

Francis Parker School

School Profile

2023-2024

CEEB code number: 052843



ADMINISTRATION

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Ben Temple, Head of Upper School

Carrie Dilmore, Associate Head of Upper School

Tyler Ferreira, Director of Admissions and Financial Assistance

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Dr. Rai Wilson, Grade 11 Dean

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Francis Parker School Mission Statement

The Francis Parker School mission is to create and inspire a diverse community of independent thinkers whose academic excellence, global perspective, and strength of character prepare them to make a meaningful difference in the world.

College Counseling Mission Statement and Philosophy

Together with the Parker community, we support, encourage, and celebrate the ongoing educational journey of each student. As students embark on the path to college and beyond, our goal is to provide a solid foundation upon which they can become self-reliant, empowered, confident, involved members of society, and engaged citizens of the world.

We believe the college search and selection to be a private and individualized process where students engage in self-reflection, growth, and discovery, and learn to make informed, educated decisions concerning their future. We offer guidance to the students as they seek to find the appropriate fit for college based on personal criteria and interests. We encourage a healthy, student-led, educationally-based, and family appropriate approach to the college search, ensuring a smooth transition to life after Parker.

The School and Community

Founded in 1912, Francis Parker School is San Diego's oldest and largest independent, non-denominational, coeducational day school. Located just 22 miles north of the international border, Parker draws a culturally and economically diverse student body from 80 zip codes throughout San Diego County and the Northern Baja region of Mexico. Parker's two campuses serve 1,322 students in Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12, and 24 percent of the students receive financial aid. The Lower School—JK through Grade 5—resides on the Mission Hills Campus with 425 students attending. The Linda Vista Campus is home to 337 Middle School students in Grades 6 to 8 and 560 Upper School students in Grades 9 to 12. The Class of 2024 has 139 students.

Diversity

At Parker, we know our learning is enhanced by the different stories, backgrounds, and experiences of every member of our School community. We aim to educate our students to value and embrace the enriching roles of culture, identity, similarities, and differences. The demographics within our Parker community, including 43 percent BIPOC students, strengthen us all.

Inclusive Community

We strive to create a community in which each person is given the opportunity to develop a healthy sense of self and empathy toward one another. We courageously lean into difficult conversations to cultivate an environment of inclusion and belonging. We continuously reflect on our practices to prioritize cultural competency in our curriculum, program, policies, and strategic goals.

Accreditation/Memberships

The School is accredited by or holds membership in the following organizations: California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC), and Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS).

Faculty

Francis Parker School employs 123 teaching faculty, 83 holding advanced degrees (master’s and above). Our average class size is 16 students.

Academics

First trimester grades for seniors are available for review during the last week of November. Francis Parker School does not rank students numerically because of our highly academic nature and small class size. Instead, individual weighted grade point averages are reported. Grade point average is based on all courses (except Life Skills and Physical Education) taken at Parker from Grades 9 to 12. Courses taken for Credit (CR) and Pass (P) are not computed in the grade point average.

Graduation Requirements

Students in Grades 9 to 12 take at least five to six academic courses with the vast majority taking six to seven classes. Although students typically take four years each of English, world language, mathematics, science, and social studies, the minimum requirements for graduation from Parker include the satisfactory completion of four years of English, three successive years of the same world language, three years of mathematics (two years of algebra and one year of geometry), three years of science (biology, chemistry, and physics), three years of social studies, two years of art, 12 credits of physical education/athletics, and the completion of four annual interim programs.

Community Engagement

The mission of the Parker Community Engagement Office is: 1) to raise awareness of social issues affecting our area, nation, and the world; 2) to emphasize off-campus community engagement’s connection to kinship and character development; 3) to promote social justice, activism, and advocacy; 4) to empower students and help them become better leaders; and 5) to promote service-learning as a pedagogical tool for teachers. We invite the entire Parker community to build long-lasting and equitable relationships with partner organizations. We ask all Parker constituency groups to “think, act, and reflect” when seeking to understand different communities’ assets and needs.

Interim Program

Since 2010, the Parker Interim Program has used the diverse talents, interests, and experiences of our faculty to expose students to a variety of alternative learning experiences, including special interest projects, internships, and travel abroad. Traditional classes are paused for a week in the spring in order to accommodate the Interim Program.

National Merit

With their performance on the PSAT during their junior year, four members of the Class of 2024 earned semi-finalist status in the National Merit Program. An additional 24 students in the class were recognized as Commended Scholars.

Grading Scale

LETTER GRADE	PERCENTILE	REGULAR COURSE	AP & HONORS
A+	97-100	4.33	5.33
A	93-96	4.00	5.00
A-	90-92	3.67	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	4.00
B-	80-82	2.67	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	3.33
C	73-76	2.00	3.00
C-	70-72	1.67	2.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.33*
D	63-66	1.00	1.00*
D-	60-62	0.67	0.67*
F	0-59	0.00	0.00*

* not weighted

Cumulative GPAs through Junior Year for the Class of 2024

Highest weighted GPA: 5.05
 Highest unweighted GPA: 4.29

Advanced Placement Program

Over the last three years, the 139 students from the Class of 2024 have taken:

- 533 AP exams
- in 28 disciplines
- with 80% of the results being scores of 3 or higher.

Just last year 121 students in the Class of 2024 took:

- 357 AP exams
- in 24 disciplines
- with 85% of the results being scores of 3 or higher.

Honor Courses (2023-2024)

Students must be recommended for Honors courses based upon achievements in previous, related disciplines.

Arts:

Classical Guitar Ensemble 2, 3, 4
Instrumental Ensemble 1, 2, 3, 4
Lancer Orchestra 1, 2, 3, 4
Theatre 2, 3, 4

Computer Science :

Advanced Programming 1, 2
Advanced Robotics Programming 1, 2

English:

English 12

Mathematics:

Algebra 2
Geometry
Multivariate Calculus & Linear Algebra
Pre-Calculus

Science:

Engineering 1, 2
Organic Chemistry
Physiology

Social Studies:

Global History 2
United States History

World Languages:

Chinese Literature & Culture
French 3, 4
Mandarin Chinese 3, 4
Spanish 3, 4
Spanish Literature & Culture 1, 2

AP Courses (2023-2024)

Students must be recommended for AP courses based upon achievements in previous, related disciplines.

Art:

Music Theory
Studio Art: 2D Art & Design
Studio Art: Drawing

Computer Science:

Computer Science A

English:

English Language & Composition
English Literature & Composition*

Mathematics:

Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Statistics

Science:

Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Physics 1
Physics 2
Physics C - Mechanics
Physics C - Mechanics, Electricity & Magnetism

Social Studies:

Art History
Economics
Government & Politics: U.S.
Human Geography
Psychology
U.S. History

World Languages:

Chinese Language & Culture
Spanish Language & Culture
French Language & Culture

To view Parker's complete Upper School Curriculum Guides, visit or scan the QR code below:



Francis Parker School's COVID-19 Response

While the pandemic forced all instruction to move to an online format for the third trimester of the 2019-2020 academic year, the school was able to reopen for some in-person classes at the start of the next cycle. Upper School students were assigned to grade level cohorts for the 2020-2021 school year. However, all math and world language courses were taught online the first two trimesters. Students were given the option of participating in classes from home or in person for the first two trimesters that year. Once it was known that all classes would be taught in person for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, Parker made the decision that all faculty, staff and students needed to be fully vaccinated. Safety protocols remain in place on campus.

*AP English Literature & Composition is only available as a second English class in a given year. Only four seniors are currently enrolled.

College Matriculation 2020-2023

Overall, 524 students attend 171 different colleges in 35 states, Washington D.C., and six countries outside the U.S.

American University	Duke University	Pomona College	University of Chicago
American University of Paris	Duquesne University	Princeton University	University of Colorado
Arizona State University	Elon University	Principia College	University of Denver
Barnard College	Emory University	Purdue University	University of Georgia
Bates College	Fordham University	Reed College	University of Illinois
Baylor University	Franklin & Marshall College	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Lausanne
Belmont University	George Washington University	Roger Williams University	University of Miami
Bentley University	Georgetown University	Saint John's University	University of Michigan
Boston College	Gettysburg College	Saint Mary's College of California	University of Minnesota
Boston University	Grinnell College	Salve Regina University	University of New Hampshire
Bowdoin College	Grossmont College	San Diego Mesa College	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Brown University	Hamilton College	San Diego Miramar College	University of Oregon
Bucknell University	Hampton University	San Diego State University	University of Pennsylvania
California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo	Harvard University	San Jose State University	University of Puget Sound
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona	Harvey Mudd College	Santa Barbara City College	University of Redlands
California State University - Maritime Academy	Hofstra University	Santa Clara University	University of Richmond
California State University - Fullerton	Indiana University	Santa Monica College	University of Rochester
California State University - Sacramento	Johns Hopkins University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of San Diego
California State University - San Marcos	Lafayette College	Scripps College	University of San Francisco
Carleton College	Lehigh University	Southern Methodist University	University of Southern California
Carnegie Mellon University	Les Roches Schools of Hotel Management	Spokane Falls Community College	University of Saint Andrews
Chapman University	Lewis & Clark College	Stanford University	University of Tennessee
Claremont McKenna College	Loyola Marymount University	Swarthmore College	University of the Pacific
Colgate University	Loyola University Chicago	Syracuse University	University of the South
College of Charleston	Marymount California University	Texas Christian University	University of Toronto
Colorado College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	The New School	University of Utah
Colorado School of Mines	Michigan Technological University	Trinity College Dublin	University of Virginia
Colorado State University	Millikin University	Tufts University	University of Washington
Columbia College Chicago	Montana State University	Tulane University	University of Wisconsin
Columbia University	New York University	Tuskegee University	University of Wyoming
Connecticut College	North Carolina State University	United States Air Force Academy	Vanderbilt University
Cornell University	Northeastern University	United States Merchant Marine Academy	Vassar College
Cornish College of the Arts	Northern Arizona University	United States Military Academy	Villanova University
Courtauld Institute of Art	Northwestern University	University of Alabama	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Creighton University	Oberlin College	University of Arizona	Wake Forest University
Davidson College	Occidental College	University of California - Berkeley	Washington University in Saint Louis
Denison University	Ohio State University	University of California - Davis	Wellesley College
DePaul University	Oregon State University	University of California - Irvine	Wesleyan University
Dickinson College	Pace University	University of California - Los Angeles	Westcliff University
Drexel University	Pennsylvania State University	University of California - Merced	Whitman College
	Pepperdine University	University of California - Riverside	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
	Pitzer College	University of California - San Diego	Xavier University of Louisiana
	Point Loma Nazarene University	University of California - Santa Barbara	Yale University
	Point Park University	University of California - Santa Cruz	