



Mandarin Immersion Magnet School

5445 W. Alabama St.
Houston, TX 77056
<http://mclimspto.org/support-the-pto/spark-at-mims>



SPARK School Park Programs

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251
www.sparkpark.org



MIMS SPARK Park Project Summary

Fitness Features



During these COVID times, we plan to help our entire community by **installing obstacle courses for all ages**. MIMS has an annual “Mini Mudder” to challenge students to try new things and prove to themselves that can do things they did not think were possible. We are installing fun obstacles picked by our Middle School students; like ledge hanger, wheel bridge, and ninja quintuple steps (See-saws are a thing of the past.).

\$47K 13+ Obstacle Course: for equipment that is **physically, socially, and mentally challenging** for all students including those in Middle School who are 13+; maybe one of the most important groups that is usually forgotten when designing a playground.

\$44K Outdoor Exercise Equipment: for outdoor, static cardio use by PE classes, UIL teams and the community for endurance and strength training. Great outdoor option during COVID.

\$66K Ages 5-12 Obstacle Course: for **fun play, but goal-oriented challenges** like spider wall, cargo net climb, high step and balance beam. Potential to add a timer to help with friendly competition and goal setting.

SAFETY and Drainage



\$TBD Drainage Improvements, Regrading and Resodding: for necessary movement of drains to create the space designed by architect for a sport field. Currently, we only have a repurposed drainage ditch which leads to a boggy, ankle-twisting field; often leading to the cancelling of UIL sport practice and recess fun. Regrading/ resodding after drainage work will be necessary to prevent run off and loss of soil.

\$16K Ball Net: for installation on West Alabama to prevent balls from leaving area. Due to urban location of school, the soccer field is near a busy road.

Seating



\$10K Art Seat Wall: for a place to sit in the park. This is an important feature when the park is in full swing; however, in addition, we have designed it as a surface to showcase the Asian Culture. In SPARK Park Phase 1, we had all MIMS students create a calligraphy tile with their character name; learning proper calligraphy techniques displayed in a culturally significant circle/square pattern, see inset picture. We could extend this project or add other form of **cultural art designed by students**.

Shade and Trees



\$15K Shade Structure: for the new game table to create a **cooler, usable space** during the hot Texas sunshine hours, 99% of the time when the park is used.

\$30K Trees: for **6 large shade areas**. These trees will replace the trees that need to be removed for development of the park. Additional small trees from Trees for Houston will be planted. *“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” Chinese proverb*

Outdoor Performance and Creative Learning Space



\$180K Pavilion: for a raised, **multifunctional outdoor classroom, stage, and covered seating area**. This place will be used as a student outdoor classroom/ meeting space but also for our Mid-Autumn, Talent Show and Chinese New Year Festivals. In addition, we would invite others use the space after hours and on weekends, such as cultural dance, theater, and musical performers; Scouts and community groups. Also, this can be used for shade, a Texas necessity, for audiences to watch the games on the adjacent sports field.

Art and Culture



\$15K Moon Gate: for a modern themed cultural gate, created by HISD students with MIMS values proudly shared and explained.

**Respect 敬爱 | Responsibility 责任 | Perseverance 毅力 |
Integrity 正直 | Curiosity 好奇 | Courage 勇气**

After the successful completion of our Zodiac Calendar Fence, we are partnering again with HISD Madison High School’s Welding Class and the Confucius Institute to create **outstanding cultural and educational art**.