

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
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BANKING, HOUSING,  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
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ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS

September 27, 2014

To the Parkrose Middle School Community:

Congratulations on the grand opening of the new Parkrose Middle School! It's wonderful that so many members of the community have come together today to celebrate one of the foundations on which the American dream is built: a good education.

It is so important that all children receive high-quality, affordable education that will prepare them to achieve their dreams. When I was a kid, my dad took me to the doors of my school and said, "Those doors are the doors to opportunity. Study hard, and you can do or be just about anything here in America."

We must ensure that the schoolhouse doors remain the doors to opportunity for every American. And that is exactly what the Parkrose mission embodies: to make sure each student learns to read, think critically, and graduate ready for the college or the workforce.

Today a quality education is more important than ever -- it determines whether our children and nation succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy.

I want to thank all the teachers in the room for motivating, inspiring and teaching the students in this school every day. I also want to congratulate Superintendent Gray, the members of Parkrose's School Board, for their hard work to make this new middle school a reality.

Most important, I would like to wish the new students of Parkrose a very successful first year. Never give up on your dreams, and never stop working to make the world a better place.

All my best,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator