

Parkway NW High School for Peace and Social Justice Community Development Fellow

A School for Peace and Social Justice

In response to a culture of violence in our world, many organizations and individuals have been working together with the School District of Philadelphia to create a High School for Peace and Social Justice where students can study the discipline of peace and act on the understanding that a diverse, just and nonviolent society is both important and attainable. The school is small, with a student population of close to 300. The mission is to provide students a new framework for thinking about issues and taking actions – in their own communities, in this country and in the world.

A number of essential components have been created a unique character to the school:

- A student driven service learning center which plays a critical role in carrying out the thematic focus of the school through service learning projects
- A peer mediation program that assists people in peaceful resolution of conflict.
- Extra-curricular enrichment activities are available for students to participate in. These include: Performance Club, Young Entrepreneurs, Aikido (Japanese defense art, “The way of peace”), Psychology Club, Date-violence prevention peer trainers, poetry writing, chess, knitting and crocheting, and more.
- Students participate in a series of seminars, supported through the Advisory Committee, that bring representatives from organizations active in anti-violence efforts into the school for on-going conversations.
- Ninth grade students take a course in Problem-Solving class that engages students in analyzing causes of violence to determine solutions in which they can become active with outside organizations.
- A tutoring and mentoring program is being developed so that every student gets the help they need to find success.
- A new Leadership class, which all students in the high school will eventually participate in, is being developed with the help of Educators for Social Responsibility to allow students the opportunity for guided discussion on the impact of violence on their own lives, learn the skills of conflict resolution, and develop essential leadership skills.

Responsibilities of Parkway Community Development Fellow:

The Parkway Community Development Fellow’s job will be to support the many programs, activities, curricular projects and fundraising efforts that support the theme of the school. In particular, the Fellow will help to coordinate the mentor program and the peer mediation program, and assist any in-class programs/projects that are particularly peace and social justice related. Two examples are coordinating an internship at Temple University involving college and Parkway students and helping seniors find research opportunities related to their senior research projects (a project required of every 12th grader in order to graduate). This position will include opportunities for direct service with high school students, and program development and support.

Getting There:

Parkway Northwest is located within a few blocks of both the R7 (Mt. Airy station) and R8 (Allens Lane station) Regional Rail lines. Travel time is about 30 minutes from 30th St. station. The campus is also accessible by the 23 bus on Germantown Ave.

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