Dear Parkway Families,

On behalf of the 6th grade learning community at Parkway Montessori Middle School, we are happy to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! Please join us on Wednesday, May 19th from 6:00 - 6:45 pm for our Virtual Welcome Night Event where you will have the opportunity to learn about Parkway and get important questions about the transition to 6th grade answered. Here is the link for this event: https://meet.google.com/vnj-rzaz-hze

The presentation will include information about the Montessori Philosophy and Values at the middle level, our block schedule and Foundations class, Field Studies (more information on back), Athletics and the Extended Day Learning Program. It will be followed by a chance to ask questions. A brief introduction to our 6th grade team is below.

6th Grade Team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Simonson</td>
<td>Science Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kristin.simonson@spps.org">kristin.simonson@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Xiong</td>
<td>Social Studies Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tue.xiong@spps.org">tue.xiong@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javnika Shah</td>
<td>Math Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:javnika.shah@spps.org">javnika.shah@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinc Her</td>
<td>English Language Arts Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vinc.her@spps.org">vinc.her@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle O’Connor</td>
<td>Physical Education/ Health</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michelleoconnor@spps.org">michelleoconnor@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shana Lee</td>
<td>ELL Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shana.lee@spps.org">shana.lee@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Garcia</td>
<td>SPED Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeffrey.garcia@spps.org">jeffrey.garcia@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denae Olsen</td>
<td>Band/Music Teacher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:denae.olsen@spps.org">denae.olsen@spps.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the teachers listed above, our 6th grade team also includes our counselors: Bianka Pineda, bianka.pineda@spps.org, students with last names beginning with letters A - M; and Jennifer Wegwerth, jennifer.wegwerth@spps.org, students with last names beginning with letters N - Z. We encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns. Contact information has been provided for all team members.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you that will ensure our children achieve their highest potential. Through our work together, we will develop our 6th graders’ understanding of our Montessori core values of community, service, learning, respect, peace, and hard work. Our community strives to strengthen and develop our commitment to these values daily.

Sincerely yours,

Principal Mindy McBride

“Education is a natural process spontaneously carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences upon the environment.”

Maria Montessori
We have many fun and engaging activities planned for our 6th grade community this year. **Below is a schedule of the events planned;** however, all dates are subject to change. Please look for further communications regarding detailed information, associated costs, and permission slips. Our year consists of four cycles of study and each cycle is developed around a specific theme. We have developed field studies and activities based on each cycle’s theme.

Please consider volunteering, as your involvement and contributions to our community are essential to our students’ successes. Volunteer opportunities may include classroom support, school-wide events, grade level field studies, and fundraising events. Our planned outings will not be possible without your support. Please email Kristin Simonson (kristin.simonson@spps.org) to indicate interest and availability.

### 6th Grade Field Study Schedule

**Cycle 1: Beginnings**

- **September**
  - Service Learning and Community Building at The Lake Phalen
- **October**
  - Natural Connections Field Study at Lyndale Park in Minneapolis

**Cycle 2: Identity**

- **December**
  - Exploration of Minnesota’s Identity Field Study at Mill City Museum

**Cycle 3: Action**

- **March**
  - Environmental Experience, location TBD

**Cycle 4: Change**

- **May**
  - Physics Day at Nickelodeon Universe
- **June**
  - Service Retreat

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**Translation Information**

All school documents can be translated or interpreters made available upon request

Todos los documentos pueden ser traducidos o interpretados oralmente si usted lo solicita

Tej ntaub ntawv tom tsev kawn ntawv uas xa los rau nej, peb yuav pab tbxais thiab nrhiav neeg tbxais lus rau nej hais qhia peb

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