

Eagle Band students have been recognized with many awards and honor

Campus Snapshot

MPJH cheerleaders show off their school pride

# Memorial Parkway Junior High

## Learning, Preparing, and Succeeding

Written by Emily Ng

Memorial Parkway Junior High strays away from traditional textbook learning to engage students in a more diverse learning environment. The campus recently earned a Recognized accountability rating by the Texas Education Agency. By challenging students to broaden their horizons and step out of their comfort zone, Memorial Parkway is building students a strong foundation for high school.

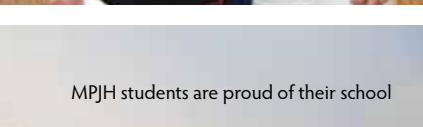
While MPJH is strong in academics, Principal Dr. Joe Graham also emphasizes the importance of being a well-rounded campus. "In real life, there is much more to work than just tests," he says. "We want to create a healthy environment where kids want to come to school and can enjoy a variety of activities. We are trying to be exemplary in everything we do, not just academics." Dr. Graham has been principal for seven years and is proud of the progress MPJH has made.



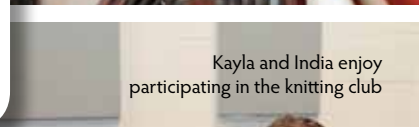
Larry Barron visits his granddaughter during MPJH's annual tribute to U.S. military veterans



Lexi and Cheryl enjoy home economics class



MPJH students are proud of their school



Kayla and India enjoy participating in the knitting club



## Broadening Horizons

"Our excellent staff definitely sets us apart from other schools," Dr. Graham shares. "We have a system that focuses on student learning at an in-depth level." When students are struggling with a subject, teachers step in and help them one-on-one with the specific concepts. "We help kids who are sitting with a C," he explains. "We don't wait for them to fail before we step in."

MPJH offers a full spectrum of clubs, ranging from cake decorating and music journaling to archery and fishing. The wide variety of organizations allows students to try activities they never thought they might enjoy. "There are even a few boys who joined the knitting club for fun and are knitting doilies with chopsticks," laughs Dr. Graham. MPJH offers its students a light and fun atmosphere where they can discover their interests, strengths, and weaknesses.

The school has recently started a student activity advisory group held every other week to encourage students to experience new activities. Numbers have grown from 200 to over 700 students becoming involved in extracurricular activities. The school also offers many programs to give special needs students a wholesome school life. Special needs students are served by direct enrichment programs, community mentoring programs, and an adaptive behavior class. Students may also seek greater academic challenges through pre-Advanced Placement and gifted and talented courses.

## Strengthening Bonds

To keep a balanced curriculum and smooth-running school system, the school maintains a strong relationship between the staff, students, and parents. "We have an amazing staff [and] a PTA that is very involved with the school as a whole," says Dr. Graham. MPJH's active PTA sponsors the Reflections program, field trips, cultural programs, and an eighth-grade party. "At every faculty meeting, the PTA goes the extra mile and brings treats for the staff," says Dr. Graham.

To keep parents well-informed, Dr. Graham holds a brown bag lunch once a month, where he addresses any questions or concerns parents may have. Counselors also sponsor parent meetings, orientation for sixth graders, and high school preparation sessions for eighth graders.

Striving to educate the students in all aspects, MPJH offers an environment where students feel comfortable and build self-confidence. "I love this school," says Dr. Graham. "It's just a great place to be. Whether academic or behavioral, we [just] want our students to grow." **KM**

*EMILY NG is a senior at Cinco Ranch High School and enjoys interning at Katy Magazine.*



Clay, Jake, and Maddie have fun in the cake making club

# Memorial Parkway Fast Facts

**LOCATION** 21203 Highland Knolls Dr.

**PHONE NUMBER** 281-237-5800

**PRINCIPAL** Joe Graham, Ed.D.

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**  
Christina Borgstedte, Margie Blount,  
and James Davidson

**SCHOOL COLORS** Blue and white

**MASCOT** Eagle

**FEEDS INTO** Taylor High School

**MOTTO** Learning, preparing, and succeeding

**OPENED** 1983

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