

Francis Parker School

School Profile

2024-2025

CEEB code number: 052843



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Carrie Dilmore, Associate Head of Upper School

Tyler Ferreira, Director of Admissions and Financial Assistance

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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 an individualized process for students and families where students engage in self-reflection, growth and discovery while learning to make informed, educated decisions about their future. We offer guidance to the students as they attain their goals and aspirations for college based on personal criteria and interests. We partner with families and support students in all aspects of their 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 77 zip codes throughout San Diego County and the Northern Baja region of Mexico. Parker's two campuses serve 1328 students in Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12, and 25 percent of the students receive financial aid. The Lower School - JK through Grade 5 - resides on the Mission Hills Campus with 430 students attending. The Linda Vista Campus is home to 334 Middle School students in Grades 6 to 8 and 564 Upper School students in Grades 9 to 12. The Class of 2025 has 142 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 Parker's Upper School community, including 47 percent BIPOC students, strengthens 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, six members of the Class of 2025 earned semi-finalist status in the National Merit Program. An additional 20 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 2025

Highest weighted GPA: 4.98
Highest unweighted GPA: 4.28

Advanced Placement Program

Over the last three years, the 135 students from the Class of 2025 have taken:

- 551 AP exams
- in 27 disciplines
- with 80% of the results being scores of 3 or higher.

Honor Courses (2024-2025)

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:

Ethnic Studies
Global History 2
United States History

World Languages:

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

AP Courses (2024-2025)

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

Art:

Music Theory
Studio Art: 2D Art & Design

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:

African American Studies
Art History
Economics
Government & Politics: U.S.
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.

*Only seven seniors are currently enrolled.

College Matriculation 2021-2024

Overall, 526 students from the last four graduating classes have chosen to attend 173 different colleges in 32 states, Washington, DC and four countries outside the United States.

American University (4)	Davidson College	Point Park University	University of California Santa Barbara (14)
American University of Paris (2)	DePaul University (2)	Pratt Institute	University of California Santa Cruz (8)
Arizona State University (2)	Denison University	Princeton University (2)	University of Chicago (2)
Barnard College (3)	Dickinson College	Purdue University (12)	University of Cincinnati
Bates College (3)	Drexel University (3)	Reed College	University of Colorado Boulder (10)
Baylor University	Duke University (2)	Rhode Island School of Design (2)	University of Denver (2)
Belmont University	Duquesne University	Rice University	University of Georgia
Bentley University	Elon University (2)	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Boston College (4)	Emory University	Roger Williams University	University of Iowa
Boston University (10)	Fordham University	Saint Mary's College of California (3)	University of Miami (3)
Bowdoin College (3)	Franklin & Marshall College	Salve Regina University	University of Michigan (15)
Brandeis University	George Washington University (4)	San Diego City College	University of Minnesota (2)
Brown University (5)	Georgetown University (3)	San Diego Mesa College (2)	University of New Hampshire (2)
Bryn Mawr College	Gettysburg College	San Diego Miramar College	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Bucknell University (2)	Grossmont College (3)	San Diego State University (18)	University of Oregon (9)
California Lutheran University	Hamilton College	San Jose State University	University of Pennsylvania (2)
California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo (21)	Hampton College	Santa Barbara City College	University of Pittsburgh
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona (2)	Harvard University (3)	Santa Clara University (6)	University of Puget Sound
California State University - Fullerton	Haverford College	Sarah Lawrence College (2)	University of Redlands
California State University - Long Beach	Hofstra University	Scripps College (6)	University of Richmond
California State University - Maritime Academy (2)	Indiana University (3)	Southern Methodist University (4)	University of Rochester (3)
California State University - Monterey Bay	Johns Hopkins University (4)	Spokane Falls Community College	University of San Diego (10)
California State University - Northridge (2)	Lafayette College (2)	Saint John's University	University of San Francisco (2)
California State University - San Marcos (3)	Les Roches University	Stanford University (5)	University of Southern California (12)
Carleton College	Lewis & Clark College (2)	Swarthmore College	University of Saint Andrews (3)
Carnegie Mellon University (3)	Loyola Marymount University (10)	Syracuse University (3)	University of Tennessee (2)
Chapman University (7)	Loyola University Chicago (4)	Texas Christian University (3)	University of the South
Claremont McKenna College (5)	Loyola University Maryland	Trinity College	University of Toronto
Colgate University	Marist College	Tufts University (3)	University of Utah (2)
Colorado College (3)	Marquette University	Tulane University (3)	University of Virginia (2)
Colorado School of Mines (3)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (3)	Tuskegee University	University of Washington (10)
Colorado State University	Mount Holyoke College	United States Air Force Academy	University of Wisconsin (7)
Columbia College Chicago	New York University (8)	United States Coast Guard Academy	Vanguard University
Columbia University (2)	North Carolina State University	United States Merchant Marine Academy	Vassar College
Connecticut College	Northeastern University (10)	United States Military Academy	Villanova University (4)
Cornell University (5)	Northwestern University (2)	Universite de Lausanne	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Cornish College of the Arts	Oberlin College	University of Alabama (2)	Wake Forest University
Courtauld Institute of Art	Occidental College (3)	University of Arizona (3)	Washington University Saint Louis (4)
Creighton University	Ohio State University	University of California Berkeley (23)	Wellesley College (2)
Dartmouth College	Oregon State University	University of California Davis (3)	Wesleyan University
	Pace University - New York City (2)	University of California Irvine (3)	Westcliff University
	Pace University - Westchester	University of California Los Angeles (13)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
	Pennsylvania State University	University of California Merced (2)	Yale University (5)
	Pepperdine University (2)	University of California Riverside (2)	
	Pitzer College	University of California San Diego (10)	