

## Why Choose Parkside?

In this current education climate of choice, why choose Parkside Elementary for your child's school?

Parkside Elementary opened in August 2000 as "The WOW School of the Century". WOW stands for "Working on the Work", a framework established by Dr. Philip Schlechty and the Center for Leadership and School Reform. Our WOW framework is about designing, creating, and inventing high quality, intellectually demanding work for ALL students. If we GIVE students quality work tasks to do, then they will in turn **produce** quality work products!

Our teachers are our leaders and designers of quality work, our students are our customers for quality (knowledge) work, and our parents and community members are our partners in the whole educational process. The key to our success is to authentically engage our students in a meaningful learning process, as well as engaging everyone else at every level in our learning organization. An organization, by the way, that has students at the TOP of our organizational chart!

Parkside Elementary is like the television show, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Why? Because after gathering much information, the Design Team puts much thought and care into building a high quality home for a specific family with each member having specific needs. Only Parkside is like Extreme Makeover: School Edition. Why? Because after gathering much information, our WOW Design Team puts a tremendous amount of thought and care into building high quality programs to meet the specific needs of each individual student.

Did you know that Parkside was built on land that was donated to the School Board of Broward County, Florida by the City of Coral Springs? It was a true community partnership from the start! Our parents, staff and community members named the school, established the school colors, mascot, vision, mission, and beliefs. Families and community members are always involved in our decision-making processes, through School Advisory Council and School Advisory Forum. Our school also has a very active Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which advocates for our kids, coordinates volunteers, sponsors many exciting and fun family events throughout the year, and assists our students through fundraising.

And what a great location for a school! The local police and fire department complex Coral Springs Medical Center, and Coral Springs Center for the Arts are within walking distance, and our kindergarten students even walk across the street to Mullins Park each year to learn how to swim.

For 9 of our 11 years we've been an "A" school and 2 years a "B", as measured by the state of Florida's Accountability System, which is based solely on FCAT scores. But here at Parkside, we have a climate of high expectations for all of our students and are concerned with more than just achievement on the FCAT. We believe in educating the "Total Child", which includes both critical AND creative thinking and the importance of "The Arts". Creating an environment of inclusion is also important to all of us at Parkside. So is a Tone of Decency. Each individual is respected for the unique person they are and they and we believe that they will become.

Each year, since it's opening, Parkside has been "all about dreams", through a school-wide motivational theme, which sets the tone and the expectations for the current year. The upcoming 2011-2012 theme is "Passport to Your Dreams" -learning and sharing our global cultures and diversity, exploring career possibilities, creating healthy lifestyles through exercise and nutrition, and receiving a high quality education.

The Legacy of Parkside is the Dream. It is the stories we tell and the times you will remember that leave a mark in your memory and in your heart. The data continues to graph our success, but the stories paint the picture. So, won't you choose Parkside Elementary as YOUR neighborhood school?

We welcome you to call us, and one of our tour guides will be happy to answer your questions and show you our school.