

THE
Black & Gold Unfold
-Home of the Panthers-



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Official Newsletter of Parkway Local Schools

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District News

Correspondent: Hayden Castleman



Dear Parkway Families, Staff, and Community Members,

As the holiday season is upon us, I would like to wish all of our Parkway families a happy, healthy, and relaxing break filled with joyous memories. As superintendent, I am continuously impressed by and thankful for the community spirit that brings our students, staff, families, and residents together through both achievements and challenges.

True to form, our students consistently serve as the heartbeat behind Parkway Schools' continued record of success in a variety of areas. From bringing holiday spirit to the community, to achieving strong academic gains and athletic feats, to upholding stellar music and agriculture programs - students at all grade levels inspire pride in what we collectively accomplish. Of course these successes depend profoundly on the network of support around our students – the unwavering encouragement from parents, expert guidance of our staff, and broader community involvement.

Transitioning into 2024, safety and enrichment remain driving priorities for improvements in Parkway Schools. Our new school resource officer establishes security while also connecting personally with students. Upgraded facilities foster environments where students can thrive academically and socially.

The new year brings hope and motivation to help every student meet their potential. I ask for your sustained engagement, communication, and trust as we work together in the coming year to best serve Parkway's students. By uniting around supporting our students, I am confident Parkway will continue flourishing in 2024 and beyond.

Here's to a happy, healthy, and rewarding new year for all! Wishing you the best during this holiday season,

Jeanne Osterfeld
Superintendent, Parkway Schools





High School News

Correspondents: Andrew Taylor and Caiden Berry



Golf Simulator

The ground is starting to freeze and snow flurries have been sighted - but that doesn't stop the Parkway boys and girls golf teams from continuing to prepare for the fall 2024 golf season. During the winter months, golf athletes continue working to develop their golf skills inside Parkway's indoor golf simulator. The purchase of upgraded golf simulator equipment was made possible in 2022 through golf team fundraisers, the Parkway Athletic Department, and the Parkway Athletic Booster Club.

"Student-athletes having access to an indoor simulator is more than just playing holes. This technology provides golfers the opportunity to learn so much more about their golf swing. The simulator program provides immediate feedback such as swing speed, launch angle, spin rate, and carry distance." explained boys golf coach, Ryan Thompson. "During the offseason, our athletes can make adjustments to the mechanics of their golf swing and receive instant feedback." Parkway's golf simulator uses the FlightScope Mevo+ launch monitor that offers players multiple driving range and short game practice opportunities along with access to five different 18-hole golf courses.

The indoor simulator is a well-used practice facility during the winter months. The simulator room, located in Room #325 in the middle school hallway, is open multiple days each week to interested student-athletes during the months of November-March. Last winter, 26 different athletes accessed the golf simulator playing nearly 1,300 holes of golf during the winter months.

The high school golf season is played in August-September each fall. Voluntary practices are held during June-July at the Celina Lynx Golf Club. Any high school student or 8th grader interested in learning more about playing golf next year are encouraged to visit the golf simulator or reach out to one of the high school golf coaches.

Scan the QR Code to view the January - February simulator practice schedule.



Parkway AP Trip

Parkway's Anatomy and Physiology class went on a field trip to the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The purpose of this trip was for students to be able to experience a Cadaver Lab. A Cadaver lab is a laboratory that uses frozen cadavers for a hands-on experience for training, education, and development. This is the first time Mrs. Morton took her students to St Francis, and it went extremely well. Every student participated in hands-on activities, and they even held a real brain.

FBLA Donates to Helping Hands

Parkway's FBLA Class held a clothing drive before Thanksgiving Break for the *Helping Hands* facility in Rockford. Students who donated earned a chance to play in a volleyball tournament. The event consisted of three student teams. After battling with each other, the winning team played against the teachers. In the end, the teachers came out on top 27-25.

In total, a 5x5x5 box was filled with donated clothes and coats. Thank you to all the students and staff who donated!

Parkway Scholastic Bowl

Parkway's Scholastic Bowl team had a successful season. One of their greatest successes came at the end of the season during their tournament in Celina. The team finished 1st in the tournament with a team of freshman and sophomores.

This year, the local teams tested a new format of play. Each competition used the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) form of rules, which is what is used at the higher leagues of play.

Congratulations to the Parkway Scholastic Bowl team for a successful season. If any high school students would like to join the Parkway Scholastic Bowl team, please contact Mrs. Morton. There are still tournaments coming up in February and March, so it is never too late to join the bowl team!

Parkway Caroling

The Parkway High School choir participated at the Mendon Tree Festival. The choir started in Mendon's Town Hall where they sang Christmas carols. Afterward, the choir enjoyed all the Christmas trees created by the Mendon community.

The Parkway choir ultimately walked to the P and G Mini Mart to sing through the carols one last time. Thank you Parkway High School choir members for bringing Christmas cheer to the Mendon community.

Please visit Parkway's Homepage, under Newsletter for more information and pictures.



Middle School News

Correspondent: Hayden Castleman



Most Valuable Panthers

The 5th grade M.V.P. for November is **Isaac Shirk**. Isaac is the son of Willis and Joanie Shirk. Isaac is the Moby Max and Quizlet Master. He's consistently at the top of the leaderboard for each of the contests we've had. Isaac strives to be the best student he can be. He comes to class every day ready to learn with a positive attitude. Isaac's personality is a great mix of fun and responsibility.

The 6th grade M.V.P. for November is **Bella Bash**. Bella is the daughter of Mark and Ellen Bash. Bella is a great example of what a Pawsitive student looks like. She quietly goes about her business everyday in a very respectful and humble manner. Bella is a hard worker, shows great responsibility, and cares about her academic success. Bella has a very friendly personality and is a joy to her teachers!

The 7th grade M.V.P. for November is **Jaxson Stover**. Jaxson is the son of Tyler and Kathryn Stover. Jaxson consistently displays grit and restraint. He consistently gets his work completed at an excellent level and does his best to stay out of the shenanigans of other students. His level of maturity is notable among his peers. Jaxson is a hard worker and is respectful to his peers and teachers. Keep up the good work, Jaxson!

The 8th grade M.V.P. for November is **Lillian Young**. Lillian is the daughter of Michael Young and Caylee Ruiz. Lillian is very kind and thoughtful, always polite to her teachers and her peers. She is a very hard worker and is always giving 110% on everything she does. She is a positive student and her attitude and grit are really noticed and appreciated by the 8th grade team. Keep up the good work Lillian!



L to R: Isaac Shirk, Bella Bash, Jaxson Stover, Lillian Young

Lunch Buddy Program

The Panther Lunch Buddy Program is a program where middle school students are matched with volunteer high school student-mentors. After a few years off, the Lunch Buddy Program restarted and is having much success. How the program works is students meet with their mentors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the lunch period in the community room. Middle schoolers and their mentors talk, play games, and develop positive relationships with each other. There are currently 14 paired buddies participating in the mentor program.

Congratulations to the 5th graders who graduated from the D.A.R.E. program.

Please visit Parkway's Homepage, under Newsletter for a full article!





Elementary News

Correspondent: Anna Bell



November and December Student of The Month

Kindergarten

Parker Ketchum, Emersyn Baker, Charlee Siebert, Lincoln Kraner

1st grade

Myka Meyer, Aurora Slone, Aiden Kinney

2nd grade

Jett Harner, Micah Kohlen, Dierks Caffee, Kole Dull

3rd grade

A'Naya Jennings, Willow Schumm, Henry Zizelman, Brittyn Joseph

4th grade

Kaylor Bransteter, Lexie Schumm, Payton Rutledge, Raylyna Stockton

Please visit Parkway's homepage for additional photos

The Armstrong Air and Space Museum

The 3rd grade spent two weeks learning about space and Neil Armstrong. In preparation for their trip to the museum, students used articles, passages from their reading series, videos, and books to gain more information. While they explored the museum, students were given a guided tour and were allowed to ask questions. They completed a scavenger hunt to find facts and had the opportunity to try simulations. They experienced the Infinity room and watched a video about Neil Armstrong. After that they were allowed to shop in the store for souvenirs.



STEM Day at WSU

The 2nd grade went to the WSU Lake Campus for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) day. For several years, the WSU Lake Campus has invited Parkway's 2nd grade to be a part of their STEM day. This year, each homeroom was led by a group of WSU college Juniors in the Education Program and Tri-Star students. The students enjoyed fun hands-on activities such as building sleds and racing them, designing clothes out of newspaper, building chairs and houses out of paper, and measuring water on a penny.



The Ugly Duckling

Last month, the 1st graders went to see *The Ugly Duckling*. After the show, the characters came out into the audience and talked to the students along with the director. Students asked questions and went backstage to see what goes on behind the scenes. First graders ended their day with lunch in the college cafeteria.



Please go to Parkway's Homepage, under Newsletter for more information and pictures.