

# PARKWAY today

News and information for residents of Parkway School District

Summer 2010

Accredited with Distinction



## Inside:

- Global Classes
- Kid's Corner
- Interim Superintendent

# Summer School Surge

Enrollment is up as classes expand

Above, Jacob Brand of Highcroft Ridge Elementary

# Summer School Surge

Today, nearly 40 percent of Parkway students participate in summer school.



► Popular classes like "Cardinal Mania" draw students who don't normally enroll. Created by teacher Danielle Placke, "Cardinal Mania" teaches students how to do math by calculating batting averages. Pictured from left are Highcroft Ridge Elementary students Erika Carter, Matthew Romine and Jenna Leahy.

**M**ath is anything but typical in Danielle Placke's summer school class called "Cardinal Mania." Sure, fifth graders learn about long division and word problems, but they do so by calculating the batting averages of their favorite Cardinals baseball players. The class has become so popular it is now offered at other

elementary schools besides Highcroft Ridge, where Placke created it. "Boys who normally don't sign up for summer school are signing up for the class," notes Placke. Cardinal Mania is just one reason this year's enrollment is on par to meet or exceed last year's record high of 7,000 students, a jump of 1,000 from the previous year.

Michael Cosgrove, director of summer school programs at Parkway, attributes the enrollment surge to class variety and value. All classes are offered free with the exception of a \$15 supply fee for two-hour elementary and middle school classes.

Here's just a sampling of classes:

- Honors physics class, which allows

students to receive honors credit for the first time in summer school;

- "Jump Start to Kindergarten," which gives students extra help in preparing for kindergarten;
- Prep Algebra 1, which introduces high school students to basic Algebraic concepts;
- College Admissions.

"I couldn't believe the college admissions classes were free," one parent told Central High English teacher Kevin Mabie who is in charge of Parkway's summer college admissions program.

Students are given first-hand experience in what college campuses are like as they learn how to write college application essays, apply for financial help, and prepare for ACT tests. The test preparation alone would cost students nearly \$500 if they took the class from a commercial business.

With rich offerings like these, summer school is attracting honors students and those from private schools who live within Parkway boundary lines.

Of the 7,000 students attending Parkway's summer school classes,

roughly 524 are from private schools (7.6 percent).

After attending summer school, some of these students choose to enroll in Parkway the following year rather than go back to private schools.

"It gives them a good sense of what Parkway offers," says Cosgrove, "because the teachers are the same in summer school as in the academic year."

"I'm really encouraged that we've been able to expand our summer school programs instead of cut them as other schools have done," he adds. Some school districts have been forced to cut or eliminate their summer school programs because of budget crises.

Parkway has been able to defy this national trend through fiscally responsible management and belt-tightening in other areas.

"Summer school is a tremendous asset to our community," says Cosgrove. "We want to make sure our summer programs remain robust."

For a complete summer listing, visit [www.parkway.k12.mo.us/summer](http://www.parkway.k12.mo.us/summer).

## Other Program Highlights



**MATHEMATICIANS  
in Residence  
for intensified  
math instruction**



**MOSAICS Fine  
Arts Academy  
for selected  
fifth graders**

# superintendent's corner

## Reflections from the Last Six Years

Dear Parkway Community:

As I prepare to leave Parkway and retire, I would like you to know that it has been both an honor and a privilege to work with the students and families of this community.



**Superintendent  
Robert Malito**

I came to Parkway six years ago because I knew it offered one of the best educational experiences anywhere. I leave now to help care for my aging parents and to take on other challenges after 40 years in public education.

During the last six years, you and I have helped strengthen the tradition of excellence in Parkway. Together, we have:

- Reduced class sizes at all grade levels. Many classes are smaller now than they have ever been;

- Kept Parkway on sound financial footing despite a national economic crisis. Parkway's bond rating has increased to AAA, which is the highest rating possible;

- Begun construction on new high school science labs;

- Added more computers and technology and improved classroom technology integration;

- Added literacy coaches and math specialists to improve basic reading and math instruction;

- Added an Infinite Campus online student information system to improve communication with parents; and

- Begun the strategic planning process called Project Parkway. For more than a year, Project Parkway volunteers have been developing a new mission and vision for Parkway's future. The mission and vision will be the foundation on which everything is built.

Many of you know I frequently use the words "working together" in everyday conversation.

That is because we have all worked together for our students and our

.....  
**It has been both an  
honor and a privilege  
to serve Parkway.**  
.....

schools.

My departure will not prevent Parkway from continuing to excel. On the contrary, because Parkway has such dedicated professionals, our students will continue to receive an outstanding education. I have seen this dedication firsthand for six years, and I am immensely grateful that I was able to be a part of Parkway for so long.

My deepest thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Malito, Ph.D.

## Parkway Board Selects Familiar Face to be Interim Superintendent



**Interim  
Superintendent  
Don Senti**

**T**he Parkway Board of Education has selected Dr. Don Senti as interim superintendent beginning July 1, 2010. Senti will replace Dr. Bob Malito who retires June 30.

Senti is a former Parkway and Clayton superintendent. He recently announced his intention to retire, but will delay retirement as Parkway conducts a search for its next permanent superintendent.

"Don will be a tremendous asset to Parkway during this transitional year," says Board of Education President Bruce Major. "He knows the Parkway community, is passionate about student success and is

highly regarded as a superb educational leader."

"Parkway has a very special place in my heart and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to return as superintendent next year," says Senti, who served as Parkway's superintendent from 1988 to 1995. "I worked as an administrator in Parkway for 25 years before going to Clayton. It's really exciting to be able to come back to help a district, where I spent so much of my career, through this transition."

Senti has accepted a one-year appointment beginning July 1, 2010. He holds a doctorate and an educational specialist degree from St. Louis University, as well as master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Kansas.



Outside Doorbell

▶ Every elementary school in Parkway has been outfitted with an outside doorbell system that requires visitors to be identified by staff before entering the school.



Security Camera

▶ By 2012, all elementary schools will have additional security cameras to complement the outside doorbell systems. This will complete Parkway's K-12 security camera project which began in 2007.

# Fixing Our Schools



2008 Bond Issue at Work

Many Parkway schools will undergo renovations this summer with money from the 2008 bond issue. Look for the following renovations in the next few months. Thank you, Parkway voters!

- ▶ **BELLERIVE**  
Replace HVAC units and roofs
- ▶ **CRAIG**  
Replace folding partitions in classrooms with walls
- ▶ **EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**  
Replace HVAC units
- ▶ **GREEN TRAILS**  
Add new storm sewer system
- ▶ **HANNA WOODS**  
Add new storm sewer system
- ▶ **HENRY**  
Replace pavements and sidewalks  
Replace retaining wall at library exit
- ▶ **MASON RIDGE**  
Replace roofs and electrical switchboards  
Replace pavements and curbs  
Replace sidewalks and stairs for ADA access
- ▶ **OAK BROOK**  
Replace folding partitions in classrooms with walls  
Build canopy to protect ADA route from buildings to temporary classrooms
- ▶ **PIERREMONT**  
Renovate administrative offices  
Build new nurse's area  
Replace pavements and sidewalks
- ▶ **WREN HOLLOW**  
Relocate water line above grade
- ▶ **SHENANDOAH VALLEY**  
Replace windows and install exterior water line for fire sprinkler system
- ▶ **CENTRAL MIDDLE**  
Build stormwater detention basin
- ▶ **WEST MIDDLE**  
Replace ceilings and lighting
- ▶ **NORTHEAST MIDDLE**  
Replace chiller  
Infill cafeteria to increase floor space  
Remove asbestos from science area
- ▶ **CENTRAL HIGH**  
Renovate science classrooms and build addition
- ▶ **NORTH HIGH**  
Build new softball field adjacent to North High
- ▶ **SOUTH HIGH**  
Replace roofs  
Renovate cafeteria  
Renovate Wren Ave. bridge
- ▶ **WEST HIGH**  
Build new softball field
- ▶ **DISTRICTWIDE**  
Replace playground woodchips  
Install security camera systems at elementary schools  
Upgrade electrical systems  
Replace windows  
Replace carpets and floor tiles  
Replace interior and exterior doors, frames and hardware  
Resurface tennis courts at high schools  
Upgrade kiln exhausts at elementary schools  
Add storage tanks to hot water systems



Pierremont fourth graders share lessons and a sword dance, right, with a class in Mexico, thanks to technology advances.



## Moving Toward the Global Classroom

**E**ven if Spanish isn't your specialty, you could learn a lot about Mexican culture and traditions by sitting in on a Mexican classroom.

That's what Cailin Forrest had in mind when she designed a "lesson swap" between her fourth-grade class at Pierremont Elementary and another fourth-grade class in

Mexico. The swap was done via SKYPE software, which allows students to communicate with students in other countries via text, voice or video.

Sharing an interactive SMART Board with the Mexican class, Pierremont students explained the history of May Day and demonstrated the North Skelton Sword Dance. "We

wanted them to compare our May Day celebration in the states with their celebration of Cinco de Mayo," says Cailin.

For their part, the Mexican students, who attend a bilingual school in Playa del Carmen, dressed in traditional Mexican attire and demonstrated a traditional Mexican song and dance for Pierremont students. The

lesson swap, as you've probably already guessed, centered on spring traditions in both countries. Helping in the collaborative effort was Jessica Schneider, another fourth-grade Pierremont teacher; and Peter Larson, Pierremont's technology integration specialist.

*Look for more stories on Parkway's creative use of technology in the future.*



What West Middle Students Learned From

# The Fire Next Door

**W**hen West Middle Principal Linda Lelonek began smelling smoke around 9 a.m. one day last April, she immediately thought her school was on fire.

Running from her office, she looked outside to see smoke billowing not from West Middle, but from the Broadmoor Condominiums next door. Within seconds, the fire and police departments arrived and began wheeling condo residents, many of them in their 90s, onto the school's smoke-free driveway.

"The residents were scared and disoriented," recalls Lelonek. "What must it be like to be 95 and have someone bang on your door, telling you to get out of your home

immediately, and then take you to a school?"

The West Middle cafeteria manager jumped outside to give water to residents, followed by teachers who brought chairs and helped residents into West Middle's cafeteria.

Orchestra students began playing concertos for their unexpected guests. Eighth graders began serving them donuts for breakfast, and later, sandwiches. By lunchtime, Kenzie Coning, one of the students serving food, and 'Grandpa Vel,' as she calls one of the residents, were good friends. "I call him Grandpa Vel because of his kindness. He reminds me of my own grandpa, who



THE DAMAGED CONDOS



THE PRINCIPAL

"It brought our community together."



THE FUND-RAISERS



THE DISPLACED RESIDENTS



THE MUSICIANS



THE 'GRANDDAUGHTERS'

"'Grandpa Vel' was so kind. He reminded us of our own grand-fathers."

always accepted me for who I am."

Once the Broadmoor condos are repaired and residents move back in, Kenzie plans to wave to Grandpa Vel if she sees him sitting on his porch during recess. "And he's going to wave back to me."

Meanwhile, West Middle students have begun fund-

raising to purchase homecoming gifts for the residents.

"Our community came together," says Lelonek. "I loved the way the fire and police departments worked with everyone."

There's no word yet on how the fire started, but it ended with new friendships.

# class acts

Parkway students win top science, math, writing and scholarship awards.



► **Shenandoah Valley third graders open a St. Louis Symphony concert with “Variation A and Theme of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” in April. It was the first time an elementary group played with the symphony. “Many students were so star struck, they couldn’t move off the stage afterwards,” says their orchestra teacher Loren Abramson, in black above, who received the symphony’s 2010 Educator of the Year award. “The audience loved it.”**



## residential Scholar

**Joy He**, Central High, is one of two Missouri students selected as a 2010 Presidential Scholar. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by executive order of the president. Each year, over 100 graduating seniors are honored for their exceptional scholarship, leadership, talent in the

visual and performing arts and community involvement.

## Missouri Scholars

Seven Parkway students have been named to the Missouri Scholars 100, a state-wide program that honors 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the 2010 graduating class.

The Parkway students are: **Joy He**, Central High; **Nada**

**Ali and Elizabeth Carr**, North High; **Paula Vaught and Diane Shen**, South High; and **Regina Stroncek and Rajiv Tarigopula**, West High.

## Outstanding Citizenship

**Alison Levens** of Central High and **Jacob Lyonfields** of West High were among 15 public high school students recently honored by the Missouri State Board of Education as recipients of the 2010 Outstanding

Achievement in Citizenship Award. The award was established by the Missouri Legislature in 1989.

## Robotics Success

The **South High robotics team** recently proved you don’t need actual people to play soccer. They created a robot that can kick a ball, score goals from different parts of a field and align shots with the help of an attached camera. The robot was so effective in scoring that it ranked third among 42 teams at the Midwest regional competition at St. Louis University. South High science teacher **Tim Morrison** led 55 students in developing the robot which functions with exterior joysticks.

## Science Fair Winner

**Jacob Lyonfields**, a West High senior, won a \$1,000 scholarship in the honors division at the 2010 Greater St. Louis Science Fair, for his project titled, “Racial Disparities in Survival of Head and Neck Cancer Patients: Evaluation of the SEER-Medicare Database.”



► **Jacob Lyonfields, West High, researched the disparities in survival rates between African Americans and whites suffering from head and neck cancers.**

*Class Acts continue on page eight*



▶ “People should never give up,” says Siddiqa who just won the award for most improved English student at South High.

## ‘Overcoming My Father’s Murder by the Taliban’

“I like how living in America means freedom and being able to choose your own life and career path.”

**S**iddiqa Mohammad, a senior at South High, has come a long way since witnessing the Taliban murder her father in Afghanistan. This 18-year-old has just received the award for most improved English student and is well on her way to going to college after graduation.

“Her last several papers have all been A’s,” says English teacher Pat Conley, who nominated Siddiqa for the award and marvels at her positive attitude and determination. “After escaping the Taliban, she had to move to several different countries and learn different languages in order to survive.”

That kind of perseverance comes

from her mother, Siddiqa says. “My mom is my hero. She never thought about herself first, always her family. She was always seeking a better life for my brothers and sisters and me, and she did everything in her power to get us to America. If she had given up, we’d still be in Afghanistan today.”

Siddiqa vividly recalls the day, at age 5, when her family watched the Taliban seize her father in Afghanistan. “A group of men came to our village and grabbed my father who was hiding. My mom, eight siblings and I had to stand and watch as they shot him numerous times. My mom ran to my dad after the shooting and tried to cover him, but we could do nothing.”

Instead of embitter-

ing Siddiqa, the experience left her reaching out to help others. “If I see someone in trouble at South High,” she says, “someone having difficulty or a bad day, I go over to see if I can help in any way. I have experienced so much in life—including being homeless, rich and poor—that I feel I can identify with anyone.”

“She has a tolerance and understanding of others,” says Conley, who notes that her college composition papers on topics such as arranged marriages are always evenhanded and insightful. Conley’s wife, Donna, a writing aide in the South High writing lab, adds that students seek Siddiqa’s opinions on Muslim culture and books because they respect her fair-mindedness.

As for Siddiqa, she says the Conleys are two of her favorites. Almost from the moment she arrived at South High, both Conleys

began helping her with English, which she says is the hardest language to learn.

Because she spoke four other languages—Farsi, Dari, Hindi and Spanish—she had to process them in her brain before she got to English. “I had empathy for Siddiqa, because my own attempts at learning and writing Spanish have been painful,” says Pat Conley.

“I knew she would improve because she kept writing and rewriting and trying,” adds Pat, who has had Siddiqa in class as both a freshman and senior. “Mrs. Conley and I encouraged her to take the harder composition classes because we knew she could do it.”

It also helped, of course, that Siddiqa shared her French fries with both Conleys during English tutoring sessions in South High’s writing lab.

“It’s true,” laughs Donna. “I do steal some of Siddiqa’s French fries when we’re going over paragraph structure and American idioms at lunch. ‘The food in America,’ adds Siddiqa with a laugh, “is not so much different from Afghani food. The biggest difference is that people don’t eat out very much in restaurants in Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

Another big difference in America—and at South High—is the chance to think about a future, says Siddiqa. “In Pakistan you grow up to have kids and take care of a family. No one has a chance for dreams or a career of their own. I like how living in America means freedom and being able to choose your own life and career path.”

The Conleys have helped open her eyes to the possibility of becoming a translator in American hospitals. Donna Conley says there is a growing need for hospital translators who speak other languages besides Spanish.

“I love South High and all the teachers who have helped me along the way,” says Siddiqa. After arriving in St. Louis, a social worker kept telling her mom about how good the Parkway School District was, so she moved the family to the South High attendance area. “It’s been wonderful,” says Siddiqa.

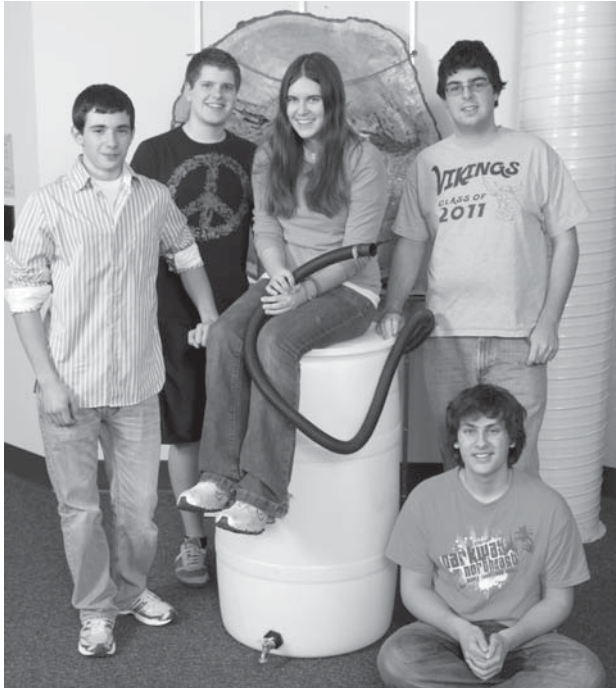
“Siddiqa brings the best to South,” Donna Conley says. “She brings her world to integrate with ours so we have more knowledge of cultures other than our own.”

This is our second “Fresh Voices” feature about students who overcome obstacles to achieve their dreams. Please tell us about other students by emailing us at ParkwayToday@pkwy.k12.mo.us.



# class acts

continued from page 6



► **Team NEON Update:** These North High science students from Russ Barton's science class have been awarded another \$15,000 in the Lexus Eco Challenge, a national environmental competition. They educated the school and community about the impact of rain gardens.



## Achievement Scholar

**Jennifer M. Wesley**, North High, is one of 800 students nationwide to receive a National Achievement Scholarship award. The scholarships are presented to talented black American high school seniors.

## 2010 Corporate-Sponsored Merit Scholars

Four Parkway students were

chosen to receive corporate-sponsored merit scholarships. **Sean P. Cahill**, Central High, and **Kevin R. Cochran**, North High, both received the Boeing Company Merit Scholarship. **Lisa Xia** and **Samuel Y. Lee** of West High received the Pfizer Inc., and Eaton Charitable Fund Merit Scholarships, respectively.

## 2010 National Merit \$2500 Scholars

**Joy He**, Central High; **Diane G. Shen** and **Paula E. Vaught**, South High;

**Sai Sonia S. Boodram** and **Rajiv Tarigopula**, West High; were chosen from a talent pool of approximately 15,000 to receive this year's National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships.

## 2010 College-Sponsored Merit Scholars

Three Central High students are winners of college-sponsored merit scholarships. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. The Central High winners are: **Annaleah Larson**, **Kefu Lu** and **Ammar A. Zahid**.

## Performing at the Sheldon

**Ben Park** of Central High was chosen to perform with Grammy winner, Sara Sant' Ambrogio, at *Cellofest* on Tuesday, May 11. The performance took place at The Sheldon



Concert Hall as part of the Sheldon's "Notes from Home" series.

## ► Ben Park Central High

## Parkway Has 'What Parents Want'

Parkway has what parents want in a school district, according to SchoolMatch, a national firm that rates school districts.

The firm recently presented Parkway with its annual "What Parents Want" award. Parkway is one of only 28 Missouri school districts to receive the award.

SchoolMatch polled 95,000 parents who said they wanted schools that are:

- competitive in academic test scores and academically solid, but not intimidating to their children;
- accredited;
- recognized for excellence by a national foundation or by the U.S. Department of Education;
- competitive in teacher salaries;
- above average in instructional and library/media expenditures on a national percentile basis;
- known for small class size.

Parkway has received the annual award since 1992.

## Parkway Receives 'Distinction in Performance'

Parkway was one of a handful of area school districts recently honored for receiving the state's "Distinction in Performance for High Achievement." This marks the ninth consecutive year Parkway has received the award. "Distinction in Performance" is based on the 14 academic performance standards, the basis of the state's accreditation program for all school districts. The standards are based on scores from MAP and ACT tests, graduation rates and student attendance among other standards. Parkway met 14 of 14 standards.

## Board Expected to Finalize New Mission and Vision for Parkway

**T**he Parkway Board of Education is expected to finalize a new mission statement for Parkway School District this summer. For the past year, Project Parkway volunteers have been busy drafting a new mission and vision for our students today and in the future. They have been guided by questions like, What will the future of Parkway School District look like? Our mission and vision make up the foundation on which everything is built—our curriculum, learning principles, even the number of computers we purchase per student.

It helps to picture a house, particularly the foundation of a house, when considering Parkway's proposed mission, since it impacts hiring choices, classroom lessons and even funding priorities. "Our mission will help us prepare students for jobs that do not yet exist," says one Project Parkway participant. "We had to reconsider the way we've always done things when developing it."

Project Parkway participants took nothing for granted as they continued to refine our mission and vision for Parkway's students and our schools. Is the length of the school day appropriate? Do we need to provide a laptop computer for every student? These sorts of questions, along with a host of others, are being considered. How can we implement academic interventions to increase student achievement? What do we need to do to ensure a safe and secure learning environment? How should we equip our classrooms to meet 21st century teaching and learning?

### Proposed New Mission Statement

**The mission of the Parkway School District is to ensure students are capable, curious and confident learners who are well-equipped to understand and respond to the challenges of an ever-changing world.**

View the proposed new mission, vision and learning principles at [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway) and learn how to get involved. All meetings are open to the public and available via Podcast at [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway). The next meeting will be Aug. 30, 2010.



Go to [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/projectparkway) or call (314) 415-8070

## Kid's Corner

>> What classes and activities would you like Parkway to offer?

### Mitch Hanson North High

Boys' lacrosse isn't school-sponsored, but it would be cool if it were. I'd also like to see more finance and economic classes.



### Emily Zvibelman Ross Elementary

I would like to see my sister at school. My sissy is 3; she will be 4 on the winter solstice. I would also like to eat pizza every Tuesday.



### D'MarKo Cosey Southwest Middle

I wish academic lab were offered during the day instead of after school. I would like to be an astronomer, and I have stayed after school to get help with science. But I wish I could get help with science during the day.



### Airley Rodriguez Pierremont Elementary

We have everything at Parkway. I used to go to a different school, and I had to sit with a projector or books all day. I hated it. Here there are so many more options.



## Pillars of Parkway Announced

### Eight receive prestigious award

The prestigious Pillar of Parkway award is presented annually to individuals who have provided extraordinary service to the Parkway community. Congratulations to the following eight parent volunteers and staff members who received this year's award. From left below: **Ann Hansen**, Barretts Elementary teacher; **Peggy O'Malley-Dean**, GOLD Star Partnership Program coordinator, Special School District; **Dr. Jenny Marquart**, North High principal; **Mary Thompkins**, West High parent volunteer; **Nan Johnson**, West area parent volunteer; **Cindy Knight**, McKelvey Elementary teacher's assistant; **Lisa Harnacker**, health services manager; **Raoul Campa**, Oak Brook Elementary teacher.



## 'This Is Parkway 2010' Digital Magazine is Now Online

### 'This is Parkway' Digital Magazine

Check out the current edition of Parkway's interactive digital

magazine, "This Is Parkway 2010!" This multimedia communication spotlights student and staff accomplishments and provides up-to-date stats and other data about the district. The magazine includes videos and quick links for important resources. Go to: [www.this-is-parkway.com](http://www.this-is-parkway.com).

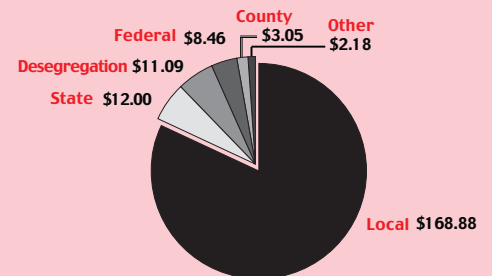


▶ Luba Ezerskiy of West High

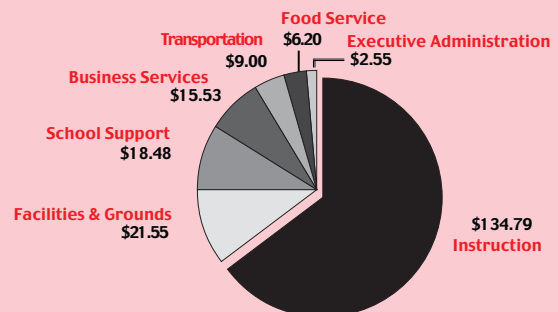
## This is Parkway... *at a glance*

- ▶ "Accredited with Distinction" by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- ▶ Recognized for "Distinction in Performance" by DESE for nine consecutive years
- ▶ 14 U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards
- ▶ **ENROLLMENT**  
Enrollment: 17,574  
18 elementary schools  
Five middle schools  
Four high schools  
One non-traditional high school  
One early childhood center
- ▶ **FINANCES**  
2009 Residential Tax Rate: \$3.41 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 = 57 Semifinalists: 25 Commended: 32
- ▶ ACT Composite Test Score Parkway: 24.1 Missouri: 21.6 USA: 21.1
- ▶ SAT Combined Test Score Parkway: 1815 Missouri: 1779 USA: 1509

### 2009-10 Operating Revenue: \$205.66 million



### 2009-10 Operating Expenditures: \$208.1 million



To view the 2009-10 budget, visit the Parkway Web site: [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/finance/index.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/finance/index.cfm).



► With a West High student, Ruth Knop says winning teacher of the year is comparable to an Oscar win. "It has pushed me to learn and grow."

## Teacher of the Year Wins the 'Oscar'

If you hear singing coming from the classroom of West High math teacher Ruth Knop, you know her Algebra II-Trigonometry students are learning the quadratic formula. "It's one thing they have to memorize, so I try to make it easier for them by having them sing it," says Knop, who scores the formula to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel."

In class and in life, Knop has always seen the connection between math and music. "Ever since I taught piano lessons when I was in high school and college, I knew I wanted to be a math teacher because I loved kids and numbers."

"She has an incredible rapport with students because she cares about what she's doing. I have never respected a teacher more in my life than Ruth," says colleague Wade Taylor.

Knop's success with students contributed to her winning the Parkway Teacher of the Year award for 2010. Knop refers to the award as her "Oscar" win; she says it has pushed her to be even better and realize that she has room left to learn and grow.

One way to grow, she says, is to use technology in the classroom to expose students to different kinds of teaching methods. Her SMART Boards, for instance, feature rotating pictures to help students see a pattern of numbers easily and different ways of solving a problem.

"I'm here to see that students do their personal best. Our success as teachers is based on our students' success, and that's why I want to keep improving." She is available before and after school to help all students, even those she doesn't teach anymore.

"She makes math fun," says Amelia Ayers, a student in Knop's Algebra II-Trigonometry class. "The class is never boring. She is always available after school to help."

"Math to me is being able to look at patterns and use that to make decisions about the future," Knop said. "When my kids ask a great question or get a problem on their own, it makes me so happy because I know I am doing my job."

"She makes math fun. The class is never boring."

## 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 Web site at: [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/boe/boe.cfm](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/boe/boe.cfm).



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**POSTAL CUSTOMER**

# Calendar

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

**July 4**  
**Independence Day**  
**(No school)**

**August 17**  
**First Day of 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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**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 last August, we have kept count of our fans and followers. The numbers climb each week.

As of June Parkway had more than 2,551 Facebook fans and 451 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!