

Welcome to Parker Middle School!



Who Are We?

○ Dr. Parks	<u>Principal</u>
○ Mr. Souza	<u>Assistant Principal</u>
○ Mr. LaRosa	<u>Supervisor of Students</u>
○ Ms. Dolan	<u>5 & 6 School Counselor</u>
○ Ms. MacIsaac	<u>7 & 8 School Counselor</u>
○ Ms. Vogel	<u>Social Worker</u>
○ Dr. O'Brien	<u>School Psychologist</u>
○ Ms. Kamenides	<u>School Nurse</u>
○ Ms. Foley	<u>School Nurse</u>
○ Officer Sullivan	<u>School Resource Officer</u>



Home-School Communication

- **Parker Middle School webpage:**
www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/parker
- **Parker Weekly Bulletin:** Sent every Friday via ConnectEd.
- **Email:** Staff email listed on School Web site under Staff Directory.
- **Parker Parent Updates:** Sent regularly via ConnectEd directly from the principal.
- **X2 Parent Portal:** View Grades/Report cards, View Assignments, etc.
- **Twitter & Instagram:** [@ParkerPrincipal](https://twitter.com/ParkerPrincipal)

Our Goal is for ALL Students to be Successful...Just Like Elementary School

☐ Academically

☐ Socially

☐ Emotionally



What is Different From Elementary School?

- School Hours: 8:19-2:40
- More than one teacher for core academics
 - Teachers work together in 2 person teams. One teacher for ELA/Social Studies and one for Math/Science
- Year 4 of our 1:1 Chromebook Initiative- devices issued to all students in Grades 5 & 9
- More Freedom in school
- After School Clubs and Activities



Student Schedule – Core Academics

- **English Language Arts**
 - **Mathematics**
 - **Science**
 - **Social Science**
-
- Students will take each of these classes daily.
Each class is between 55 and 65 minutes.



Student Schedule – Arts Block & Specialists



- **ARTS BLOCK:** 5th grade Students choose one of the following options: Art/General Music, Band, Chorus, Orchestra
- **SPECIALIST BLOCK:** Students will rotate between PE, Health, Computer & Library.
- **Lunch/Recess:** 40 minute block



Social & Emotional Support

- Social Worker & Two School Counselors
 - Peer Groups
 - Social Skills development
 - Family Support
- School Psychologist
 - Psychology Intern on staff each year
- Supervisor of Students
 - Works closely with students to address a variety of social, emotional and behavioral issues.
- School Resource Officer
 - Student & family support in/out of school!



After School Clubs & Activities

- Cross Country
- Chess & Games
- Fitness Room
- Intramural Sports
- Plant, Science & Green Team
- Stand Up Parker
- Jazz Band
- Select Chorus
- Yoga
- TV Club
- Parker Drama
- Student Council
- Knitting
- Power Hour (homework support)

and more!



What Makes us Unique?

Here are a few examples...

Student Leadership!

- *Parker P.R.I.D.E. Student Reps*
- *Student Ambassadors*

Community Support!

- *Annual SouperBowl Food Drive*
- *Coat/Clothing Drive*

School Culture Builders!

- *Parker P.R.I.D.E. Rally*
- *Parker Classic Floor Hockey Tourney*

Student Leadership Opportunities:

Parker P.R.I.D.E. Reps at virtual student leadership conference!



Student Leadership Opportunities:

Your 2021-2022 Student Ambassadors!



School Culture Building: Annual Parker P.R.I.D.E. Rally!



School Culture Building: The 7th Annual Parker Classic Floor Hockey Tourney!



PARKER P.R.I.D.E.

- **P: Perseverance**
- **R: Respect**
- **I: Integrity**
- **D: Dedication**
- **E: Empathy**



These are the core values of our work at Parker. Your children will learn about our student recognition program and our ongoing efforts to recognize students for their positive contributions to our school community.



Summer Tours & Open House

- We have traditionally offered two separate opportunities for students and families to walk around the school once schedules have been made available for students and families through the X2/Aspen family portal (by mid-August).
- Those Summer Open Houses are TBA (late August), but will be on our website as soon as those dates & times are established.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Grade 5 Curriculum Information/Recommendations

- The following slides include information directly from the Department Coordinators.
- You will also find their contact information. Feel free to reach out with any specific curriculum related questions!



English Language Arts

- Students will have chromebooks to support their learning, and teachers are trained in a blended learning approach.
- Teachers design lessons in reading literature, reading informational text, writing, speaking, and listening. They assess progress toward these skills with standards-based grading.
- Personalized instruction designed using iReady, iXL, and district benchmarks. Students also pursue independent reading.
- Suggested summer reading books will soon be on the CPS website.



Mathematics

- Discussing how and where you use math
- Encouraging your child to compute, measure, estimate, follow directions, build models, etc.
- Involving children in cooking, shopping, planning trips, etc.
- Doing math puzzles such as Sudoku and Kenken
- Playing games that require logic, reasoning, and strategy such as Albert's Insomnia!
- Discussing statistical information (sports data is a good source)
- Encouraging your child to explain his/her thinking for solving a problem
- Practice sessions and games to encourage multiplication and division fact fluency to 12 by 12



Science

- Grade 5 Students explore concepts centered on the 2016 MA STE Frameworks with Next Generation FOSS Science Curriculum.
- Students complete investigations related to the Earth & Sun, Mixtures & Solutions, and Living Systems.
- Each unit has active investigations, recording in Science notebooks, reading resources, and assessment to monitor progress and motivate student reflection on learning.



Social Science

- Students will spend Grade 5 exploring the history of our country. They will explore history through various resources, images, artifacts, stories and investigations.
- Each student will have access to online resources through Pearson Realize as well as their own copy of the anchor text/workbook. Check it out here:
[MyWorld Interactive Building Our Country](#)
- Teachers design lessons around the content that support their developing skills in the humanities. They assess progress toward each skill through a variety of activities.



Health Education

Skills and **Content** Addressed:

- Accessing Valid and Reliable Information -
Health Triangle
 - Decision Making - **Nutrition/Exercise**
- Self-Management/Self-Awareness - **Managing Emotions**
 - Advocacy - **Public, Community, & Environmental Health**



Physical Education

- The Fifth grade Physical Education curriculum focuses on skill development and fitness. We strive to teach all the skills in a particular sport while incorporating fitness in each unit of instruction. We spend the first couple of days of the unit on skills and then move the students into small fitness-based games utilizing the skills they have been practicing and learning in previous lessons.
- The mission of the Chelmsford Physical Education Department is to educate minds, develop healthy bodies, and promote positive attitudes towards lifetime physical activity, fitness, and sports skills. Each student will be empowered with the knowledge and skills necessary to make responsible lifestyle choices that directly impact health and well-being.



Literacy Support

- Literacy Support is a course for fifth grade students who have been identified as needing additional support with reading.
- The focus of the course is to provide students with integrated reading strategies across a developmental continuum. Students in Grade 5 receive core instruction in Language Arts from the Language Arts teacher on their grade level team in addition to Literacy Support.
- Emphasis is placed on content area reading strategies including understanding the text structure of textbooks, using literature to make relevant connections to content instruction, concept mapping of content area vocabulary, analysis and synthesis of ideas through discussion, written summaries, and test taking strategies.



English Language Education

English Language programming is offered to eligible students whose primary language is not English.

Focus areas:

- Provide developmentally appropriate English language instruction tailored for students' level of English proficiency.
- Provide effective content instruction while developing English language proficiency.
- Instruction is based on language driven ELL curriculum that is aligned to the WIDA and Massachusetts Frameworks.
- Provide a rich language environment where all students have the opportunity to learn academic English through scaffolded instruction.
- Highly qualified personnel and resources along with continuous staff development.
- Develop and maintain positive family engagement opportunities.



Fine & Performing Arts

In grade 5, students select **one** of the following options:

- Full year **BAND** (Grade 5 Instruments: trumpet, trombone, flute, or clarinet)
- Full year **CHORUS** (singing in groups)
- Full year **ORCHESTRA** (Instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass)
- ½ year **Visual Art** and ½ year **Music Concepts and Cultures** (general music)

These classes are all offered during the school day.

Students who take band, chorus, or orchestra who would also like to participate in art are encouraged to join the Art Club, which is an after-school club taught by the school's art teachers.

Click this link for a video with more details!

Parker Performing Arts Videos



Computer Literacy

Fifth grade students receive their own Chromebook as part of Chelmsford's 1:1 Initiative and use this device in school and at home for schoolwork. To support student use, in Computer Literacy classes students learn:

- how to create strong passwords
- to use safety techniques to protect their personal information online
- to use the X2 portal as a means to monitor their assignments & grades
- how to prevent cyberbullying
- Netiquette as they begin email using school email
- responsible use of computers
- to choose the best digital tools for their tasks, such as multimedia projects or communicating key ideas individually to teachers, or collaboratively with their peers.
- keyboarding instruction continues to build speed and accuracy, important in all curriculum areas as well as in standardized testing.
- to collaboratively collect and manipulate data digitally



Library Science

Students now can use digital library skills in every curriculum area especially given that fifth graders new personal Chromebooks they receive as part of the Chelmsford 1:1 initiative. They learn these skills in their weekly library classes:

- How to access and use eBooks
- Purpose of copyright and appropriate use of others' intellectual property
- Identify the impact of social media on individual, families and society
- Identify digital information sources to answer research questions
- How to properly cite information sources in projects and reports (images, audio and video)
- Describe and use databases (contact lists, school records, library catalogs)

Department Coordinator Contact Information

- ELA, Abbey Dick- dicka@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
- Mathematics, Matthew Beyranevand-
beyranevandm@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
- Science, Jon Morris- morrisj@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
- Social Studies, Stephanie Quinn-
quinns@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
- Health, PE & Wellness, Katie Simes-
simesk@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
- Technology, Marilyn Sweeney-
sweeneym@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
- Reading & ELE, Kelly Rogers- rogersk@chelmsford.k12.ma.us
- Fine & Performing Arts- Christina Whittlesey-
whittleseyc@chelmsford.k12.ma.us



Thank You!

- Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit more about Parker.
- Please know how excited I am to meet your children and welcome you all to our Parker community!
- Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions and I will see you all soon.

Sincerely,
Jeff