This is the Education of the FUTURE

Francis W. Parker School educates students to think and act with empathy, courage and clarity as responsible citizens and leaders in a democratic society and global community. Francis W. Parker School admits students of any race, color, religion, sexual orientation and national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational or admission policies, scholarship or loan program, athletics or other school-administered functions.

Francis W. Parker School
330 West Webster Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614
fwparker.org
773.797.5107

We invite you to come inside and experience Parker. Discover how your child might change the world.

80% of our alumni surveyed completed a bachelor’s degree, 28% completed a master’s degree, 8% completed a doctoral degree.
Timeless and Transformative

Step inside our doors, experience learning in action and you’ll find an environment like no other. Parents, students and faculty alike cherish the planned and impromptu moments that make Parker unique. Asked to define their Parker experience, they often use the word transformative.
And We’ve Been Doing It RIGHT FROM THE START

Parker’s progressive education is one of knowledge and individuality, of personal awareness and strength. It provides a solid foundation that empowers students to follow every path, explore every angle.

Located on a six-acre urban campus in the heart of Chicago, Parker draws students from across the city, bringing JK through 12th grade together into a dynamic community of learners under one roof. Our togetherness sets us apart, as a diversity of ideas, cultures, backgrounds and beliefs strengthens learning within the classroom and beyond. Here, students learn to see a world of possibilities, take risks, push boundaries, collaborate and discover the voice inside each of them.

Each student is vital to fostering Parker’s culture and success. Including yours.
LEARNING TOGETHER
Sets Us Apart

In these hallways, a different kind of learning happens, the kind based on experience and shared passions. These halls do more than connect classrooms. They bring together a diverse and thriving community.

And the diversity goes beyond 14 different grades sharing spaces; it includes and transcends each family’s own cultural identifiers. Promoting an understanding of multiple perspectives enhances the learning environment and enriches the experience and growth of each student. We take the role of diversity in a student’s development very seriously. Embracing all our students and their backgrounds is vitally important to the Parker experience.

By interacting and learning with and about peers whose backgrounds are different from their own, students obtain the perspective they need to strengthen their sense of self and become positive change-agents, active citizens and leaders.

Rise and Shine with Morning Ex
Morning Exercise has been a tradition at Parker right from the start. Three days a week, students and teachers from multiple grades gather to share knowledge and ideas and to hear enlightening talks from thought leaders and organizations. Parents join in on special events, learning from teachers and one another in this inspiring civic sanctuary for all.
940

STUDENTS IN 14 GRADES

Founded on a belief that diversity enriches learning, Parker is deliberately composed of a diverse group of people so that we may all learn how to honor the dignity and experience of every human being.

38%

STUDENTS OF COLOR

33%

EMPLOYEES OF COLOR
Collaboration, Parker Style

Exploring molecular engineering, students work side by side with scientists at the University of Chicago’s Institute for Molecular Engineering to develop critical problem-solving skills, discover career possibilities in science and engineering and learn to work creatively in a group setting.
A Parker Learner is intellectually curious, invested in learning, culturally confident and enthusiastic about being a positive community member and engaged citizen.

In the classroom and outside it, the learning is ever-evolving. Students work with teachers to create experiences that play to their natural abilities and interests with the greatest impact, while challenging them to discover and develop new passions and strengths.

Parker’s courses and curriculum are grounded in the dynamic tradition of progressive education. From there, we layer our uniquely interactive, educational program to create an environment that is enriching in ways that are anything but typical.
We Study the Past TO INFORM OUR FUTURE

At Parker, we honor the past and look toward the future. When learning happens in a historical context and concepts are made relevant to the real world ahead, students think beyond the ordinary and achieve extraordinary outcomes.

Teaching is interconnected and interdisciplinary. Learning happens across grade levels and among subject areas. Students learn to see and interact with ideas and problems from multiple perspectives. Exposure to diversity of thought, ideals and experiences gives them a deeper understanding of classroom concepts and a broader view of how learning links to the greater community.

With our time-honored, hands-on, progressive teaching methodology, Parker students are ready to engage effectively with the way the world works—not someday, but today.

The Sweet Sound of New Experiences

Learning happens in concert at Parker. In a recent piece of collaborative curriculum, students combined what they had been learning in art and music with their studies on the lives of American pioneers. The result? Combining art, engineering and history, students constructed their own dulcimers and enjoyed the power of integrated learning firsthand.
With Time for Curiosity

IMAGINE WHAT A CHILD WILL DISCOVER

The path from childhood to adulthood involves great discovery, when individuals discover passions and develop talents. Parker ensures these years are an enriching experience through a comprehensive athletics program and an abundance of clubs and committees. These opportunities enhance learning and camaraderie and ignite the enthusiasm of every student.

The list is ever-changing, reflecting the evolving interests and talents of our student body—from coding to comic books, from astrophysics to activism—inviting them to dive deep and find new heights of expression.

50+ CLUBS AND COMMITTEES
Parker Spirit: Everybody Plays

Parker’s athletics program is committed to a no-cut policy, designed to provide students in 6th–12th grades an opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports regardless of their skill or experience.

More than 75% of students participate, benefiting from positive development as student-athletes and maximizing their athletic potential while establishing lifelong habits of fitness, collaborative teamwork and leadership.
Parker Asks

HOW MIGHT WE HELP THE WORLD

Changing the world is more than an idea in the minds of Parker students. Engagement begins early and moves from awakening to action as students grow, leading to an ever-expanding understanding of our interconnectedness. Students learn they each have an individual role to play in the classroom, their community and the broader world.

In place of theoretical discussions and prescribed service, students draw on classroom concepts and apply their personal passions, thoughts and values to age-appropriate, real-world challenges that captivate their attention. Projects related to topics such as immigration, women’s rights, access to clean water and global climate change help to make learning relevant to the world outside the classroom. Students move beyond the familiar, make inspiring connections and learn about themselves and others, making an impact on the world around them as learners, leaders and beyond.
Parker’s engagement with the city and the world around us is constant and creative. Our focus on active citizenship means that classroom learning relates directly to real-world challenges, stories and relationships.
PARKER

THE FUTURE IS AS BIG AS OUR THINKING. FROM HERE WE CAN GO ANYWHERE.

Parker students are exceptionally equipped for what lies ahead. Each thought-provoking classroom discussion, every hallway conversation and personal interaction results in students who are confident, creative, courageous and compassionate. They possess an innate understanding of who they are and what they can accomplish.

After Parker, the journey to becoming the achiever, thinker, leader and influencer continues. Our graduates attend top-tier colleges and universities. They also study abroad and the overwhelming majority continue on to graduate school. Wherever their passions take them, from Chicago to Central Asia, from engineering to the arts, Parker graduates make a difference as **global citizens who think and act with empathy, courage and clarity**.

As far as they go, our alums never leave Parker behind. The traditions and friendships, mentorships and memories become a part of each student’s story, shaping the leaders they become and the lives they lead.

*95% of our alumni surveyed agreed that Parker provided them with the ability to access, structure, evaluate and use information rather than only learn facts*
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THINK NOW. BE BOLD. SPEAK OUT. ALL IN. LIFE DEFINING. WORLD CHANGING.

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Expanding Learning
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