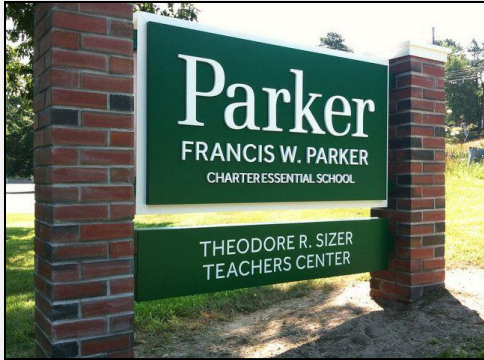


# Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School

## School Profile



49 Antietam Street  
Devens, MA 01434  
Phone: (978) 772-3293  
Fax: (978) 772-3295  
[www.theparkerschool.org](http://www.theparkerschool.org)  
CEEB/ACT Code: 220689

## PARKER SCHOOL

**FACULTY** is known for its dedication to in-depth student learning and community building. Of the school's 60 teachers and professional staff, over two-thirds hold advanced degrees. Parker teachers work together for several weeks every summer and throughout the school year to develop the school's curriculum and its unique program. All teachers serve as advisers to students, nurturing their intellectual, emotional, social, and ethical development. Parker gives top priority to keeping teaching loads at a level where every student can be known very well.

**THE PARKER SCHOOL** is a regional six-year public secondary school of choice, open by lottery admissions to Massachusetts students in grades seven through twelve. The school enrolls 400 students from more than 40 towns in north central Massachusetts; the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the student body closely reflect the population of this region of semi-rural small towns. One of Massachusetts' first charter schools, Parker was started in 1995 by area parents and teachers, with Theodore R. Sizer and Nancy Sizer, and is committed to the principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools.

## CURRICULUM AT THE PARKER SCHOOL

integrates the academic disciplines in four "Domains" – Arts and Humanities (AH); Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST); Spanish; and Wellness.

Class groups include a multi-age, heterogeneous mix of students who work with teams of teachers toward mastery of common learning criteria.

Each year's coursework centers on a school-wide "Essential Question," as well as on specific concepts and content in the academic Domains, which reflect the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

We have rigorous performance standards in:

Reading	Scientific Investigation
Research	Mathematical Problem Solving
Writing	Oral Presentation
Technology	Technical Communication
Systems Thinking	Artistic Expression
Spanish	Listening and Media Analysis

**PARKER ACCREDITATION** is by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In 2015, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted Parker its fourth five-year renewal of its charter as a public school reporting directly to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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**PARKER GRADUATES** have earned admission to a wide array of distinguished colleges since the first senior class in 2000. On average, 95 percent of Parker graduates have gone on to college with 96 percent of those students attending four-year colleges. More than 85 percent of Parker alumni complete their four-year degree program within five years, a significantly higher percentage than the national average. *The list of schools below shows where Parker students have enrolled during the past five years in addition to the MA State Universities and local community colleges.*

## ADVANCEMENT

through Parker's six-year program of studies is at the rate appropriate for each student's individual development. High school-level academic work starts when a student enters Division 2. Division 3 includes advanced and independent studies. Students achieve promotion via "Gateway Exhibitions."

## STUDENT

**ASSESSMENTS** at Parker are in narrative form. Teachers evaluate student progress using school-wide standards and rubrics via the student's portfolio and use words rather than numbers to describe their learning. The school's comprehensive summary of these evaluations accompanies the Parker transcript. Parker does not rank its students, nor does the school award letter grades, honors, or prizes.

Allegheny College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
American University	Merrimack College
Baruch College of the CUNY	Mount Holyoke College
Bates College	Newbury College
Beloit College	Nichols College
Berklee College of Music	Northeastern University
Boston University	Norwich University
Brandeis University	Pace University
Brigham Young University	Plymouth State University
Brown University	Pratt Institute
Bryant University	Quinnipiac University
Bucknell University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Central Connecticut State University	Rhode Island College
Champlain College	Rivier University
Chapman University	Rowan University
Chichester College	Sage College of Albany
Clark University	Saint Anselm College
Clarkson University	Salve Regina University
College of Charleston	Savannah College of Art and Design
College of the Holy Cross	Skidmore College
Colorado College	Smith College
Colorado State University	St. Lawrence University
Connecticut College	Stonehill College
Cornell University	Suffolk University
Curry College	The George Washington University
Davidson College	The University of Tampa
Eastern Nazarene College	Trinity College
Eckerd College	Tufts University
Elmira College	Tulane University
Elon University	Union College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Unity College
Emory University	University of Hartford
Endicott College	University of Maine
Eugene Lang: The New School for Liberal Arts	University of Miami
Fairfield University	University of Michigan
Fordham University	University of Mississippi
Franklin Pierce University	University of New Hampshire
George Mason University	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
George Washington University	University of Oklahoma
Goucher College	University of Rochester
Green Mountain College	University of Vermont
Hampshire College	University of Virginia
Haverford College	University of Washington
Ithaca College	Ursinus College
James Madison University	Vassar College
Johns Hopkins University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Johnson and Wales University	Washington and Lee University
Keene State University	Wesleyan University
Landmark College	Westminster College
Lesley University	Wheaton College (MA)
Lyndon State College	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Maine College of Art	Yale University