

PARKWAY today

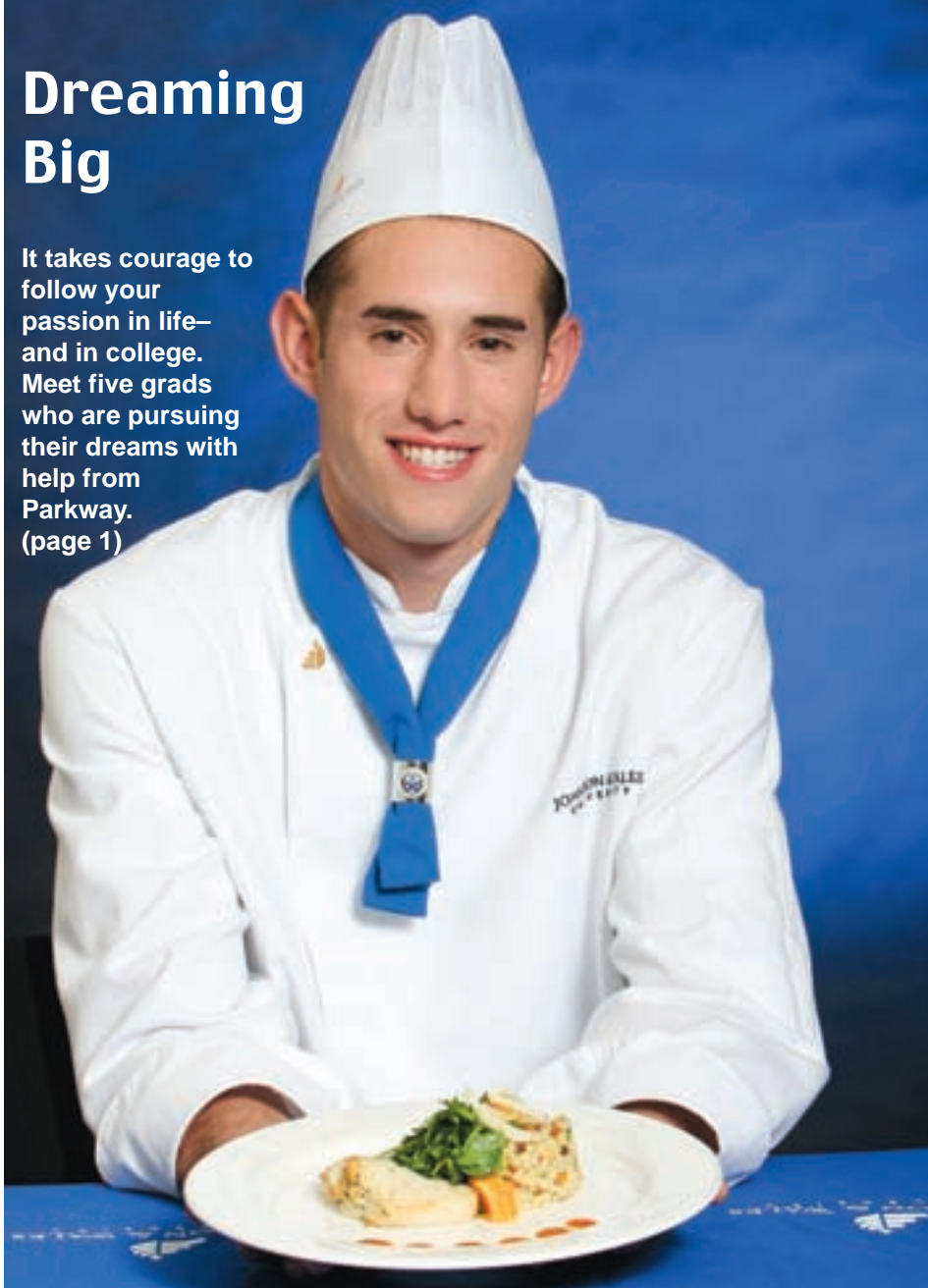
News and information for residents of Parkway School District

Summer 2008

Accredited with Distinction

Dreaming Big

It takes courage to follow your passion in life—and in college. Meet five grads who are pursuing their dreams with help from Parkway. (page 1)



Brett Eisen, Central High, has wanted to be a chef since grade school. He just won the high school chef of the year contest, sponsored by Johnson & Wales University, the culinary college of his dreams. He will receive a four-year scholarship to attend the university. Linda Trecker, his high school culinary teacher, "was always on my side," he says. (Photo courtesy of Johnson & Wales University)

Dreaming Big

It takes courage and determination to follow your passion in life—and in college. These five grads did it with help from Parkway.



► **Brett Eisen says Central High Teacher Linda Trecker encouraged his dream. “Before I entered the contest, she put up my photo with the headline, ‘High School Chef of the Year.’ I told her to take it down because I didn’t want to jinx anything, but she refused.” (Photo courtesy of Johnson & Wales University)**

A

s far back as fifth grade, Brett Eisen knew he wanted to be a chef. “I made a solar pizza oven for my fifth-grade science project,” he grins. “I’ve always loved cooking.”

Last spring, this Central High senior put his passion to the test when he entered—and won—the high school chef of the year contest, sponsored by Johnson & Wales University, the

culinary arts college of his dreams. As the winner, Eisen will receive a full four-year scholarship—valued at \$120,000—to attend the Denver campus of Johnson & Wales University.

Brett credits Parkway with helping him to achieve his dream. In his high school cooking classes, Culinary Arts 1, Culinary Arts 2 and International Cuisine, he learned the fundamentals

of measurements and kitchen equipment. He also developed a close relationship with Linda Trecker, a Central High family and consumer science teacher.

“She was always on my side,” he says. “Before I entered the contest, I took a photo of myself in a white chef’s coat. She put that photo up with the headlines ‘Number 1 Chef’ and ‘High School Chef of the Year.’ I told her to take it down because I didn’t want to jinx anything, but she refused.”

In his senior year, Brett signed up to take an independent study class with Trecker, and this time she encouraged him to research foods and his heritage in the library. Again, this proved invaluable to Brett since the theme for the contest was “healthy heritage,” inviting contestants to draw upon their family heritage in putting together a dinner or dessert.

Jon Lowe, a graduate of Johnson & Wales, also helped Eisen perfect his winning entry. Lowe works as the chef at Oceano Bistro in Clayton, and Eisen introduced himself after having dinner there one evening. One thing led to another, and Eisen began working with Lowe to perfect his entry: oven-roasted sea bass with citrus-scented Israeli couscous, sauced with a vanilla-tangerine reduction and topped with a fennel and watercress salad. “I came up with my own recipe,” says Eisen, “but he tasted everything, telling me, ‘Maybe you should try this.’”

An avid volleyball player, Brett eventually

wants to combine his love of sports and food. He would like to be a chef who travels with a sports team. “I want to make the athletes really healthy and good food.”

Missy Noell

Missy Noell discovered she was an artist her sophomore year at Fern Ridge High. She transferred there from Central High and began to thrive in the informal atmosphere. “I love Fern Ridge,” she says. “The teachers really want to help you, but they also give you a lot of freedom.” In this caring atmosphere, Missy says she cast away her anxiousness. “My home life was hard, and I was quiet and nervous at first.”

“Fern Ridge helped me relax,” says Missy, who is at the top of her class academically. “Once that happened, my art came out.”

(Continued on page 6)



► **“Fern Ridge helped me relax. Once that happened, my art came out,” says Missy, pictured with two of her realistic sculptures, a purse and leaves.**

PARKWAY

today

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superintendent's corner

Moving Ahead after a Banner Academic Year

Dear Parkway Community:

It has been a banner academic year. Parkway ACT test scores were the third highest in the state out of 524 school districts and well above the national average. Two of our students even earned perfect ACT scores.



**Superintendent
Robert Malito**

West High was also recognized as the first in the state for its success with Advanced Placement courses.

Many other Parkway students also received awards and recognition in writing, vocabulary, music, science and chess competitions.

Though chess is not part of the traditional academic curriculum, we have scores of after-school chess clubs in Parkway and a lion's share of champions. As superintendent, I will continue to ensure our students have rich academic offerings and opportunities to learn, both during and after school.

This summer, we will complete all the projects funded from the 2004 bond issue—among them new roofs and air-conditioning units for some elementary and high schools. I extend my deepest thanks for your support of the 2004 bond issue.

There is still more work to do if our students are to excel in the 21st century, however. In town hall meetings last spring, several hundred parents and citizens reviewed our aging buildings. They were surprised to learn the average Parkway school is 40 years old, and roughly \$10 million is required annually to maintain our 29 school buildings. This is without factoring in major renovations to classrooms and academic labs.

These citizens recommended putting a no-tax-increase bond issue on the ballot in November 2008. On June 18, the board of education approved the proposal and voted to place the bond issue on the November ballot.

Funds from this bond issue would be used for basic maintenance and repair items such as plumbing and roofs. There would also be substantial upgrades to our high school science labs as well as safety and security improvements in elementary schools.

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“As superintendent, I will continue to ensure our students have rich academic offerings and opportunities to learn.”

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To learn more about the list of projects a no-tax-increase bond issue would address, I encourage you to visit Parkway's Web site, www.pkwy.k12.us/FacStudies/updateProjectList.cfm.

As always, I appreciate your support. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert T. Malito".

Robert T. Malito, Ph.D.

West High Wins National Award for Advanced Placement

West High has received the 2007–08 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement by the Siemens Foundation and the College Board.

One school per state is selected in recognition of its commitment to students and leadership in AP participation and performance.

As one of the 50 high schools nationally to win the award, West High will receive a \$1,000 grant to

support science and math education.

Parkway students lead the nation with high AP test scores. A high score allows a student to receive college credit for an AP class taken in high school. In 2007, 84 percent of Parkway students who took an AP class earned college credit, compared to just 6 percent of Missouri students and 15 percent of students nationwide.

Fixing Our Schools

— Final 2004 Bond Issue Projects

This summer, building crews once again move in to begin major repairs in our schools. Below is a list of improvements scheduled for this summer, marking the end of the 2004 bond issue projects. Thank you, Parkway voters!

- ▶ **BELLERIVE**
Replace roof in two areas
- ▶ **CARMAN TRAILS**
Replace six HVAC units and water heater
- ▶ **CLAYMONT**
Replace windows, doors, pavement and curbs
- ▶ **CRAIG**
Replace roof in two areas
- ▶ **MASON RIDGE**
Replace windows on west side of building (seven rooms)
- ▶ **MCKELVEY**
Replace parking lot in two areas
Replace south driveway, including curbs and lighting
Replace roof in four areas and replace one HVAC unit
- ▶ **OAK BROOK**
Replace roof in three areas
Replace kindergarten play equipment
- ▶ **PIERREMONT**
ADA modifications to restrooms on west side of building
- ▶ **RIVER BEND**
Replace two HVAC units in kindergarten area
- ▶ **WREN HOLLOW**
Replace two street lights at front parking lot and three street lights on Wren Avenue
- ▶ **CENTRAL MIDDLE**
Replace roof in one area
Replace 13 storefront windows
Replace seven entryways and doors
- ▶ **WEST MIDDLE**
Renovate nurse's health area, including three adjacent rooms and remove asbestos
- ▶ **CENTRAL HIGH**
Replace roof in three areas
Replace floor and bleachers in secondary gym
Resurface running track
- ▶ **NORTH HIGH**
Asbestos abatement and renovation of three boiler rooms
- ▶ **SOUTH HIGH**
Replace windows next to skywalk on second and third floors
Widen athletic fields road and install retaining wall south of creek crossing
Provide ADA ramp at stadium
Resurface running track
- ▶ **WEST HIGH**
Replace three parking lot areas and associated driveways
Provide ADA ramp to soccer field
Renovate areas for students with multiple disabilities
- ▶ **EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**
Replace 11 exterior doors
- ▶ **DISTRICTWIDE**
Floor replacements
Theater catwalk railing upgrades for safety at high schools
- ▶ **WEST MIDDLE**
Replace two rooftop HVAC units, including associated ceiling and lighting



▶ **Several hundred Parkway parents, staff and residents participated in a series of town hall meetings and recommended putting a no-tax-increase bond issue on the ballot.**

Board Approves November 2008 Bond Proposal

With the 2004 bond issue projects scheduled for completion this summer, several hundred Parkway parents, staff and other residents have been discussing the ongoing need for maintenance, repair and renovation in Parkway schools. Specifically, this large group has been discussing the appropriate time for the next bond issue.

In a series of town hall meetings this spring, this group reviewed information and provided feedback regarding district finances, long-range facilities planning and instructional space needs. Based on this feedback and the results from community and staff opinion surveys, the superintendent and several parent representatives made a recommendation in May to the board of education to pursue an \$87 million no-tax-increase bond issue in November 2008. On June 18, the board approved putting the bond issue on the ballot.

A list of projects by school and a summary of costs for the proposed bond issue are available on the Parkway Web site at: www.pkwy.k12.us/FacStudies/updateProjectList.cfm where comments or questions can also be submitted. For more information, contact the Parkway Public Affairs Department at (314) 415-8077.

A Foundation for Success

Two pilot programs funded by Proposition R help young children improve their basic math and reading skills.



► Mitchell Hente and Crystal Butler receive intensified math instruction at Henry Elementary.



► Literacy coach Kiara Lackey, back right, helps teacher Hollie Hanneke, back left, provide individual reading instruction to students at Wren Hollow Elementary.

Math specialists lead small groups to success

Math isn't something that comes easily to every student. This year, math specialists in six elementary and two middle schools have worked with small groups of struggling students in grades three through six during their scheduled math time. The classes are limited to six and eight students because that is the number each specialist can most effectively serve at any one time.

Tim Hudson, math curriculum coordinator in Parkway, says the key to unlocking a student's difficulties in math often begins with a discussion, not a test. "We find out what their misconceptions are. We need to hear how each student thinks about numbers and quantity."

If the specialist can find out where a student's thinking about math veers from the correct path, then she can help the student correct his thinking and begin to achieve at the level that is expected.

Their goal is to give all students confidence in their understanding of mathematics and the specialized instruction they need to succeed.

Kim Meininger, a math specialist at Henry Elementary, says the students she sees have improved their skills this year, and in some cases returned to their regular classrooms for math instruction. It's a process of finding the gaps in their understanding of math, then giving them the tools they need to overcome them. If a student has trouble comprehending the place value system, for example, the math specialist will find a way to represent the concept in a concrete way, even if it means using building blocks to provide visual representation.

"Kids used to complain about hating math, but no one tells me that anymore," she says.

Due to the success of the initial pilot project, the district plans to have a math specialist in every Parkway elementary and middle school this fall.

Literacy coaches offer help to teachers

While some students need additional help in reading, writing and comprehension, it may come as a surprise that teachers sometimes need additional help instructing students. Teaching students who struggle with basic literacy concepts sometimes takes more than just additional reading assignments; it takes experience and knowledge of how to reach them.

This year, Parkway provided four literacy coaches to elementary schools to help regular classroom teachers with struggling students. The coaches, highly trained literacy experts, share what they know about teaching literacy skills and give teachers more tools to increase student achievement.

For example, a teacher could confer with the coach for ideas on showing students how the setting of a story influences the actions of a character. Or, the coach could explain certain reading strategies to a teacher, who would then teach them to a student who has failed to progress. At the kindergarten level, a teacher could learn how to get students to do more writing and less worrying about their imperfect letters and words.

So far, teachers who have literacy coaches in their school report that their students are doing better with the individualized instruction.

Lisa Merideth, Parkway's curriculum coordinator for language arts, says, "Teachers need an on-demand resource to provide differentiated instruction for students who need it, and the literacy coaches are there to be that resource."

For the 2008-09 school year, the district plans to have literacy coaches in all 18 elementary schools.



Checkmate

Fourth-grader Margaret Hua, above, is one of the youngest students to emerge as a chess champion this year. Parkway has a lion's share of chess winners and an impressive legacy: studies say the game increases problem solving and math skills.

Fourth-grader Margaret Hua's favorite chess piece is the powerful queen. The title of queen also reflects Margaret's position in chess today. Though she has been playing the game for just two years, the Pierremont Elementary student ranks in the top three of all U.S. girl players under 10. Because of that ranking, she will represent the United States this fall in the world championships in Vietnam. Students from more than 100 countries will attend.

"She is a deep thinker and extremely patient," says Parkway parent John Wiedner, who has studied Margaret's moves, as well as

the 90 or so chess players he coaches at McKelvey Elementary, some of them champions like Margaret. The McKelvey fourth-graders took the state champion title in chess this year. And the fifth-graders took first place in the Gateway Chess Club.

Winning is not what makes McKelvey Principal Bruce Knight happy, though. A chess player himself, Knight values the fact that chess is open to all Parkway students. "A ton of schools play one another, and kids are learning the strategy of chess," he says, adding that Parkway may be the only district to host an annual chess tournament. "If we wanted just winners at McKelvey, we would

limit the players in the club to the best 20." Knight is especially pleased the McKelvey club, with its swelling numbers, has had to move to the gym from the library for practice sessions.

Wiedner is equally pleased. And as a coach, he knows the strengths of most Parkway players, including Margaret. "She beats other players in longer games because she doesn't lose her concentration." In shorter chess matches, Margaret and Wiedner's son, Joshua, a fourth-grader at McKelvey who won the chess state champion title last year, "go back and forth on their victories, though Margaret is the better player," says Wiedner.

Wiedner, a doctor, devotes Tuesday afternoons to the McKelvey chess club. "It helps children improve their math, problem solving, memory and social skills," he says. "My son, Joshua, can concentrate and work out a problem longer than my other kids."

Studies confirm Wiedner's observations. According to the "Chess in Education Research Summary" from the American Chess School, many psychologists have used chess as a research tool. Freud was the first psychoanalyst to mention chess. He said the steps required to master chess were like learning the psychoanalytic techniques. Other researchers determined that high achievement in chess demands and develops exceptional visual memory, speed of calculation, concentration and logical thinking.

"Chess should be in every one of our grade schools," says Joe Regenbogen, a North High social studies teacher who has been a chess club sponsor. Like Wiedner, Regenbogen is proud of Parkway's distinguished chess history, which includes a state championship for Central High the last two years, a metro championship for North High the last three years, and in years past has included a string of state championships for Craig Elementary, South High, and a trip to Jefferson City for Oak Brook Elementary.

Some of these high school champions got their start in grade school.

At McKelvey, "Principal Bruce Knight would dip into his own personal pocket to make sure players had the equipment they needed," notes Wiedner.

"The Soviet Union," says Regenbogen, "used to require all kids to play chess. The strategic skills learned in chess can be easily transferred to other subjects. Basketball games, military battles and legal maneuvers all involve the same type of strategy skills as chess."

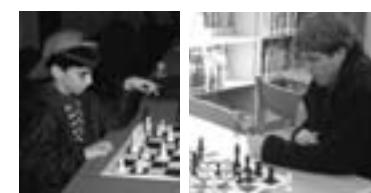
Regenbogen also believes his son Jack, who will take calculus next fall at



► Joshua Wiedner, top, is a member of McKelvey's award-winning chess club. He is pictured below with his brother, mother and father, John, who coaches the club.



► Central High's chess club has won the state championship the last two years. Members, from left, include: Brent Mathis, Mohammed Siddiqui, Henry Cao, Kevin Guo and Brad Schlosser.



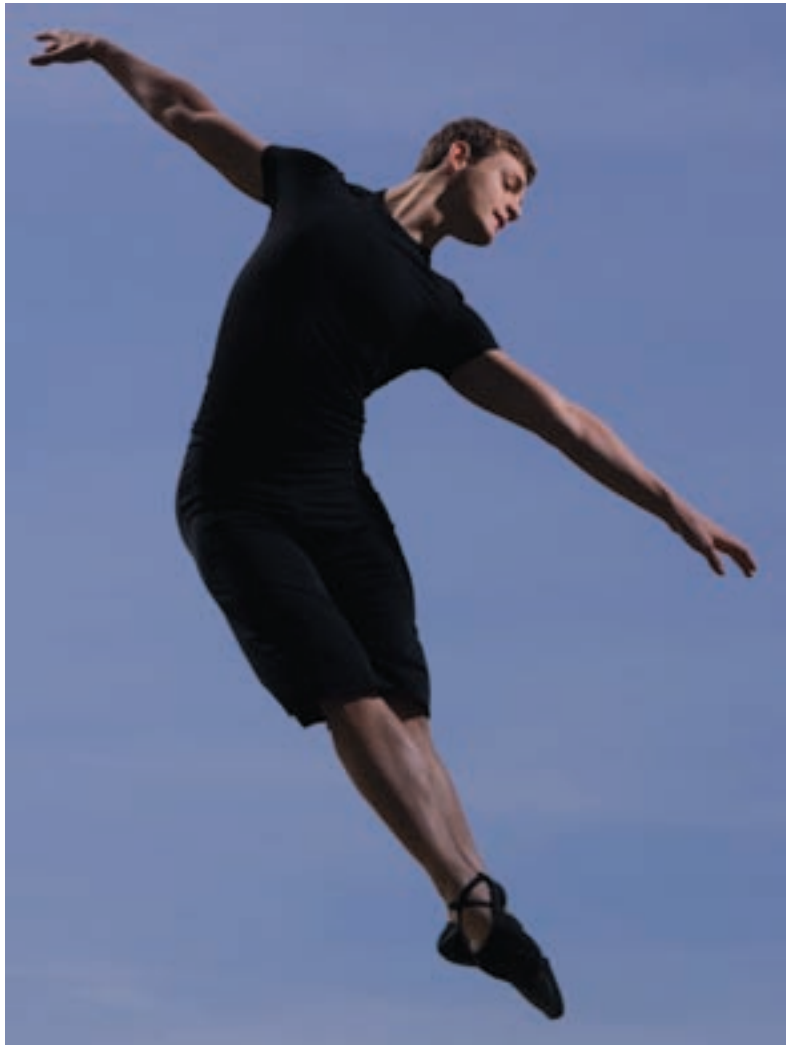
► Pictured above are Jack Regenbogen, left, a former kindergarten champion, and Josh Morris, a member of North High's club, which has won the metropolitan championship the last three years.

North High, is successful in math and problem solving because of his early chess days. As a kindergarten chess champion, Jack made the cover of the *Post-Dispatch*. Today, he's in the top 10 in his class.

Margaret Hua's mom, Diane Mao, echoes the sentiment. "Margaret's best subject is math. And chess has made her a fighter. If she loses, she'll come right back again."

Dreaming Big

Student profiles continued from page 1



► **Britt Banaszynski, North High, played baseball like his brothers until he discovered dance at Bellerive Elementary. He heads to Northwestern in the fall to study dance. "I'm lucky to have gone through Parkway. Teachers and administrators encouraged my passion."**

"Art makes me feel liberated," she says.

This fall, Missy will attend Maryville University so she can major in art. Then and now, the decision to stay in Missouri is significant since Missy's mom moved to Idaho during her senior year. "I am living with my uncle now so I could stay at Fern Ridge, and go to Maryville. I'm familiar with Maryville because my mom went there. The art studios there are open 24-7. I know I'll learn a lot."

Art, says Missy, has taught

her how to balance her life. She may get frustrated with a piece and leave it for a time, but eventually she comes back to it. This same technique she applies to other subjects. "I used to start something and then just stop. Now if I start something, I may leave it for a while, but I always come back to it. People should follow their passions," she says finally. "We'd all be a lot happier."

Britt Banaszynski

Born into a physical family, Britt Banaszynski, a North High senior, played baseball like his brothers in elementary school. But in fourth grade at Bellerive Elementary, he took his first line-dance class in gym and knew he'd stepped directly into his passion. In fifth grade, he tried tap and jazz dance and by seventh grade, he was hooked on ballet, the heart of dance, as he calls it. From then on, he spent every free moment in dance studios with lessons. "If not for the Bellerive gym teachers," he says, "I might not have wanted to go into dance."

Britt, who is ninth in his class and the editor of the school newspaper, will attend Northwestern University next year on an academic scholarship. His North High dance teacher, Lorilee Richardson, greatly influenced his college choice. She told him the school featured an excellent balance of dance and academics. "Though dancing is the only thing in my life that challenges me physically and mentally," says Britt, "my dancing career will likely end in my mid 30s, so a formal education with strong academics is very important to me." He hasn't decided yet on his academic route at Northwestern, but hints that the journalism school there is top in the country. For now, he's focused on his dance career. Afterward, he'd like to become a choreographer or a creative director of a dance company.

Again, he credits Richardson with helping him shape his long-term dream. "She was the first person in my dance career to give me the opportunity to choreograph for myself as well as for a group of dancers," says Britt, who recently performed a self-choreographed solo at the Spring Parkway Dance Collaboration.

"I am very lucky to have gone through Parkway," says Britt. "I received awesome support from teachers and administrators who allowed me to continue studying my passion."

Darionte Johnson

"One of my downfalls is that I underestimate myself," says Darionte Johnson, a West High senior. Last year at this time, Darionte never dreamed he'd be attending St. Louis University, much less studying psychology so he could become a therapist. In other words, Darionte found his confidence—and passion—late in high school. He credits Parkway for helping him discover both in himself.

First came the confidence. Last summer he attended a Parkway college prep program at St. Louis University, sponsored by Central High English Teacher Kevin Mabie. It's an intensive Parkway program that includes classes on ACT preparation, SAT preparation, college admissions, interview etiquette as well as the college and scholarship application process. For Darionte, the program was life-altering. "I found my confidence. Since we attended the program at St. Louis U., I became familiar with the campus, and I met other students. Before I attended the program, I never even considered St. Louis U. But after attending it, I decided to apply, and I ended up getting scholarships," says Darionte, who has a 3.489 GPA.

Next came the passion. His senior year, he says, he took psychology and fell in love with it. "Before that, I thought it was a boring subject, all about medicine." But almost from the first day he entered the class, he knew psychology would allow him to pursue his dream of helping people. "In our society," he says, "people are often very quick to



- **Helping others is a theme that comes up frequently with Darionte Johnson, West High. His dream is to become a therapist, and he'll head to St. Louis University this fall. Darionte spent his first 16 years living in the city. "A lot of kids I grew up with got into drugs and violence. It was so emotionally hard to see them waste their lives. So many times, if they had just had someone to talk to, who genuinely cared, it would have made all the difference."**

judge others without knowing the whole story. There are reasons behind everything."

Helping others is a theme that comes up frequently with Darionte, who spent his first 16 years living in the city. "A lot of kids I grew up with got into drugs and violence," he says. "It was so emotionally hard to see them waste their lives. So many times, if they had just had someone to talk to, who genuinely cared, it would have made all the difference."

- **Cissy Calvird will attend William Woods University this fall so she can major in equestrian science. South High Counselor Ruth Gerike told her about the college, knowing Cissy has loved horses since childhood. Pictured, right, are Cissy's two horses, Spirit and Magic.**

Cissy Calvird

When Cissy Calvird was just beginning to walk, her babysitter took her to a barn. This South High senior has been in love with all things horses ever since. What's her favorite class at South High? Animal behavior, of course. "I like to study animals. Taking care of horses has taught me responsibility," she adds. "When you're riding, you and this horse have to work together to be perfect."

This fall, Cissy will attend William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri, specifically because it allows her to pursue her dream of majoring in equestrian science and management, which combines both veterinary-type studies with farm management. "Parkway helped me pursue my passion," she says, referring specifically to South High Counselor Ruth Gerike, who told her about William Woods. "I had never heard of William Woods. I didn't even know there were Missouri schools that allowed you to study equestrian management. Ms. Gerike grabbed me one day, told me about it and encouraged me to go for it."

Cissy's dream is to ride in the equestrian Olympics and then open a stable specializing in therapeutic horsemanship. "Horses," she maintains, "can do a much better job of helping people with disabilities than other people can." As proof, she offers up her own horse, Magic, who is gentle as a whisper with disabled and inexperienced riders, but much more feisty

with Cissy. "Horses know when they can not pull any tricks," she says.

Despite her "sixth sense" with animals, Cissy has had her fair share of injuries. When she has been bucked off and hurt, her grandmother, a strong supporter, has always been on hand to take her to the hospital. "She has attended every horse show with me, and she is always the one I hear cheering me above the

crowds." Knowing how attached Cissy is to Magic, and to Spirit—the baby born to Magic after Cissy purchased her—Cissy's grandmother and grandfather insisted she keep both horses, paying for both of them. "My grandparents and my family have been there for me," says Cissy. "I have been injured a lot, but with the support of my family, I get right back up and keep going."



college list

2008 grads were accepted for admission to these colleges and universities.



Abilene Christian University
Adams State College
Alabama State University
Alaska Pacific University
Alcorn State University
Ashland University
American University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Arkansas State University
Auburn University
Ball State University
Belmont University
Benedictine College
Berklee College of Music
Blackburn College
Borough of Manhattan
Community College, New York
Bradley University
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University
Butler University
California Polytechnic State University
Carnegie Mellon University
Carthage College
Case Western Reserve University
Central Methodist University
Central Piedmont Community College
Claflin University
Clark Atlanta University
Coastal Carolina University
Coe College
Colgate University
College of the Ozarks
College of Wooster
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College
Columbia University
Concordia University
Cornell College
Cornell University
Creighton University
Denmark Technical College
DePaul University
DePauw University
DeVry University
Drake University
Drury University
Duke University
Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Fontbonne University
Fort Hays State University
Front Range Community College
Furman University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Grambling State University
Greenville College
Grinnell College
Hannibal–LaGrange College
Harris–Stowe State University
Harvard University
Hendrix College
Howard University
Hunter College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana Institute of Technology
Indiana State University
Indiana University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Iowa Central Community College
Iowa State University
International American University
College of Medicine
ITT Technical Institute
Ivy Technical State College
Jefferson College
John A. Logan College
John Brown University
Johnson & Wales University
Johnson C. Smith University
Kansas City Art Institute
Kansas State University
Kentucky State University
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Langston University
Lee University
Lenoir–Rhyne College
Lewis University
Limestone College
Lincoln University
Lincoln Christian College
Lindenwood University
Los Angeles School of Recording
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Luther College
Maryville University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Metropolitan Community College
Penn Valley, Kansas City
Miami University
Michigan State University
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
Mississippi State University
Missouri Baptist University
Missouri Southern State University
Missouri State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Missouri Valley College
Missouri Western State University
Monmouth College
Montgomery College
Murray State University
New York University
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern University
Oakwood College
Oberlin College
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Oklahoma State University
Oral Roberts University
Park University
Pasadena City College
Patricia Stevens College
Pomona College
Prairie View A&M University
Purdue University
Queen’s University
Quincy University
Ranken Technical College
Rhodes College
Rice University
Ringling School of Art and Design
Ripon College
Robert Morris College, Chicago
Rockford College
Rockhurst University
Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design
Roosevelt University
Rose–Hulman Institute of Technology
Saddleback College
Ottawa University
Saint Louis University
Saint John’s College
Samford University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Southwest Baptist University
St. Bonaventure University
St. Charles Community College
St. Louis College of Pharmacy
St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley
St. Louis Community College at Forest Park
St. Louis Community College at Meramec
St. Louis Community College at Wildwood
Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology
Stanford University
Stephens College
Syracuse University
Taylor University
Texas Christian University
Tiffin University
Truman State University
Tulane University
United States Air Force
United States Military Academy
University of Advancing Technology
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California at Berkeley
University of Central Missouri
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of District of Columbia
University of Evansville
University of Georgia
University of Houston
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Memphis
University of Miami
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of Missouri, Kansas City
University of Missouri, St. Louis
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Rochester
University of South Dakota
University of Southern California
University of Tampa
University of Texas, Austin
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin
Utah State University
Vatterott College
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Watkins College of Art and Design
Webster University
Westminster College
Westwood College, Chicago
Du Page
Wheaton College
William Jewell College
William Penn University
William Woods University
Yale University

class acts

Parkway students ace the ACT test, make the Presidential Scholars list and win science fair awards.



St. Louis Science Fair Winners

Three Parkway students were winners in the honors division of the Greater St. Louis Science Fair in April. The winners are: **William Sun**, Central High, won first place and a \$3,000 scholarship; **David Levary**, Central High, won second place and a \$2,000 award; **Elizabeth Qin**, Central High, won third place and a \$2,000 scholarship. Two other Parkway students, both finalists, received \$1,000 scholarships. They are **Ifrah Ahmed**, South High, and **Marilyn Piccirillo**, West High.

Presidential Scholars

David Levary, Central High, is one of an elite group of 139 American students to be selected as a 2008 Presidential Scholar. U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced his selection in May. A month earlier, **Elizabeth Qin**, Central High, was named one of the top 10 Missouri semifinalists in the Presidential Scholars Program. Parkway is the only public school district in Missouri to have two students on the Presidential Scholars list. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established by Executive Order in 1964. Each year, up to 141 graduating seniors are honored for their exceptional scholarship, leadership, talent in the visual and performing arts and community involvement.

► **Judy Wen of Central High, left, and Sharon Xiaoran Xu of South High, both received a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT college entrance exam. "It's weird to know I got a 36," says Sharon. "It's like one of those things you always hear about but would never expect to happen to you." Judy attributes her success to practice.**

Perfect ACT scorers

P Once again, two Parkway students have received perfect scores on the ACT college entrance exam. Judy Wen of Central High and Sharon Xiaoran Xu of South High took the exam in February, and both received a composite score of 36. They were two of just six Missouri students, and two of 56 in the nation, to achieve the perfect score. With their scores, Judy and Sharon become the sixth and seventh Parkway students in two years to achieve ACT perfection.

"Even now, it's weird to know I got a 36," says Sharon. "It's like one of those things you always

hear about but would never expect to happen to you. I expected a 33 since it was my first time taking the test."

Judy, on the other hand, attributes her success to practice. "I'm not the smartest person in the world," she says. "My parents bought me many ACT books. I used to wish I was one of those natural born geniuses who didn't have to try at all and still get A-pluses. But now I realize I am better off with an average brain and a driven attitude because I get to feel the sense of accomplishment, and it's a wonderful feeling."

BAXTER'S SONG

A bus driver gives students a lesson in compassion—and in raising turtles.

Bus driver Katrina Carnes, right, made an unusual rescue on Baxter Road after she completed her route one day last summer. On the side of the road, she noticed a smashed but pregnant female turtle, with all but one of her eggs destroyed. Delicately picking up and covering the egg, she then named it Baxter for the road on which it was found, and proceeded to incubate it. After 106 days, Baxter was born in late September. She now weighs one and three-fourths ounces, and as Katrina reports, has an extremely healthy appetite, eating worms and cooked chicken—the white meat, that is—right out of Katrina’s fingers. Baxter can’t accompany Katrina on her daily routes, of course, since no animals are allowed on Parkway buses, but she does keep a photo of her so the children can monitor her progress. And on special occasions, like the day of this photo shoot, Katrina’s dad made a special trip to bring Baxter before school so the children could pet her. They’ve learned a lot about saving—and raising—animals from Katrina. A former veterinarian’s assistant and longtime animal lover who was forever raising baby robins as a child, Katrina has also learned a lot about dealing with children. “That’s why I love my job.”



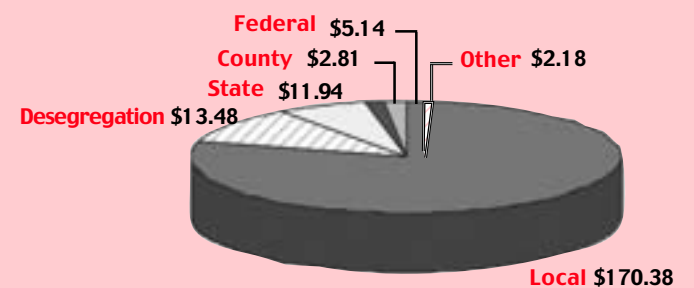
▶ **Katrina Carnes’ bus riders monitor the progress of Baxter, the indestructible female turtle who refused to die. Baxter, top and right, was a mere egg when Carnes rescued her.**



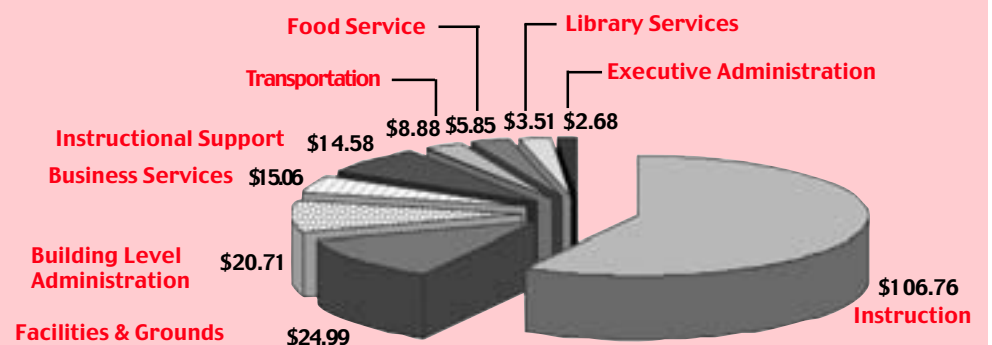
This is Parkway... *at a glance*

- ▶ **“Accredited with Distinction”** by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- ▶ **Recognized for “Distinction in Performance”** by DESE for seven consecutive years
- ▶ **14 U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards**
- ▶ **ENROLLMENT**
2007–08 Enrollment: 17,724
18 elementary schools
Five middle schools
Four high schools
One non-traditional high school
One early childhood center
- ▶ **FINANCES**
2007–08 Residential Tax Rate: \$3.230 per \$100 of assessed value
- ▶ **EMPLOYEES**
2007–08 Teacher Salaries: \$35,000 (Lowest)
\$55,251 (Average)
\$78,441 (Highest)
- ▶ **Percentage of certified staff with master’s degree or above:**
Parkway: 71.8%
Missouri: 54.1%
- ▶ **ACHIEVEMENT**
- ▶ **2007–08 National Merit Students = 73**
Semifinalists: 39
Commended: 34
- ▶ **ACT Composite Test Score**
Parkway: 24.3
Missouri: 21.6
USA: 21.2
- ▶ **SAT Combined Test Score**
Parkway: 1803
Missouri: 1775
USA: 1511

2007–08 Operating Revenue: \$205.93 million



2007–08 Operating Expenditures: \$203.02 million



To view the 2007–08 budget, visit the Parkway web site: www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/finance/index.cfm.

end note

TWO ICONS RETIRE, BUT THEIR LEGACIES LIVE ON.



Bruce Knight: McKelvey Principal

To honor McKelvey principal Bruce Knight, staff and students dress like him, above.

Can you find the real Bruce Knight in the photos above? McKelvey Elementary staff, parents and students dressed up like the beloved principal recently to honor their leader who retires this year after 19 years at the school and more than 40 years in public education. The look-alikes wore the legendary Knight mustache and tie. As you can tell from the photos, they also displayed his wonderful sense of humor and fun. Among his many talents, Knight is credited with uniting a diverse community. He did that by showing parents and kids how much he cared. "Nothing is beneath him," says McKelvey parent John Wiedner. "I've never met another principal like him. He would mop floors, sweep, park cars, do anything to help out parents and kids." "I'm the Will Rogers of folding chairs," jokes Knight. "I've never met one I don't like." During his tenure, he insisted on answering his own phone. Report cards were not sent home with kids. Instead, he asked parents to come to McKelvey to get them and would work with a parent's busy schedule to make sure someone was on hand to meet with every parent—often at night, after the official work day was done. "Every kid," he explains, "is worth a conversation with the teacher." For Knight at McKelvey, it was all about establishing a bond with the community. His bond will remain long after he leaves. Knowing how much Knight loves to play golf, the community made a street sign for him, naming it "Dr. Knight Fairway." The sign will be permanently displayed in the school's front circular driveway. "The sign is strange," jokes Knight. "If you know anything about golf, I've never been in the fairway."



Bill Myer: 'Commander in Chief'

"He built a school that not only prepared me for the future, but gave me some of the best years of my life."
—Philip Boone, Central High grad

Parkway students, teachers and administrators went into mourning last spring when they learned that William Myer was retiring after 37 years with Parkway. "So much knowledge and so much caring will be walking out the door," says one Parkway staff member, summing up the sentiments of many. At the time of his retirement, Myer was the assistant superintendent of secondary education. But he often missed the day-to-day contact he'd had with students as Central High principal, a post he'd previously held for 17 years. So well-liked was Myer at Central that when he left, the yearbook staff elected to use his photo as the cover for their yearbook along with the caption, "Commander in Chief." Myer's influence over students extended long after they graduated. When Philip Boone, a Stanford University and Central grad, chose the most influential person in his secondary education, he named Myer. "He built a school that not only prepared me for the future, but offered me some of the most enjoyable years of my life," explains Boone. Central High English Teacher Lou Jobst summed up the sentiments of many in his "Ballad of Bill Myer," which he wrote and played at one Myer retirement party. Two of the lines from that ballad are: "Taught us how to love kids and do our best. How to take our best selves—put them to the test."

Your School Board

Putting faces with names

Dee Mogerman
President



Jay Davis
Vice President



Helen Casteel



Chris Jacob



Bruce Major



Dudley McCarter



The board meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at various schools. For more information on board meetings or policies, please visit our web site at: www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/boe/boe.cfm.

Calendar

www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/calendar/calendars.cfm

August 14
First Day of
School

October 3
No School

September 1
Labor Day
No School

November 7
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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