn’t have a cell phone in their back pocket.”

Though the district hasn’t formally adopted digital techbooks in elementary or high school, many other Parkway textbooks have digital components, says Lisa Merideth, Parkway assistant superintendent of teaching, learning and accountability. “This is a growing trend.”

**“Traditional textbooks are outdated the minute you purchase them,” says Dr. Becky Litherland, Parkway science, technology, engineering and math coordinator.**

# class acts

Parkway students start a free tutoring program, and earn perfect ACT and SAT scores.



## Photo Winner

Kim Wesiman, a Parkway bus driver, recently won \$1,000 for the district for a photo she took of her bus in front of the Arch. Kim snapped the photo when she took students for a field trip, and Parkway Transportation Director Will Rosa entered it in a back-to-school photo contest sponsored by Thomas Bus. For Rosa, the Arch rising high in the sky symbolizes the westward expansion in the U.S., and the Thomas CNG bus symbolizes the expansion of green fuel alternatives. The green-striped CNG bus from Thomas runs on compressed natural gas.

▲ **Free Tutors! Central High English Honor students, led by Josh Yang, center, start a free tutoring program for students and residents of Ferguson, Mo. From left, Naomi and Abby Urnes; Josh Yang; Gajan Kumar and Sharanya Kumar.**

**A** team of English honor students from Central High, led by senior **Josh Yang**, has started a free tutoring program for students and residents of Ferguson, Mo. “We love it,” say twins **Naomi** and **Abby Urnes**. Every Tuesday and Thursday after school, the Urnes twins head to the Ferguson library to learn “more from the residents than they learn from us.” Yang, their leader, started the tutoring group in 2014 to try and equalize the playing field between Parkway students like them who have an abundance of resources and students in Ferguson who don’t. Then and now, the number of tutors continues to swell. **North** and **West High** honors students have joined the ranks, along with Rockwood students and Washington University students. The subjects covered include math, English, science, history and studying for the GED high school equivalency test. Josh has also formed a 501(c3) nonprofit company in order to collect donations from Monsanto and offer scholarships to Ferguson students. “I want the program to continue even after I leave Central High,” he says.



▲ **Bus driver wins \$1,000 for this bus photo.**

## South High Takes Second in Scholar Bowl



**F**or 10 points, name the Parkway high school that recently took second place in a regional Scholar Bowl invitational in St. Charles, Mo. If you answered **South High**, give yourself 10 points. In this Jeopardy-style academic challenge, the South High Scholar Bowl team ranked second out of 32 teams from St. Louis County, St. Charles County and Jefferson City/Columbia. To play, students answer questions from moderators on a wide range of subjects, using buzzers to signal they have the correct answer. Winning Parkway South High team members include seniors **Derek Berndt** and **Kurt Weatherford**; junior **Erin Neely** (who also placed third out of 160 students individually); sophomores **Mason Dyess**, **Akshay Mehta**, **Elvis Walters** and **Cindy Zhou**, and freshmen **Melody Walkenhorst**, **Eric Suter** and **Brendan Pfeiffer**.

◀ **South High Scholar Bowl team**

## Oak Brook Elementary Chess Club Wins First Place in Gateway League



### ▲ “Amazing Perseverance”

The Oak Brook Elementary Chess Club keeps piling up wins in the Gateway Chess League, a greater St. Louis area scholastic chess organization. In January, the entire team took first place in the K-5 division with Team One members **Anuj Ketkar, Isabel Yearian, Ali Syed, Cole**

**Tatro, and Anikait Rawat** leading their school to victory.

It was the fifth consecutive win for the Oak Brook Elementary Chess Club.

Individual players also brought home 2 first-place trophies, and 1 second-place trophy.

Coaches and parents say these chess athletes are ever-diligent about practicing. In addition to weekly practice at school, many compete in smaller weekend tournaments to help improve their game and

dedicate school holidays, snow days and weekends for extended practices.

“They show amazing character and perseverance,” says parent Casey Tatro-Lossman.

Oak Brook Elementary was one of eight schools to compete in January’s Gateway Chess League.

At that time, the school’s Team Two also came in sixth out of eight schools.

Team Two members are: **Anushka Rawat, Saketh Byrapuneni, Imran Khan, Maanvi Aggarwal and Anika Vydier.**

## Science Fair Winners



Photo by Sarah Booth

### ▲ Haran Kumar, West High

Four Parkway students placed in the Top 10 in the Honors Division of the Academy of St. Louis’s Science Fair. **Haran Kumar**, a West High sophomore, received second place, a \$2,000 scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Intel International Science Fair in May.

As finalists, **Aditya Gokhale**, North High; and **Mahnoor Malik** and **Neil Tomala**, West High; each won \$1,000 in scholarship money.

## Three Parkway Students Ace ACT and SAT College Entrance Exams

Three Parkway students recently learned they aced the ACT and SAT exams. **Sai Pinni** and **Maddy Scannell**, of South and Central High, respectively, both scored a 36, the highest possible score, on the ACT college admissions exam. Typically, less than one-tenth of one percent of students who take the ACT earn a perfect score of 36. The exam is offered at no cost to Parkway juniors.

Scannell, a junior whose favorite subject is science, serves as captain of the debate team. She is interested in neuroscience, oncology and politics.

Pinni plans on majoring in neuroscience and/or biology, with a possible minor in Spanish. She is interested in a career in pediatric neurology or neonatology.

**Sharanya Kumar** received a perfect score of 2,400 on the SAT exam. She is interested in science. A tennis player, she is in the school orchestra.



▲ From left, Maddy Scannell, Central High; Sai Pinni, South High, and Sharanya Kumar, Central High



# Board highlights

## Meet the School Board Candidates

**Two director positions on the Parkway Board of Education are open in the April 5, 2016, election. Five candidates have filed for the two positions. Below are the photos and biographies as submitted by each candidate.**



**Sam Sciortino**

I had the distinct privilege to serve as a teacher and administrator in the Parkway School District. My educational career began at Central Junior where I served as a Teacher and Assistant Principal. When East Junior High School opened, I served as an Assistant Principal and Principal.

My opportunity to serve the Parkway community at the district level began as Manager of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction followed by Executive Leadership Principal and

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. Following, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with students, teachers, and parents as West Middle School Principal until I completed my tenure in Parkway.

My administrative career continued as Principal of Oak Hill School and the Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill community as Head of School.

Serving on educational and church boards, committees, and professional associations continue to be highlights in my educational and personal volunteer endeavors.

While having the distinct privilege to serve as a Parkway Board of Education Director for six years, my future professional and personal commitment, goals, and untiring efforts will be to continue working with the Parkway school community in growing Parkway's rich tradition of excellence to even greater heights in educating ALL our children and teens in fulfilling their dreams and becoming highly educated leaders. To be caring and dedicated leaders who will positively impact the lives around them through all their professional and personal endeavors.



**B. Sophia Ford-Glanton**

As an educator and a parent of Parkway students, I am passionate about and committed to preserving Parkway's legacy of excellence.

I recognize that the district is positioned to foster strategic growth in response to the ever-changing needs of our increasingly diverse student body. My experience as a surgeon assists me in understanding that this requires precision, attention to detail and celebration of best practices and standards that have always served Parkway well. My time at Stanford University taught me that shoring up an

exceptional foundation ensures an excellent future. The skillset I acquired as a student has been instrumental in solidifying my professional teaching capabilities - something that has also made me a better parent - though that too is a continual learning process.

In my role as a physician educator, I routinely lead teams of researchers and young physicians. I help guide curriculum for both trainees and medical students. I will bring those skills, along with a spirit of purposeful collaboration, to the Parkway Board of Education and offer a fresh perspective that will work well with the board's pre-existing vision of achievement and high expectations.

A vote for Sophia Ford-Glanton, MD is a vote for excellence in education!

Longtime Creve Coeur resident with a devotion to education, sports and community service eager to continue serving the community, this time as a school board member.

Studied at Washington University (MBA, M.S. Mechanical Engineering, Graduate Certificate Artificial Intelligence), St. Louis University (Juris Doctor), Cambridge University in England (Graduate Certificate) and Illinois Institute of Technology (B.S. Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, M.S. Petroleum Engineering).

Registered Patent Attorney and Member of the Missouri Bar. Presently a solo practice attorney based in University City. Also currently engaged in designing industrial robots for foods industry.

Past work experience includes Director of Engineering for medical devices company and Adjunct Faculty at St. Louis University.

St. Louis Chinese Academy Language School board member.

Member of Creve Coeur Days Carnival Board.

North-East Middle School's School Representative for recently passed Parkway Proposition S.

Parkway resident for over 30 years.

Daughter a seventh grader at North-East Middle School.

Creve Coeur City Council (2006-2016) with a brief stint as Acting Mayor in 2011.



**A. James (AJ) Wang**

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world', - Nelson Mandela. I was born and raised in a Christian family in India. Coming from a poor family of farm workers where Dad dropped out at 5th and mom at 3rd grade, I had real-life examples constantly reminding me of how limited life could be without education. In order to fulfill mine and my parent's dream, I studied hard for who I am today and ultimately earned my BA and MBA degrees with several other certifications. Today, I am a proud parent of a Parkway North Senior. As a board member, I plan to use my life-taught lessons, to ensure my son and all Parkway students are provided with the highest quality education. My goal of providing our kids with nothing but the best educational opportunities is the reason why I want to be a board member. I am very passionate about my life and faith. I am dedicated to being active in my community and have been on employer's Philanthropy Committee where I actively organize and participate in activities such as Food Bank, Heart-Walk, Boys Hope Girls Hope, Junior Achievement etc.

By profession, I am a Business Intelligence Analyst and would appreciate the opportunity to use my years of experience, hard earned education and life experiences to represent the citizens of our school district to make the best of our tax dollars and lead Parkway further on the road of excellence. In today's economy, I very well understand how our investment should yield in the highest return of investment. I would like Parkway to be the school district to hire and retain best talents and unleash opportunities for our teachers to provide the best education to our kids, giving our community a better next generation.



**Sudhir Rathod**

As the son of a public school teacher and graduate of a strong public school system in Colorado, I have long embraced and understood the value of education; it has guided many choices, including choosing Parkway when we moved to St. Louis. We've lived here nearly 10 yrs and have two young daughters, one each in elementary and middle school.



**Michael Bertz**

I offer a unique set of qualifications as a prospective Board member - a research-based educational background, financial expertise, seasoned leadership, and significant experience in Parkway.

I have volunteered directly in our schools in many capacities, including PTO Treasurer, along with District advisory roles, including Treasurer of the citizens' committee during 2014's bond campaign, and now with Project Parkway's Steering Committee.

Professionally, I earned two undergraduate degrees in Engineering Physics and Architecture from Miami University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. My doctoral dissertation centered on cognitive science and how we train engineers; I see those principles coming to life in Parkway today. After a career in engineering, I switched into investment research as a technology analyst. I am now an equity Portfolio Manager for an institutional investment firm.

## High School Heroes Program Celebrates 20 Years



Parkway sophomores and juniors recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of Parkway's High School Heroes program. In the program, sophomores are trained to deliver prevention lessons to middle school students regarding marijuana, tobacco and electronic cigarettes.

"The idea is that middle schoolers will listen to high school students since they are credible and have knowledge to pass on," says Diana Tate, who helped start Parkway's High School Heroes program.

"It is so important that our High School Heroes realize they are a part of big prevention nationwide," says Tate. "I love to see their passion."

The program is co-sponsored by The American Heart Association and the American Lung Association. Mercy Medical may become another partner this year.

◀ **High School Heroes, all juniors, from left, Robbie Wadud, South High; Katherine Laue, Central High; Logan Williams, West High; and Claire Vance, North High.**

## Parkway Named Top Workplace

This is the second year for Parkway.

**F**or the second year in a row, Parkway was named a top workplace by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The honor was announced in June, 2015. Parkway ranked 13 on the list of the region's top employers. The list of top employers is determined by employee surveys of organizations across the area.

In confidential surveys, Parkway employees indicated they believe the following:

- The encouragement of new ideas and their job makes them feel as if they are part of something meaningful;
- Top management understands what is happening in Parkway; and
- Parkway operates with strong values and ethics.

With more than 2,700 employees, Parkway is one of the largest employers in Chesterfield and St. Louis County.



## Check out Parkway Preschool

Teachers are degreed and certified.

If you haven't yet taken advantage of Parkway's newest preschool, make sure to check out the location at 12790 Fee Fee Road, next to North High School.

The preschool opened in August and features the following:

- Degreed and certified teachers
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Individualized learning
- Focus on learning through play
- Children build foundations for kindergarten



▶ The focus is on individual learning and developmentally appropriate curriculum.

Families can register at the Parkway Early Childhood Center; 14605 Clayton Road; Ballwin, Mo. 63011.

## This is Parkway... *at a glance*

▶ "Accredited with Distinction" by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

▶ Recognized for "Distinction in Performance" by DESE for 15 consecutive years

▶ 17 U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards

▶ **ENROLLMENT**  
Enrollment: 17,229  
18 elementary schools  
Five middle schools  
Four high schools  
One non-traditional high school  
Two preschools

▶ **FINANCES**  
2015 Residential Tax Rate: \$4.2789 per \$100 of assessed value

▶ **EMPLOYEES**  
Teacher Salaries: \$64,501 (Parkway Average) \$47,397 (Missouri Average)

▶ Percentage of certified staff with master's degree or above:  
Parkway: 83.1%  
Missouri: 58.9%

### ACHIEVEMENT

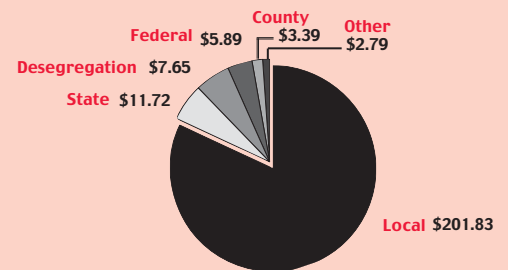
▶ National Merit Scholars = 50

▶ **ACT Composite Test Score**  
Parkway: 22.9  
Missouri: 21.7  
USA: 21

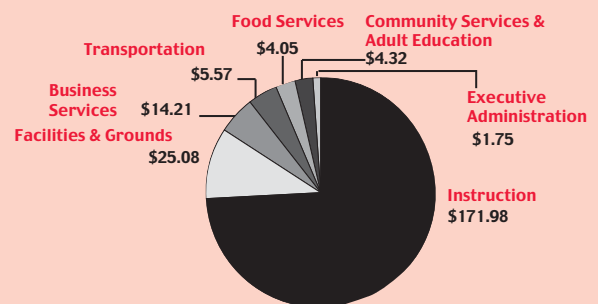
▶ Parkway gives the ACT to all juniors at no charge.

▶ **SAT Combined Test Score**  
Parkway: 1874  
Missouri: 1777  
USA: 1490

### 2015-16 Projected Operating Revenue: \$233.27 million



### 2015-16 Projected Operating Expenditures: \$226.96 million





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# Calendar

[www.parkwayschools.net/pages/ParkwayC2/News\\_\\_Calendars](http://www.parkwayschools.net/pages/ParkwayC2/News__Calendars)

**May 19**  
Last day of school

**May 31**  
Summer school begins  
(9-12)

**June 6**  
Summer school begins  
(K-8)

**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.

Parkway Today is published twice annually by the Communications Department.

Parkway School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. If an otherwise qualified individual with a disability needs accommodations to attend or participate in a school or district activity, please contact the staff member responsible for that event at least four (4) business days in advance. Questions, concerns, or requests for information/assistance can also be directed to the designated district coordinator for each applicable federal law or by calling (314) 415-8100.

## Parkway's Mobile App

Check out Parkway's free mobile app which ranked among the top 100 education apps in the Apple App Store. More than 18,000 people have downloaded the app.



Here are prominent features:

- Choose your news and notifications;
- Access grades and assignments; and
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# Growing Up Green

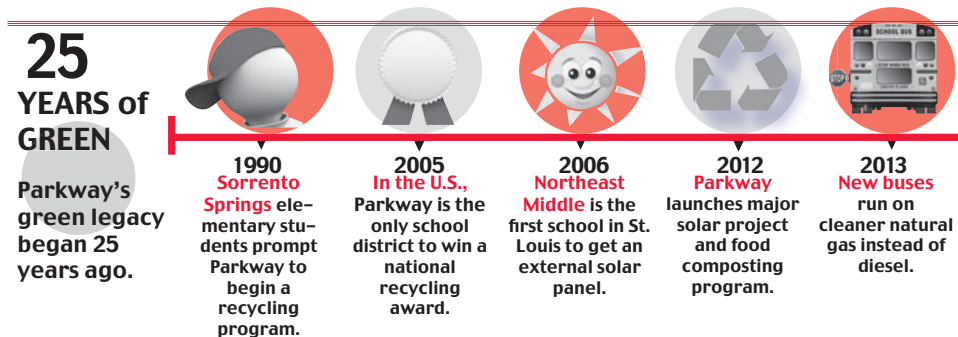


▲ Green teacher: Darren Tyler, McKelvey custodian, gently shows students where to put recycling items and where to put food items for composting.

**C**ustodians are emerging as heroes in Parkway's food composting program, says Erik Lueders, Parkway sustainability and purchasing director. In 2012, three Parkway students helped initiate a district-wide food composting program, and since then, Parkway custodians have eagerly adopted the green mantle, gently showing students where to put food scraps, trays and napkins during breakfast and lunch. The food scraps go into one bin, recycling into another bin. "It's pretty easy at McKelvey Elementary," says custodian Darren Tyler. "We have the bins color-coded to help students know what goes where."

Each day, food waste and scraps are picked up from Parkway schools and then composted, saving about 550 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.

Food composting is just one of Parkway's current green initiatives. An environmental leader, Parkway's green history and legacy appear below in the time line "25 Years of Green."



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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](http://www.parkwayschools.net/boe/boe.cfm).