

# PARKWAY today

News and information for residents of Parkway School District

Spring 2011

Accredited with Distinction

## Full-Day Kindergarten



**PLUS**

## New School Schedules

- **New** Start and End Times
- **Longer** Elementary School Days

River Bend Elementary Kindergarten Teacher Debbie Schatteman reads with students.

# Full-Day Kindergarten

The highest achieving countries in the world provide free full-day kindergarten; surveys indicate Parkway parents want it.



► Claymont Kindergarten Teacher Anna Basler, above, says she'll be able to spend more instructional time with students.

**F**ull-day kindergarten without tuition will become a welcome reality next year for families in Parkway.

In February, the Parkway Board of Education unanimously approved the creation of a free full-day kindergarten program for all students—about 1,100 per year. The decision came after extensive study through Project Parkway showed early child education improves future student performance.

"As we did further research on brain development and student needs in the 21st century, it became ever so clear that all students would benefit from optimal learning opportunities in kindergarten. Students need to think creatively, solve problems, explore and collaborate with others and further develop their math and literacy foundational skills," says Bonnie Maxey, assistant superintendent of elementary education in Parkway. A kindergarten study group and community task force researched kindergarten as part of the Project Parkway strategic planning effort.

The new kindergarten plan, which replaces the district's tuition-based, full-day option as well as a free half-day kindergarten program, will cost the district an additional \$2.8 million, but will be funded within the current budget through an extensive re-

prioritization process.

"We are pleased we can offer full-day kindergarten to Parkway families without tuition and that our team has found a way to do it without adding to the bottom line," says Board President Bruce Major. Major also expressed thanks to the Project Parkway volunteers who helped develop the kindergarten proposal.

Maxey says the full-day program will provide optimal opportunities for learning in kindergarten. The board and community task force were influenced by research about long-term positive outcomes and the general trend toward early childhood education both nationally and internationally, she says. "The highest achieving countries in the world have full-day kindergarten," says Mike Schmerold, principal of Mason Ridge Elementary.

"It is an equity issue," says Desi Kirchhofer, assistant superintendent of secondary education. "By charging tuition for full-day kindergarten, we were leaving out hundreds of students each year." Some families couldn't afford the price tag of \$3,520 for optional full-day kindergarten.

The new free full-day kindergarten will accelerate all students as a whole, says Kirchhofer.



## The Case for Tuition-Free, Full-Day Kindergarten



- A clear trend supports full-day kindergarten for overall student success, according to national and international data.
- Since 1979, the percentage of U.S. kindergartners enrolled in full-day programs has risen from 25 percent to more than 70 percent.
- The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommends full-day kindergarten. All but a handful of Missouri's 523 public school districts now offer it.
- 80 percent of the Parkway community who responded to a survey supported free, full-day kindergarten.
- Kindergarten teachers expressed concern over their ability to effectively teach the curriculum to students in the half-day program compared with students enrolled in the full-day program.

# superintendent's corner

## Moving Ahead after a Historic Year

Dear Parkway Community:

One of Parkway's greatest strengths is our high level of community involvement.

With your help, the school board has selected a strong leader as Parkway's next superintendent. I am thrilled with Parkway's future leader, Dr. Keith Marty. Though he does not officially begin his term until July, he is visiting Parkway frequently to familiarize himself with the community. His ability to hit the ground running is one of the reasons he was selected as Parkway's next leader.

Another reason is his experience, which is as rich and diverse as our Parkway community. To read more about him, see his mini profile below.

As many of you know, I took this job as interim superintendent because I wanted to help Parkway kids



**Interim  
Superintendent  
Don Senti**

succeed. I will leave knowing that the programs we have put in place this year as part of Project Parkway will continue Parkway's tradition of excellence. Free full-day kindergarten is one such program. Surveys showed our parents wanted it, and it will give our students the edge they need to succeed. I'm pleased we were able to take the financial burden off our families without increasing Parkway's budget.

I am also pleased about our new school-day schedule changes. For years, we have believed middle school students don't do well with an early start time of 7:25 a.m.

As far back as 10 years ago, sleep experts like Dr. James Walsh of St. Luke's Hospital told Parkway administrators that middle school students would do better academically and socially with a later school start. Project Parkway volunteers came to the same conclusion. The new start and end times for our students address this issue.

They also standardize the school day for everyone, which was especially important for our elementary students. Their school day was shorter than middle and high school students. Lengthening the elementary day by 20 minutes means

**"The new school schedules and free full-day kindergarten make sense for our kids. I believe they are win-win solutions for everyone."**

our youngest students will receive more instructional time with teachers. This makes sense for kids. I believe it's a win-win for everyone.

For more information about the new schedules, visit [parkwayschools.net/news/busTiersV2.cfm](http://parkwayschools.net/news/busTiersV2.cfm).

Please feel free to contact me at any time over the next few months. I look forward to hearing your ideas, and I value your input as we make the transition to a new superintendent.

Sincerely,

Don Senti

## Parkway Board Selects Next Superintendent



**Future  
Superintendent  
Keith Marty**

The Parkway School Board has selected Dr. Keith Marty as Parkway's next superintendent. His term will begin July 1, 2011. Dr. Marty comes to Parkway from the School District of Menomonee Falls in suburban Milwaukee, Wis., where he has been superintendent for the past 10 years.

Dr. Marty began his educational career in 1976 as a social studies teacher, coach and later as assistant principal at Plymouth High School in Plymouth, Wis. He also served as a high school principal and director of curriculum and instruction in Sheboygan Falls, Wis.

Marty holds a doctorate in education from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, as well as a master of

science in administrative leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a bachelor of science in secondary education from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.

"Dr. Marty will be a tremendous leader for Parkway," says Board of Education President Bruce Major. "The board is grateful to all the parents, staff and community members who helped us in this process. We took great care to select someone who will be the right fit for Parkway and we are extremely pleased to announce Keith as our next superintendent."

Marty has accepted a three-year contract beginning July 1, 2011.

# NEW SCHOOL SCHEDULES

Allow more sleep for middle-schoolers and more instructional time for elementary students



Middle-schoolers like Jasmin Young of South, right, will see later start times of 8:15 a.m. Elementary students, like Joshua Stone of Bellerive, center, will have a longer instructional day. High school students, like Christopher Wang of Central, left, won't see much change. Right, sleep expert Dr. James K. Walsh, of St. Luke's Hospital, supports later start times.



**P**arkway students will start and end school at different times next school year. After an extensive study by Project Parkway, the Parkway Board of Education recently voted unanimously to push back the start time for middle school students and to lengthen the elementary school day by 20 minutes.

The later start time for middle school students will give them nearly an extra hour of sleep each morning. The longer elementary school days will standardize the length of the day for all schools at six hours and 55 minutes. Currently, elementary students attend school for six hours and 35 minutes. An extra 20 minutes will give elementary teachers and students nearly 10 more days of instruction in a school year.

The changes address mounting concerns that 7:25 am. is too early of a start time for middle school students. As far back as 10 years ago, Dr. James K. Walsh, executive director and senior scientist at St. Luke's Sleep Medicine and Research Center, told Parkway administrators that the performance of middle school students could suffer when they have to start too early because their brains are wired for later wake-up times.

"Since our discussions several years ago, research has continued to show that insufficient sleep is associated with impaired attention, lower cognitive performance, negative mood and increased risk-taking behavior," says Walsh. "I am very supportive of the proposal to delay middle school start times." A community task force that studied the issue as part of Project Parkway also found that middle school students need more sleep, and that starting after 8 a.m. has a positive impact on their performance, benefitting their overall health and opportunity for success. Students who sleep more are less likely to be depressed, fatigued and obese.

Additionally, longer school days for elementary students will be beneficial and allow for more teacher collaboration time, the community task force found. "When task force members looked into the length of the school day, they saw that we had 15 to 20 minutes less than typical area schools," says Desi Kirchhofer, assistant superintendent of secondary education.

Kirchhofer says the changes could also save the district up to \$200,000 in transportation costs because of more efficient bus schedules.

Currently, Parkway middle schools start at 7:25 a.m., high schools start at 8 a.m., and elementary schools start anywhere from 7:55 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Details of the new 2011-2012 school schedules can be found at [www.parkwayschools.net/news/busTiersV2.cfm](http://www.parkwayschools.net/news/busTiersV2.cfm).



## New School Times



**Tier1**  
7:45 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.  
High schools



**Tier2**  
8:15 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.  
Middle schools



**Tier 3**  
8:55 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.  
Elementary schools  
(with exceptions\*)

\*Go to [www.parkwayschools.net/news/busTiers.cfm](http://www.parkwayschools.net/news/busTiers.cfm) to view a school-by-school breakdown. Four elementary schools follow Tier 1 and one follows Tier 2.

## 2011 Annual Report Available

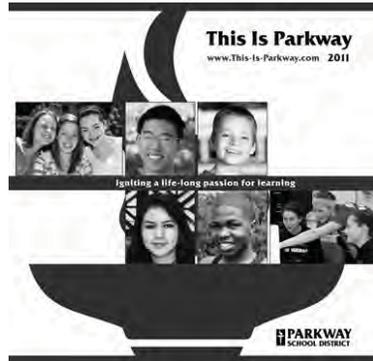
'This is Parkway' Digital Magazine Also Online  
[www.this-is-parkway.com](http://www.this-is-parkway.com)

Parkway's 2011 Annual Report is available now and can be found on the district's website at:  
[www.parkwayschools.net/publications](http://www.parkwayschools.net/publications).

The information is based on the 2009-2010 academic year and contains state testing data, financial information and other highlights about the district and its schools.

Copies can be obtained at the Parkway Administration Center, 455 N. Woods Mill Road or by calling the communications office at (314) 415-8077.

Parkway's annual report is also available online as a digital magazine called "This is Parkway 2011" at [www.this-is-parkway.com](http://www.this-is-parkway.com). This multimedia communication also spotlights student and staff accomplishments and provides up-to-date district stats and data. The magazine includes videos and quick links for important resources.



## Making Up Snow Days

Two more make-up days required for most schools

As of early March, Parkway will need to make up two school days in order to complete the total number of days and hours required by Missouri law. The two make-up days have been established as follows:

1. Friday, April 29
2. Friday, May 27 morning only

Based on this schedule, May 26 will become a full day for K-8, not a half day as originally scheduled. Grades 9-12 will follow their normal final exam schedule of morning half days for the last three days of school. **The last day of school for most students will be a half day in the morning on Friday, May 27.**

Because of other missed days, students at **Claymont Elementary, South High** and those in the **afternoon kindergarten program** will have to make up additional time. Make-up days and times for those students are being communicated by school principals.

## 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 10 consecutive years

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

▶ **ENROLLMENT**  
 Enrollment: 17,481  
 18 elementary schools  
 Five middle schools  
 Four high schools  
 One non-traditional high school  
 One early childhood center

▶ **FINANCES**  
 2010 Residential Tax Rate: \$3.57 per \$100 of assessed value

▶ **EMPLOYEES**  
 Teacher Salaries: \$54,731 (Parkway Average) \$44,249 (Missouri Average)

▶ Percentage of certified staff with master's degree or above:  
 Parkway: 68.1%  
 Missouri: 53.9%

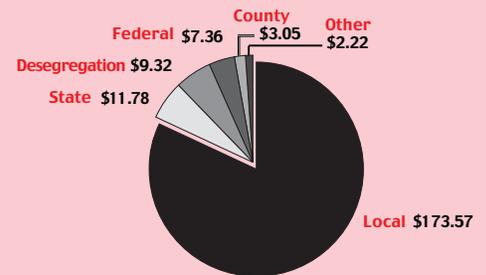
### ACHIEVEMENT

▶ National Merit Scholars = 42  
 Semifinalists: 21  
 Commended: 21

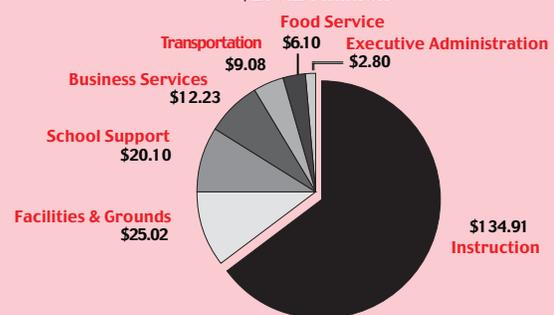
▶ ACT Composite Test Score  
 Parkway: 24.1  
 Missouri: 21.6  
 USA: 21.1

▶ SAT Combined Test Score  
 Parkway: 1815  
 Missouri: 1779  
 USA: 1509

2010-11 Operating Revenue: \$207.30 million



2010-11 Operating Expenditures: \$210.24 million



To view the 2010-11 budget, visit the Parkway website: [www.parkwayschools.net/finance/index.cfm](http://www.parkwayschools.net/finance/index.cfm).

# Creating Confident Writers

*Creating confident learners is an important component of Parkway's new mission. Pierremont Elementary teachers build confidence in young writers by breaking down the writing process into steps.*

**1. The beginning of a personal narrative starts with the main character wanting something.**

**3. The main character faces smaller, connected problems which eventually lead to the problem "exploding."**

**2. The first sign of trouble is introduced shortly after we learn about the main character.**

**4. The problem usually gets resolved at the end.**



► Meghan Stanfield



► Matthew Showers

**I**f you have ever stared at a blank piece of paper or computer screen for hours, pondering how to begin a story, you know about writer's block. Some consider writing as difficult as climbing Mount Everest—or, as unconquerable. But Pierremont fourth-graders have come to love writing.

Their new-found love of writing started last year when teachers Carlie Duncan and Jessica Schneider began to break down the writing process into concrete, bite-sized chunks, asking them to take one step at a time. No longer were students told to come up with a topic before beginning their papers. No longer were students required to write an entire paper at one time.

At first, the fourth-graders were uncomfortable with the new approach. "They kept wanting to come up with a topic first. We kept telling them the topic wasn't the focus," they recall.

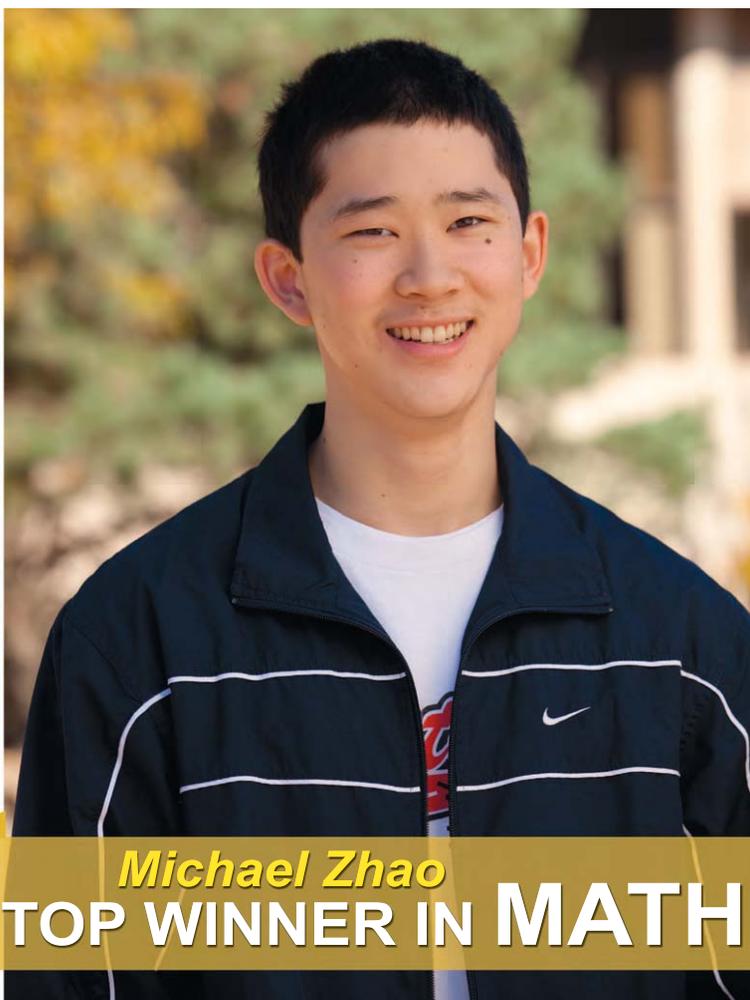
The teachers themselves were equally uncomfortable. "I was definitely outside my comfort zone," says Duncan who learned the method with Pierremont Literacy Coach Susan Irby at a Columbia University workshop in New York one summer. Irby had suggested they both attend.

Slowly, the teachers and students began to get the hang of the process. Regardless of the assignment—personal narrative or interview—the writing process generally included several concrete steps.

"I never liked to write before," says Matthew Showers. "I was always trying to come up with the whole paper and I got stuck. But now I love writing time. It is so cool." Duncan, Schneider and Irby have noticed soaring levels of confidence in fourth-grade writers. The trio plan to bring this method to all grade levels at Pierremont in the future.

# class acts

Parkway students win top math, writing and yearbook awards.



**Michael Zhao**  
**TOP WINNER IN MATH**



Michael Zhao of South High was one of two top winners at the St. Louis Area High School Excellence in Mathematics Contest. Solving 20 problems correctly within the space of an hour, he participated with more than 700 students from 44 schools and won a \$1,000 college

scholarship from the Mathematics Educators of Greater St. Louis.

Michael has participated in many math contests throughout his high school career. This year, like two years ago, he hopes to advance to the U.S. Math Olympiad, where the problems are even more challenging.

“

**Math can be so much fun. It helps when more class time is spent on problem solving instead of memorization.”**

MICHAEL ZHAO, SOUTH HIGH

Michael credits part of his success to the South High teachers and math club sponsors like Scott Degitz and Allison John, who spend countless hours with students.

“Math can be so much fun,” he says. “It’s the thrill of problem solving.”

He is especially proud of the South High math club, where members solve problems, enjoy friendships and go to math contests as a team. Michael says all students can excel in math if “we spend time on the subject and explore it creatively. It helps when more class time is spent on problem solving as opposed to memorization.”

As far back as middle school, Michael bought the book, “The Art of Problem Solving,” and challenged himself daily with the problems in the book.

“Exploring different concepts in math

spurred more interest for me in class,” he says. “The most important thing is logic, trying to figure out a solution. There is always more than one solution.”

At South High, Michael has taken all manner of math classes, including calculus, and he is currently enrolled in an independent study class where he pores over problems and compilations from previous math competitions.

Math has taught Michael how to problem-solve in other areas as well. He relies on logic and organizational skills in speech and debate and to play the cello, other areas he loves. He would like to pursue engineering or medicine in college.

Meanwhile, to relax, Michael enjoys break dancing with friends after school. “If the move looks cool, I want to do it,” he says.

*More Class Acts on page eight*

Married Swapp Photo



▶ Young filmmakers Molly and Max Bass stroll down the red carpet.



▶ North High student Victoria Arechiga designed one of the posters promoting the festival.

## Sneak Preview: Parkway Digital Film Festival

6–9 p.m. April 27  
Purser Center, Logan College

“Just like the Sundance and Cannes film festivals, Parkway presents an event complete with red carpet, paparazzi and creative films.”

That’s how Angie Weidinger of HEC-TV introduced the 2010 Parkway Digital Film Festival. Now in its third year, the festival is unique because it features filmmakers who have yet to graduate from high school. Students ranging in age from kindergarten through twelfth grade produce all the films for the festival.

The only one of its kind in St. Louis, the event takes place one night each spring in the Logan College auditorium. Parkway students design all the materials promoting the festival and create the music played during intermission.

Bill Bass, a Parkway technology integration specialist, created the festival. Responding to Parkway’s mission to make education more relevant to students, he says Parkway’s Instructional Technology Department wanted to bring more video into the curriculum. “Kids respond to video because it’s visual and interactive. And it’s already so much a part of their world.”

So Bass pitched the idea for the festival to Tom Swoboda, Parkway’s instructional technology coordinator, three years ago. “I was crazy enough to say yes,” Swoboda jokingly says today.

Since then the number of films produced has jumped from 100 to 355, and the audience has grown from 900 to 1,300. Parents and students attend, as do media people from HEC television station. This year, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* film critic is

*continued on page nine*



▶ Central High students Alyssa Yee, Remi Gavlick and Kathlyn King, l to r, created an informational video on cashmere.



▶ Young Parkway filmmakers often feel—and act—like rock stars!



▶ The only one of its kind in St. Louis, Parkway’s digital film festival attracts a growing audience.

Married Swapp Photo

Married Swapp Photo

# class acts

Parkway students win top science, math, writing, yearbook and photo awards.

## WRITING



From left, **Laura Van Genderen**, **Adam Majoros** and **Olivia Scott** of South High won gold medals in the Missouri Scholastic Writing Competition. Their essays and poem were cited for originality and humor. In "One New Message," Laura provided a positive spin on texting. (continued on next page)

## JOURNALISM



**Lauren Levitt**, North High, received a superior ranking in *Computer Design: Photoshop Art*, the highest award possible, from the National Journalism Education Association. Out of 1,963 participants, only 110 received superior rankings across all contests.

## YEARBOOK



**West High's yearbook staff**, supervised by teacher Debra Klevens, received a first class rating with a mark of distinction for design from the National Scholastic Press Association's critique service. This is the ninth year they have won the award.

## MUSIC



**The West High marching band**, directed by Ben Pyatt, won first place in its division at the Greater St. Louis Marching Band Festival. They swept all three categories, winning outstanding music, visual and general effect.

## SCIENCE



Of four St. Louis County students selected for the Washington University Young Scientist Program, three were from Parkway: Left, **Hope Bretsher** and **Kyle Bailey**, West High; and **Suhani Goyal**, Central High.

She wrote about the friendship she developed with a McDonald's co-worker through texting. "I had this stereotype of him as a superficial person at work, but then we started texting. I really got to know him. It taught me not to judge people on first impressions." Adam won for his submission, "Fetus Frenzy Sweeps Across America," and Olivia wrote a poem dedicated to the highly complex author Vladimir Nobokov, who also had a passion for identifying and classifying butterflies.

Not pictured are silver-award winners **Kathlyn Johnson, Jennifer Mahan, Tina Pavlova, Kayla Theberge, Victoria Zepp** and **Jeffrey Zhao** of South High and **Steven Emde** of West High. Steve wrote "Demise of a Demon," an essay about overcoming struggles on the swim team.

Honorable mention in the contest went to **Kathryn McAllister** and **Elani Owen** of West High; and **Pavan Yalla** and **Jeffrey Zhao** of South High.

### More Writing Excellence

**Jennifer Mahan**, a South High senior, won the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observation Essay Contest sponsored by Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Jennifer's essay "Twelve Bowls of Cereal," describes her ecumenical experience with teenagers of other faiths as they unite to help a friend deal with a death in the family. Jennifer was recognized at a SIUE luncheon in February.



► North High student Victoria Archiga reviews the poster she designed for this year's film festival.

## Parkway Digital Film Festival

*continued from page seven*

expected to make an appearance. Students develop informational videos, documentaries and dramas on everything from calculus to cashmere.

The festival has become so successful that Parkway technology instructional staff members have been asked to write a book about it. The International Society for Technology in Education wants to use the book as a role model for other school districts, not just because the festival provides students with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills they need, but also because it pushes teachers outside their comfort zone.

Given the chance to write a paper about a short story or create a video for the film festival, South Middle students in Maria Flick's class overwhelmingly chose to become filmmakers.

Some of the students decided to do a funny parody about Jack London's 1903 story, "To Build a Fire." "You really have to know your subject if you're going to make fun of it, so it is a really good way to make students pay attention and connect to the story before they make a film," South Middle teacher Maria Flick told HEC-TV.

"I think it's easier to show the emotions and the funniness in a video as opposed to just writing," South Middle student Tori Downar also told the television station.

"Creating videos helps bridge students' at-home lives with their at-school lives and shows how education can have relevance," says Bass. "It's not 'this is schoolwork vs. this is my life.' It brings these two worlds together."

The key is presenting options to students. Central High students Alyssa Yee, Kathlyn King and Remi Gavlick created a film about cashmere for the festival. But Alyssa and Remi both say they like to write papers just as much, if not more, than creating videos. "Words are so powerful. We like to work with them alone." The trio say their preference for words probably has something to do with their age. They have come to video technology "later in life." But they really like the bigger audience that comes with filmmaking.

Roughly 150 films are shown on the big screen at Logan College during the festival. The remaining films can be seen throughout the year in Parkway's digital online gallery—which is similar to YouTube, except that it is tightly controlled, requiring passwords to log in. "We wanted to make the environment extremely safe for kids," says Bass. "That's why we created our own digital gallery instead of using YouTube."

"Creating a global audience is really important," says Bass, "because making a video often requires so much work that to have no one see it can be really discouraging. The film festival makes them part of something bigger. We want to make the kids feel cool, kind of like rock stars for a night."

This year's film festival is set for 6 to 9 p.m. on April 27, 2011, at the Purser Center in Logan College. For more information, go to: [www.parkwayschools.net/tis/filmfestival](http://www.parkwayschools.net/tis/filmfestival).

You can also view videos from last year at [www.parkwayschools.net/pdMedia/festivalVids2010.cfm](http://www.parkwayschools.net/pdMedia/festivalVids2010.cfm) or watch HEC-TV's broadcast of the event at [www.hectv.org/programs/ser/pdff/](http://www.hectv.org/programs/ser/pdff/).



# Board highlights

## Meet the School Board Candidates

Three, three-year director positions on the Parkway Board of Education are open in the April 5, 2011 election. Four candidates have filed for the three positions. Below are the photos and biographies as submitted by each candidate.



**Dee A. Mogerman**

Dee Mogerman joined the Parkway Board of Education in June, 2004, and served as board president for two terms. She and her husband, Cary, have three children who are all Parkway graduates. Dee earned a B.A. in Economics/Computer Information Systems from Drake University and is the office administrator for Zerman Mogerman, LLC.

A volunteer in Parkway since 1992, Dee has held many leadership roles at both the individual school and district-wide level. She worked on the steering committees for the successful Proposition R and Proposition S campaigns and believes Parkway students benefit greatly from those efforts. She serves on the Project Parkway steering committee and on the Board of Directors for Cooperating School Districts.

Dee is committed to the work of Project Parkway and to its implementation. "I believe that every child deserves challenging curriculum, a safe, nurturing school environment and a commitment to academic achievement. The board will have many challenging decisions to make in the near future. My knowledge and experience in the District help me to make informed, fiscally responsible decisions to advance the mission of the Parkway Schools for all children."



**Bruce Major**

I am the parent of a Parkway student (third grader) and a Parkway graduate (South High 2009) and have lived in the district since 1999. My wife has been a Parkway teacher for twelve years. Education has been a family priority since my earliest memories because my father, uncle and grandfather were college professors and my aunt was a high school teacher. A 1981 graduate of a public high school (Golden Senior High School in Golden, Colorado), I subsequently

earned a BA (History) from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and a JD from Washington University School of Law here in Saint Louis.

Professionally, I have 16 years experience as an attorney in private practice here in the Saint Louis area. I retired from the Navy Reserves in 2007 with the rank of Commander after 21 rewarding years of active and reserve service including command and staff experience leading and managing enterprises with up to 1,000 personnel and annual operating budgets up to \$20 million. Currently I am honored to serve as President of the Parkway Board of Education and Vice-Chairperson of the Special School District Governing Council.

Mr. Charles Jacob was born in Long Beach, California. He is a resident of Ballwin where he has resided since 1989. Mr. Jacob received a BBA degree from the University of Houston with a major in Finance and Business Administration. He is the product of public education and his children and grandchildren have been participants of a Parkway education.



**Chris Jacob**

He has been employed and worked in St. Louis for Emerson Electric, McDonnell-Douglas and Comsys Technical Services. Mr. Jacob's expertise was manufacturing systems and Information Technology consulting. Since 1997 Mr. Jacob has worked to help his wife's company, NextGen Information Services, move forward to become a national supplier of IT staffing personnel. He is presently semi-retired which allows him to devote time to the community and in particular the school board.

Mr. Jacob was elected to the Parkway School Board in April, 2008. As a board member he has come to know and appreciate what it takes to provide a school environment where all children can come to learn and be prepared for life. This volunteer commitment has been a work of profound satisfaction and a collaborative effort with the superintendent, administrators, faculty and staff to meet today's challenges of our stewardship for the educational needs of our children.

I have been a St. Louis area resident since 1999. As a newer member of the Maryland Heights community, I will bring a fresh perspective to the Parkway district.

I have an MBA from Olin Business School at Washington University. I am married to Jason, an instructor for drafting and design, and we have 4 incredible children. Laynee graduated in 2010 and is attending college. Dallas attends Parkway North and is on the varsity swim team. Sam lives with his biological mother in mid-Missouri. Therin attends Parkway Northeast Middle. Although I am actively involved in my children's day-to-day education, I want to be able to contribute more to the community we live in.

Volunteering is a social responsibility that my family and I take very seriously. When flooding hit St. Charles in 2008, my children and I sandbagged to protect our neighborhood. I spent 2-1/2 years as a member of the St. Charles CERT team and am now involved with a local sports team as their Internet Publicity Committee Head.

I would be honored for the opportunity to lead by example in our community. Teaching children to become successful adults is not only a communal responsibility, but an individual duty.



**Patricia Adair**



► **Megan Arnell, a National Merit Finalist from West High, is interested in science and literature.**

## Seventeen Parkway Students Named National Merit Finalists



Seventeen Parkway students have been named finalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Parkway finalists are:

**Central High:** Jonathan Daniel, Anupam Devkota, Linda Du, Anisha Gururaj, Alison Magruder, Alexander Maslev, Charles Qin

**North High:** Jodie Guller

**South High:** Ryan Egan, Meghan Scanlon, Michael Zhao

**West High:** Megan Arnell, Muriel Fogarty, Emily Itoku, Andrew Russell, Aditya Subbarao, Eileen Zhu.

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. Roughly 1.5 million juniors nationwide take the test, and of that number, only 16,000 advance to the semifinalist category and 15,000 to the finalist category.

Approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earn the Merit Scholar title and receive either a National Merit \$2,500 scholarship, corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship award or a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship award. For additional information, visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

**Overall,  
Parkway  
has 42  
National  
Merit  
Scholars  
this year.**

## Your School Board

Putting faces with names

**Bruce Major**  
President



**Chris Jacob**  
Vice President



**Tom Appelbaum**



**Helen Casteel**



**Beth Feldman**



**Dee Mogerman**



**Sam Sciortino**



The board meets at 7:30 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).



455 N. Woods Mill Rd.  
 Chesterfield, MO 63017  
[www.parkwayschools.net](http://www.parkwayschools.net)

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# Calendar

[www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/calendar/calendars.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/calendar/calendars.cfm)

**May 27**  
**Last Day of School (Tentative)**  
**Half Day**

**June 6**  
**Summer School Begins**

**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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**Join Parkway on Facebook and Twitter**

[www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/news/followUs.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/news/followUs.cfm)

Since Parkway began posting school closings and late-breaking news on Facebook and Twitter in August 2010, we have kept count of our fans and followers. The numbers climb each week.

As of early March Parkway had more than 3,665 Facebook fans and 635 Twitter followers.

So it's our turn to thank our growing numbers of fans and followers. Each one of you is responsible for uniting the Parkway community!