

# FLYNN PARK

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** [www.ucityschools.org/FP](http://www.ucityschools.org/FP)  
7220 Waterman Avenue • University City, MO 63130 • 314-290-4421  
Darion Murdock, *Principal*

Welcome to Flynn Park Elementary School, serving students in kindergarten through the fifth grade in the School District of University City. Flynn Park is a proactive school. Students, staff, parents and community members work together to create a safe and nurturing learning environment that celebrates diversity, individuality, creativity and academic achievement. Learning is viewed as a lifelong process. In 2019, Flynn Park was named a Bayer School of Excellence in the St. Louis region.

## School Mission

The mission of Flynn Park Elementary is to provide a supportive learning community and challenging opportunities so that all students will acquire the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary for success in our changing world.

## History

Built in the Craftsman style, Flynn Park Elementary School opened in 1924 to replace Creveling Temporary School. It was named for the adjacent park and the city's mayor Warren C. Flynn, who established the park system in University City. In 2009, the voters in University City approved a \$53 million bond issue that included interior renovations and a new cafeteria addition that was completed in 2011.

## Addressing the Needs of All Students

Within and beyond the classroom students are nurtured through the SEEAL (Social, Emotional, Equitable and Academic Learning) model. Students have access to support services from the school nurse, guidance counselor and well-being specialist. Academics are enhanced through math and reading teaching specialists and tutors. Each school has a Talented and Gifted Development (TAGD) program. The Special School District has teachers embedded in all school buildings for students with disabilities. Personalized support for English language learners is also provided.

## Well-Being and Joy

Students learn better when they feel loved, safe, included and challenged. District teachers are expected to teach with the head and heart with the understanding positive relationships are the foundation of learning. Teachers and staff are trained to be trauma-informed and culturally responsive. All schools participate in restorative practices to build community and relationships and repair harm when a wrong has been done. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is employed for students facing academic or social-emotional challenges. The social-emotional climate in all district schools is measured twice a year through a Panorama survey system. Students and staff participate in mindfulness activities and service projects to build self-awareness, empathy and student voice.

## School Motto

Show Your Flynn Park Pride: Safe, Positive, Respectful, Learners

*Join us on our journey of **Learning Reimagined**, a path to Humanize, Personalize and Problematize student education through modern, rigorous and relevant learning experiences.*

Revised 062724



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## Challenging, rigorous curriculum

- English Language Arts and Social Studies: Through data driven decision making and strategic planning, students practice reading, writing, listening and speaking for a variety of authentic purposes and with varied media. Strategies for reading and writing informational texts receive strong emphasis. Students will access social studies content and themes while practicing the technical aspects of communication.
- Mathematics: Students pursue conceptual understanding while also mastering procedural skills and fluency. Fewer topics are taught and the objective is to achieve deep understanding. Goals for student outcomes include efficient problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Science, Technology and Engineering: Integrated units enable students to actively engage in scientific and engineering practices while building deep understanding of the core ideas in physical, life, earth and space sciences, as well as engineering, technology and applications. Hands-on learning is supported by science labs and docents in each school.
- Visual Arts: All creators learn about art through historical and cultural contexts that are age appropriate. Using the elements and principles of art, media and process, artists at all grade levels will design and create one-of-a-kind pieces of artwork.
- Performing Arts: All K-5 students receive instruction in music. Fourth and fifth graders have an additional opportunity to play a stringed instrument. The District has extensive partnerships with the nearby Center of Creative Arts (COCA) to provide professional learning in the arts for teachers. Teaching artists collaborate with classroom teachers to develop and implement standards-based arts integration units during six- to eight-week residencies.
- Physical Education: Students at all grade levels take gym classes that focus on physical fitness by practicing motor movements, nutritional awareness and sportsmanship through games and team play.

## Activities & Events

### Students participate in

- Field trips
- Gifted Resource Council
- Black History events
- Winter and spring concerts
- District Arts Night
- District Music Night
- All Strings concerts
- OASIS tutoring
- School Garden

### Families share in

- Arts nights
- Curriculum nights
- Math nights
- Reading nights
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- STEAM Expo

### After school activities include

- Chess club
- Girls on the Run
- Homework club
- Unleashing Potential (child care)
- LEGO Robotics
- Novel Engineering
- Scouting
- Soccer
- Baseball/softball
- Swim Club
- Yoga

### One U City

Starting in 2019, the PTOs from all four University City elementary schools and Brittany Woods Middle School formed One U City, an initiative to build equity and community by jointly producing district-wide PTO community events as well as individual school events through school-based parent collaboratives. Events include:

- Book fairs
- Fall Festival
- Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Glow
- Turkey Trot
- Holiday music concert
- All Strings concert
- Spice and Spark chili cook-off and social action expo
- World Tour
- Trivia Night
- Field Day
- Spring Picnic
- Talent Show
- and more

*All schools in The School District of University City are designated as Title I. Each school receives federal funding to provide extra services to students, coaching and professional development for teachers and parent involvement activities.*

Revised 062723



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