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
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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

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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
Habits of Learning

- Attentiveness
- Organization
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Involvement
- Expression
- Inquiry
- Reflection
- Perseverance
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
- PROGRESS OVER TIME
- 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

- Beginning (B or Bg)
- Approaching (A or Ap)
- Meeting (M or Me)
- Exceeding (E or Ex)
Assessment
Assessment

On Rubrics:

On Reports/Portal:

Meeting

Meeting
Portfolios

- Performance-based promotion
  - Proficiency-based promotion in Spanish
- Goal is to show a body of work that is Meeting
  - 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 “meeting” before the presentation)

- Div 3: Senior Project
  - One hour juried presentation of a year-long project
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”
- Family Involvement
- Communication, Administration
- Other Programs: School Counselor, Library, Lunch Program, Athletics
- What’s next: Graduation Requirements and College
- Charter Financing and Fundraising
- Parker History
Advisory

- Purpose:
  - Academic Advising
  - Community Conversations
  - Community Service
  - Recreation/Group Dynamics

- 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 M
- Behavior: Deb H or Todd
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)
  - Mandy Levine (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)
- Kathy Russo (Special Education)
- Deb Holloway (504; School Culture)
- Lisa Zick (Nurse)
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.
Francis W. Parker Charter Essential 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, political views, intellectual & physical disability or socio-economic class as unacceptable behavior.

Our school 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 incidents of name-calling & intimidation.
Other Programs

- Library
- School lunch
- 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
- Winter Track

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
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
- Community Conversations
  - October-November 2019
- Operations and Capital = Essential Commitments Fund
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