

# Parker Press

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## With One School Year Ending, A New Year Begins By Vanessa P. Atkins, Ed.D., Principal

We are rapidly approaching the end of what has proven to be another busy and successful school year. I want to take this opportunity to thank students, parents, teachers, support and classified staff, administrators and District administrators for your efforts and contributions toward students achieving at Parker Junior High School.

Some indicators of a Professional Learning Community that Parker Junior High School possesses are:

- PJHS students and staff earned an Academic Improvement Award for Exemplary Gains in Performance from the Illinois Board of Education
- The rotating schedule provides 57 minutes of classroom instruction four times a week in the core subjects of Math, Language Arts, Reading, Science, Social Science, World Languages, Physical/Health Education and the Arts
- Nine-week quarter classes provided in Health, Art, Music, and Industrial Arts/Technology
- World Languages such as High School Spanish and French instruction available for students in 7th and 8th grade
- Staggered passing periods
- 8th graders take Algebra or Geometry
- Algebra1/Geometry which are Honors level courses available for students
- Students and teachers work together in grade level teams to develop stronger academic relationships
- "X"-Time provides teams of students and teachers time to work together to promote student achievement and enhance community spirit
- Gifted Art, Science, and Social Science courses
- The Required Reading Program where students are encouraged to read four books a year
- R.E.A.C.H (Reading, English, Algebra, Concept, EnHancement) classes gives students extra support in the academics mentioned above
- Read 180 program
- Field trips that supplement the curriculum

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- The planning and implementing of the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support), STEP (Strategies Toward Educational Progress) and staff and students modeling the CHARACTER COUNTS! principles

Parker Junior High School's mission is to work as a professional learning community, by utilizing an educational triad (home, community, school) to inspire students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally.

Parker Junior High School's goals are to provide a safe environment with research-based interventions and a rigorous core curriculum including the fine arts and technology for all students. Individual growth will be measured by monitoring District-wide assessments, class participation, grades, homework completion, school attendance, and positive behavior intervention supports.

Diversity of student beliefs, backgrounds, and intellectual abilities are acknowledged and respected by challenging each student to work at his or her highest potential and instill a passion for learning to become responsible leaders and members of society.

At Parker Junior High School, we are analyzing our successes and determining what needs to be done to continue to meet the needs of **all** children and improve student achievement. To continue to pursue our goal of excellence at Parker, we will emphasize the areas below:

- High achievement in all academic areas for all students
- Excellent and safe school climate, including improving attendance, tardies, discipline, and beautification of PJHS
- Using the "CHARACTER COUNTS!" program as a way to communicate with students, parents, and staff
- Instructional leadership and professional development for the educators at PJHS
- Parental involvement which partners with the educators for the child's academic, social, and emotional success

As a School District we are fortunate to have the certified staff and the resources to provide students with an excellent education. So as the school year comes to a close we hope that everyone has a restful and enjoyable summer. We look forward to you and your child's safe return in the fall ready to make sure **all** of our students achieve through the partnership between the home and school. As a school community, we reflect on the axiom that too whom much is given, much is expected.