

Parker 101

Part 1: Academics

Agenda, Part 1

- 10 Common Principles
- School Structure and Schedule
- Gatewaying, Portfolios, Rubrics
- Skill Areas, Habits of Learning
- Homework, First Year at Parker
- Academic Reporting

10 Common Principles

- Less is more
- Student as worker, teacher as coach
- Personalization and knowing students well
- Students using their minds well
- School tone of decency, trust, unanxious expectation
- Emphasis on student voice, democratic decisions
- Demonstration of mastery
- Parents as collaborators

Domains

- Arts and Humanities (AH)
- Math, Science and Technology (MST)
- Spanish
- Wellness

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
8:00-8:45 Advisory		8:00-8:45 Advisory		8:30-9:00		8:00-8:45 Advisory		8:00-8:45 Advisory	
1.1 8:50-9:40		2.1 8:50-9:40		2.1 9:05-9:35		3.1 8:50-9:40		1.1 8:50-9:40	
1.2 9:45-10:35		2.2 9:45-10:35		1.1 9:40-10:00		3.2 9:45-10:35		1.2 9:45-10:35	
2.1 10:40-11:30		3.1 10:40-11:30		1.2 10:15-10:45		1.1 10:40-11:30		2.1 10:40-11:30	
2.2 11:35-12:25		3.2 11:35-12:25		3.1 10:50-11:20		1.2 11:35-12:25		2.2 11:35-12:25	
12:25-1:25 Lunch		12:25-1:25 Lunch		3.2 11:25-11:55		1.2 11:35-12:25		2.2 11:35-12:25	
3.1 12:35-1:45		1.1 12:35-1:45		12:00-12:15 Gathering		12:25-1:25 Lunch		12:25-1:25 Lunch	
3.2 1:50-2:40		1.2 1:50-2:40		12:15-12:45 Lunch		12:45-1:30 Extended Advisory		12:45-1:30 Extended Advisory	
2:45-3:20 Academic Block		2:45-3:20 Academic Block		12:45-1:30 Extended Advisory		2.1 12:35-1:45		3.1 12:35-1:45	
3:00-3:45 Advisory		3:00-3:45 Advisory				2.2 1:50-2:40		3.2 1:50-2:40	
						AB 2:45-3:20 Academic Block		CB 2:45-3:20 Community Block	
						3:00-3:45 Advisory		3:00-3:45 Advisory	

Divisions (Div)

- Division 1
 - Emphasis on skill building and habits
- Division 2
 - Entry-level high school skills
- Division 3
 - Advanced and specialized study

Gatewaying

- Students progress through each domain separately
- Two-year cycle, on average
 - Some kids take more or less than two years – that's okay!
 - Spanish gateway schedule is different

	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3
AH			
MST			
Spanish			(optional)

A successful first year at Parker:

- Complete homework and projects
 - Understand and begin to use the revision process
 - Establish habits/patterns/strategies (in class and at home) that support healthy approach to school work
- Make PROGRESS in habits and skills
- Find their place socially
- Feel comfortable engaging with teachers and/or asking teachers for what they need

Skill areas

■ AH

- Reading
- Writing
- Oral Presentation (OP)
- Artistic Expression (AE)
- Research
- Listening and Media Analysis (LaMA)

Skill areas

- MST
 - Mathematical Problem-Solving
 - Technical Communication
 - Scientific Investigation
 - Systems Thinking
 - Technology

Skill areas

- Immersion model
- Spanish
 - Interpersonal Communication
 - Presentational Communication
 - Interpretive Communication

Skill areas

- Wellness
 - Self-management
 - Interpersonal Communication
 - Accessing Information
 - Decision-making and Goal Setting
 - Health Advocacy
 - Internal and External Influences
 - Physical Fitness and Movement

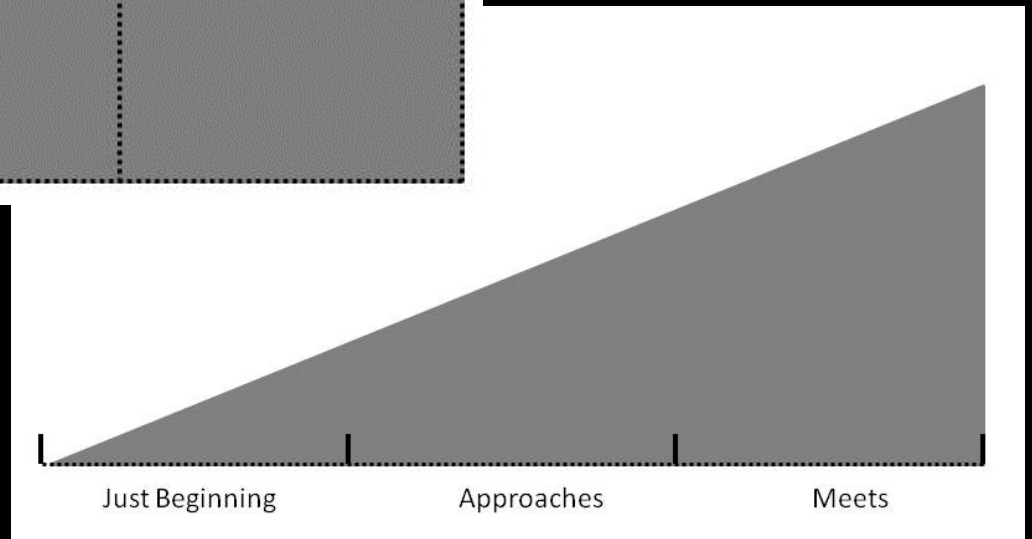
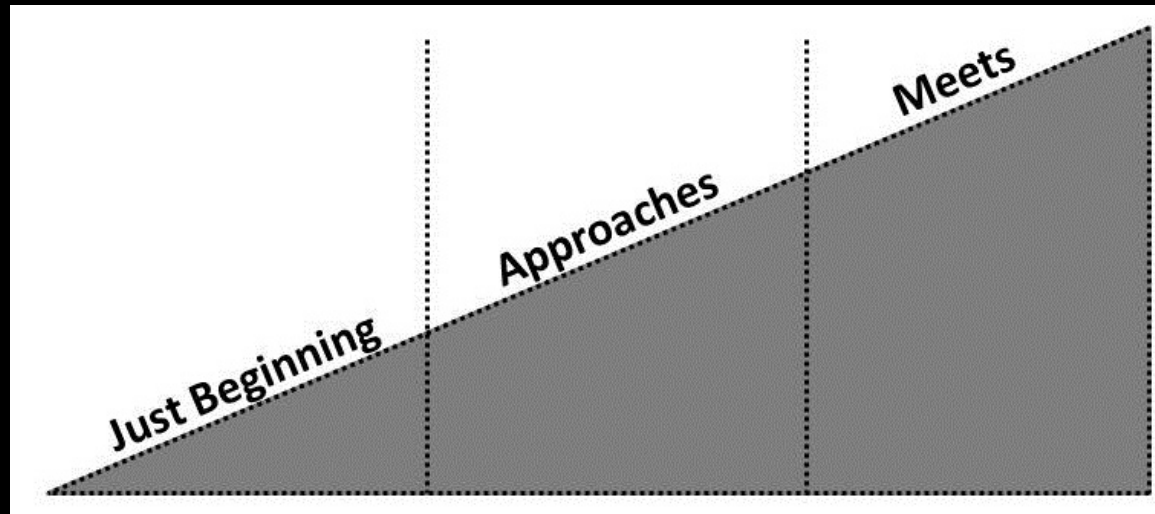
Rubrics

- Just Beginning (JB)
- Approaches (A)
- Meets (M)
- Exceeds (E)

Overall assessment:



Assessment



Assessment



On Reports/Portal:

A_____ _A_____ __A__ ___A_ ____A

Portfolios

- Performance-based promotion
- Goal is to show a body of work that Meets
 - REVISION
 - Save all work!
- Cover letter
- Completed work is often kept in classroom
- All work is turned in at end of year

Gateways

- January and June
- Student presents their work to an audience of family, teachers, friends
- Questions, congratulatory remarks
- Snacks!
- Letter sent home about a month ahead of time – put it on your schedule!

Gateways by Division

- Div 1: Celebration of Accomplishments
 - Focus on presenting portfolio, favorite pieces of work, reflection on progress
- Div 2: Presentation of New Work
 - A short term independent project
 - Project presented at gateway (but already “meets” before the presentation)
- Div 3: Senior Project
 - One hour juried presentation of a year-long project

Habits of Learning

- Attentiveness
- Organization
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Involvement
- Expression
- Inquiry
- Reflection
- Perseverance

Homework/Assessments

- Often project-based, larger projects
 - Work for each night on piece of a larger project
 - COWs
 - Reading, research projects, etc.
 - Ask to see the assignment and the rubric!
- Practice and process work that supports projects
- Time management, project management
- Look on PORTAL for information!

Academic Reporting

- Parker Portal – always available!
- Formal reporting, FOUR times per year
 - Progress Reports in:
 - November
 - February
 - April
 - Final Narrative
 - June
 - February (for Division 3 or gatewayers)

Agenda, Part II

- What's next: Graduation Requirements and College
- Advisory, "Discipline"
- Family Involvement
- Communication, Administration, Parker Portal
- Other Programs:
 - School Counselor
 - Library
 - Lunch Program
 - Athletics
- Parker History

Parker 101

Part 2: “the rest”

Agenda

- Advisory, “Discipline”
- Charter Financing and Fundraising
- Family Involvement
- Communication, Administration
- Other Programs: School Counselor, Library, Lunch Program, Athletics
- What’s next: Graduation Requirements and College
- Parker History

Advisory

- Purpose:
 - Academic Advising
 - Community Conversations
 - Community Service
 - Recreation
- Home-School Communication
- Child Advocate
- PLPs
- Stuff storage...

“Discipline”

- Educational model
 - Kids get to make mistakes and learn from them
- Justice Committee (JC)
- Academic Integrity: Deb
- Behavior: Eileen or Todd

Charter School Financing

- Tuition follows student from sending district
- Sending district reimbursed for six years
 - 100-25-25-25-25-25

Fundraising at Parker

- Event-based: ECO

- Yard Sale
- Improv Night



- Parker Third Decade Fund

- 2016-2018 Goal = \$500,000

Volunteering/Family Involvement

- ECO – community/parent organization
- Senior Project Mentor or Jury Member
- Advisory Parent/Driver
- Office/Library Help
- Wednesday After School “Club”
- Field Trips
- Yard Sale
- Lots of opportunities – check Friday Announcements!

Communication at Parker

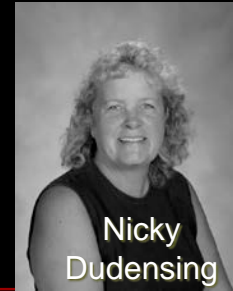
- Friday Announcements (website-based)
- Portal
- Group emails
- Website
- Teacher emails
- Various bulletin boards
- (End of year survey)

Administration/Academics

- Start with advisor/teacher as appropriate
- Principal: Todd Sumner
- Domain leaders/coordinators
 - Diane Kruse (MST)
 - Ruth Whalen Crockett (Spanish)
 - Sue Massucco (AH)
 - Todd Sumner (Wellness)
- Deb Merriam (Academic Dean)



Administration/Other



- Nicky Dudensing (Asst to Principal)
- Cindy Johnson (Front Office)
- Cathy Kennedy (Front Office)
- Sheila Kelly (School Counselor)
- Terry Weisinger (Special Education)
- Eileen Breeze (504; School Culture)
- Lisa Zick (Nurse)



School Counselor - Sheila

- Sheila is here to support students with social or emotional issues that impact learning.
- She can provide referrals to outside providers should students need ongoing help.
- "Tone of decency" and anti-bullying are meant to ensure that everyone at Parker feels safe and comfortable. "Less than decent" moments, when they arise, are quickly addressed if adults know what has happened.
- P.A.C.T.

P. A. C. T.

Parker Alliance for Community Tolerance

This school views the use of slurs against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, intellectual & physical disability or socio-economic class as unacceptable behavior.

Willful or neglectful use of slurs is seen as incompatible with the mission of the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, which is committed to providing a safe educational environment for all students, faculty and parents.

As community members, our responsibilities include fostering & maintaining a learning environment that respects diversity. Teachers, students and staff will review this statement and develop classroom and office norms for addressing incidences of name-calling & intimidation.

Other Programs

- Library
- School lunch – new system!
- Athletics

Athletics

- Ben Benoit, athletic director
- Members of MIAA (Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Assoc.)
- Colonial League
- Athletic pages on Parker website
 - Game Schedules
 - Practice Schedules
 - Athletics Mission Statement
 - philosophies for diff. levels (MS, JV, VAR)
- Directions to games
- Daily Updates on weather cancellations, etc.
- Health Forms (must be up to date)

Costs

- \$275 Sports User Fee per Sports Season
- \$1100 Yearly Family Cap
- helps pay for facilities (gyms/fields), officials, equipment, transportation, uniforms, coaches, etc.

Sports Offered

■ Fall

- Soccer
 - girls & boys; MS, JV, VAR
- Cross Country
 - girls & boys; grades 7-12

Winter

- Basketball
 - girls & boys; MS, JV, VAR

■ Spring

- Baseball
 - MS/JV, VAR
- Softball
 - MS/JV, VAR
- Track & Field
 - girls & boys; grades 7-12
- Lacrosse
 - Co-op with Bromfield

Graduation Requirements

- Div 3 Portfolio from classes
- Completion of Division 2 Spanish
- Senior Project/Senior Seminar
- Service
- Wellness

College

- Our kids go there!
- No GPA – narrative summary gets sent
- Kids do take SATs or ACTs
- Talk with Missy Rizkalla



History of Parker

- Education Reform Act of 1993
- Opened in 1995
- First graduating class in 2000
- Charter School (the opportunity to exist)
 - Independent/local governance, budget management, decision-making, etc.
 - Highly accountable – officially evaluated 20+ times so far!
- Essential School (the philosophy)
 - 10 Common Principles