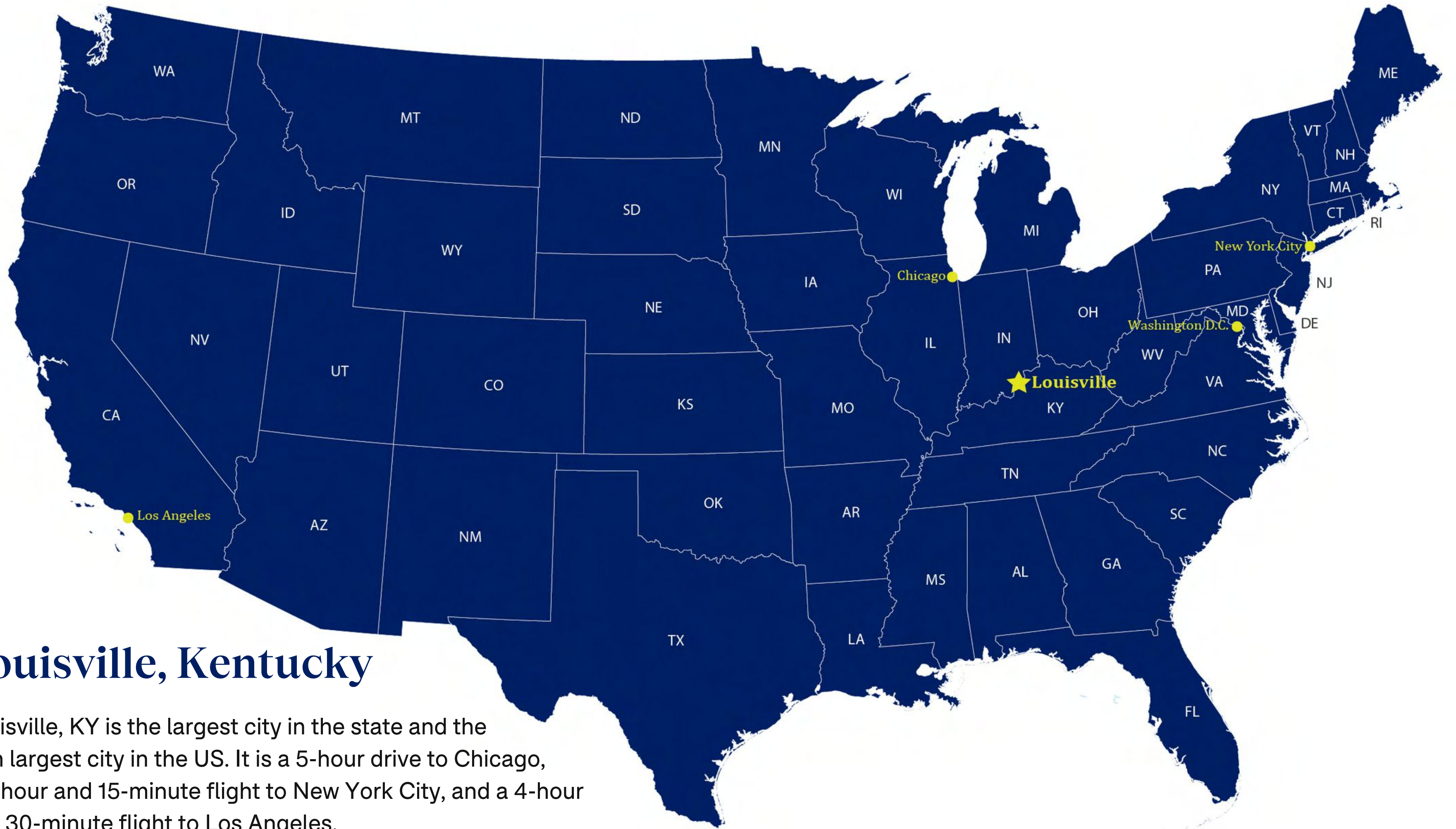




Francis Parker
The School of Thought



Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville, KY is the largest city in the state and the 16th largest city in the US. It is a 5-hour drive to Chicago, a 2-hour and 15-minute flight to New York City, and a 4-hour and 30-minute flight to Los Angeles.

About Louisville

Listed in The New York Times' Top 52 Places to Go in 2023, Louisville is home to the world-famous Kentucky Derby, which is the "fastest two minutes in sports" and the first leg of the Triple Crown of thoroughbred horse racing.

Louisville is the home of Muhammad Ali, an Olympic gold medalist and professional boxer and philanthropist, and to the Louisville Slugger baseball bat, produced in The Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory downtown.

Headquartered in Louisville is Yum! Brands, Inc., which includes KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken), Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell; Brown-Forman, one of the world's largest spirits companies with brands such as Jack Daniels, Finlandia, and Korbel; UPS; GE Appliances; Humana; and more.

Louisville also boasts 17 urban parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed New York City's Central Park.



About Francis Parker

Founded in 1965, Francis Parker School of Louisville is an Independent, Progressive School serving Preschool 2s – 12th grade students on two campuses in Louisville and Goshen, Kentucky.

As a Progressive School, we are dedicated to critical thinking and intellectual curiosity. It is a place where students learn how to think, not what to think.



Goshen Campus

Our rural, 64-acre Preschool - 8th grade campus in Goshen, Kentucky allows for learning and exploration through an open classroom setting, as well as outdoor classrooms, a 15-acre forest, seven acres of pollinator fields, and restored wetlands. Here, students learn by doing in a safe nurturing learning space.

- 335+ students in Preschool - 8th grade
- Average class size of 13 students
- 34% students of color, international students, and foreign-born



Downtown Campus

The High School (9th - 12th grade) campus in downtown Louisville allows a thriving metropolitan city to serve as an additional aspect of the education that helps foster independence and self-reliance. We're steps away from the Main Library, government and civic centers, popular attractions, and local eateries.

- 150+ students in 9th - 12th grade
- Average class size of 11 students
- 34% students of color, international students, and foreign-born



Alexandra Thurstone G'80, '84

Head of School

M.B.A. University of Chicago

B.A. Harvard University



Suzanne Gorman

Associate Head of School -
Downtown Campus

M.A. University of Michigan

B.A. Loyola University Chicago

Leadership Team

Trisha Amirault, Director of Enrollment/
Admissions Director - Goshen Campus

Greg Borders, Associate Head of School -
Finance and Operations

Zak Cohen, Middle School Director

Jennifer Griffith, Lower School Director

Carolyn Gilles Hannan '99, Director of
Marketing and Communications

Bethany Heckel, Director of Advancement

Renee Hennessy, Preschool Director

Shelly Jones, Associate Head of School -
Goshen Campus, Teaching and Learning

Ralph Marshall, Dean of Faculty - High School

Mission Statement

Francis Parker School of Louisville cultivates a joyful, compassionate, intellectual community that celebrates individuality and inspires independent thinking for life.



Parent Testimonial

Francis Parker School of Louisville commits to understanding each student as an individual, to teaching with excellence, and to finding positive ways to force students out of their comfort zones so they develop as well-rounded adults.

- High School Parent



Parent Testimonial

“Francis Parker School of Louisville takes the idea of teaching the whole child seriously and spends time educating, challenging, celebrating, and nurturing each student.”

- High School Parent

Our Core Values

Francis Parker School of Louisville is a community committed to...

- Intellectual Curiosity + Critical Thinking
- Equity + Cultural Competency
- Individuality + Responsibility
- Creativity + Expression
- Kindness + Belonging



The philosophy of Francis Parker is rooted in the Progressive education tradition.

We believe that every student must be treated as an individual. In classrooms, we emphasize active learning; problem solving; self-expression; critical thinking; collaboration; and healthy discussion and debate.

Progressive Education

The Progressive school movement was founded by John Dewey and Francis Parker in the early 1900s as a response to the assembly line, “one-size-fits-all” school model.

Progressive schools are student-centered, community service-minded, experiential, and diverse. Students are fully engaged participants in the learning process.



Portrait of a Graduate

Francis Parker Graduates...

- Know themselves and live their convictions
- Stay curious, think critically, and never stop learning
- Act with kindness and empathy
- Champion diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Engage in the world with creativity and passion



At our High School, we believe that the best preparation for higher education and adult life is a challenging academic program in a vibrant community.

- 14 AP courses
- 100% of high school full-time faculty hold advanced degrees; 40% hold PhDs
- 14 Varsity sports teams
- New 2,700 square foot state-of-the art Indoor Turf and Training Center

Academics

All of our full-time teachers have advanced degrees and **40% hold PhDs**, enabling us to create a curriculum that challenges students and prepares them for college, while our average class size of 11 provides ample opportunity for individual support when needed. We focus on close reading, critical analysis, and writing of all kinds.

We offer 14 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, two dual-credit college courses, and Independent Study classes based on student interest. In addition, electives are taught in all areas, on topics such as in courses such as Set Theory, Multivariable Calculus, Design and Engineering, Circuitry and Robotics, Astronomy, Anatomy and Physiology, Gender Studies, Constitutional Law, Film Studies, and more.



Student Testimonial

“The structure of course selection encouraged me to think about and plan my curriculum critically. Working with advisors, every student here can develop a personalized curriculum based on individual preferences and plans for the future.

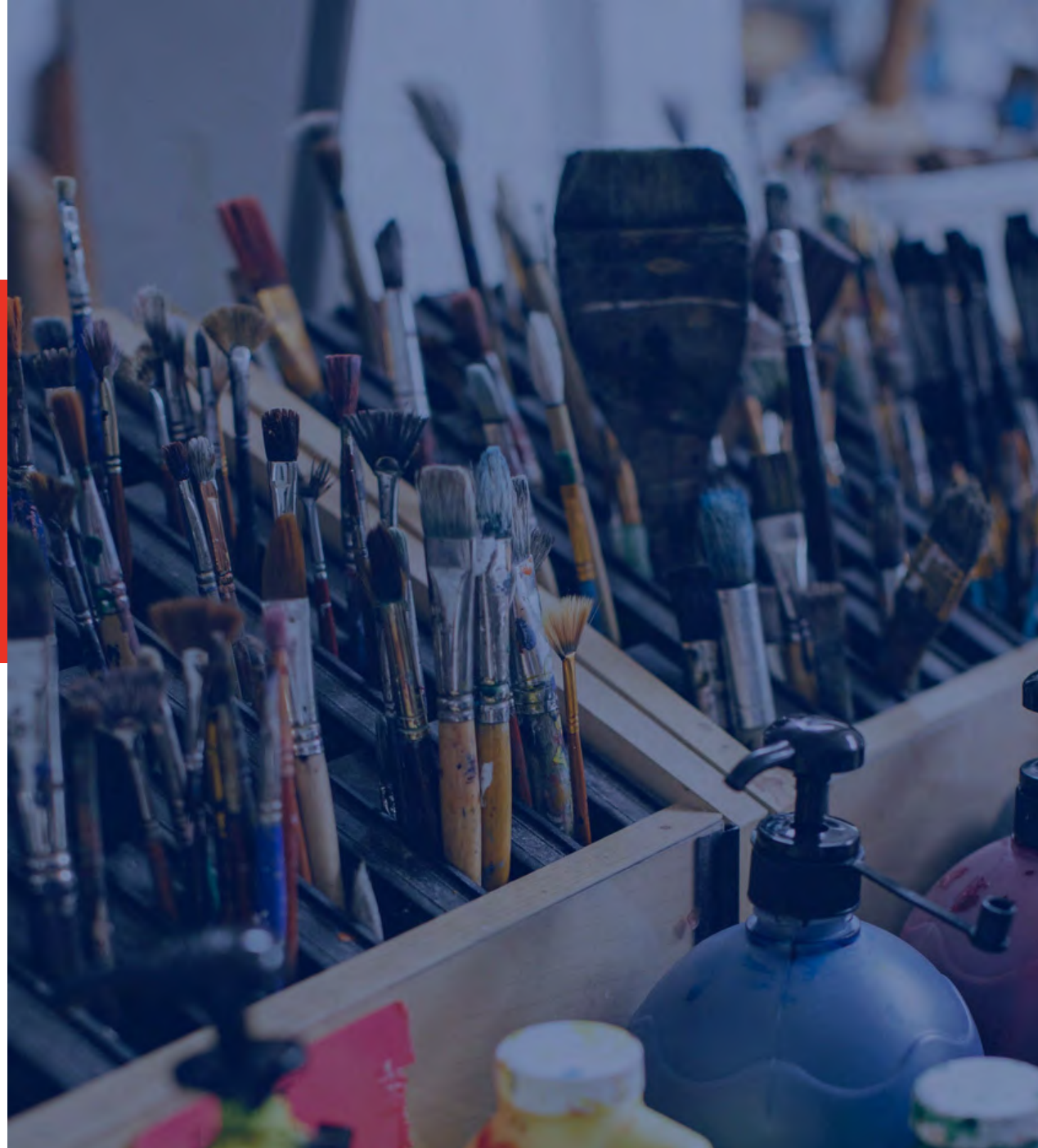
- Winston Hu '17

Our Curriculum

We offer a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum; 22 credits, including a Senior Project and athletic participation, are required for graduation including requirements in:

- English
- Math
- Science
- History
- World Language (Mandarin Chinese and Spanish)
- Health/PE
- Fine Arts (Studio Art, Music, and Photography/Filmmaking)

The entire high school community is actively engaged in a comprehensive long-term relationship with Louisville's non-profit organizations through a four-year community service program.



Nearly 75% of all our students take at least one AP exam, and a five-year average of 72% of our students score 3 or higher, the level at which most colleges give credit.

14 Advanced Placement courses offered:

- Biology*
- Calculus AB/BC
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language
- Comparative Government & Politics
- Computer Science
- English Literature
- Environmental Science*
- Physics C: Mechanics*
- AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism*
- Spanish Language
- Spanish Literature
- Statistics
- U.S. History

*Offered in alternating years

Typical School Day

At the High School, we have a rotating modified block schedule. “Rotating” means that Monday through Friday, the classes are in a different order each day. The school day starts each day with either Morning Meeting, where the whole school meets together, or Connections, which are small groups of about 10 students and one teacher. Both the large and small gatherings build community and foster students’ sense of belonging.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Meeting 8:30	Morning Meeting 8:30	Connections 8:30	Morning Meeting 8:30	Connections 8:30
1 8:50 - 9:35	7 8:50 - 9:55	1 8:55 - 10:00	5 8:50 - 9:55	1 9:05 - 9:50
2 9:40 - 10:25				4 9:55 - 10:40
Flex 10:25 - 10:40	3 10:00 - 11:05	2 10:05 - 11:10	6 10:00 - 11:05	
3 10:45 - 11:30	Flex 11:05 - 11:25		Flex 11:05 - 11:25	2 10:45 - 11:30
4 11:35 - 12:20	2 11:30 - 12:35	4 11:15 - 12:20	4 11:30 - 12:35	3 11:35 - 12:20
Lunch 12:20 - 1:00	Lunch 12:35 - 1:10	Lunch 12:20 - 12:55	Lunch 12:35 - 1:10	Lunch 12:20 - 1:00
		Flex 12:55 - 1:10		
5 1:05 - 1:50	6 1:15 - 2:20	3 1:15 - 2:20	1 1:15 - 2:20	7 1:05 - 1:50
6 1:55 - 2:40				5 1:55 - 2:40
7 2:45 - 3:30	5 2:25 - 3:30	7 2:25 - 3:30	Projects 2:25 - 3:30	6 2:45 - 3:30



A major advantage for Francis Parker students is that we have a full-time College Counselor.

The overall goal in the college counseling process is to help each student find the “right-fit” college. Beginning in the 9th grade, our College Counselor expertly guides students through career exploration, standardized testing, college lists, applications, scholarships, and making college decisions.

Our college acceptance list demonstrates the individualized nature of this process at Francis Parker, because every year it represents a wide array of fantastic schools — from Ivy League to small liberal arts colleges to big public universities, and more.

Recent Colleges and Universities:

- Bellarmine University
- Berea College
- Brown University
- Centre College
- DePaul University
- Duke University
- Earlham College
- Georgetown University
- Hanover College
- Harvard University
- MIT
- Northwestern University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- The College of Wooster
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville
- Vanderbilt University
- Yale University

Athletics

The mission of our Athletic Department is to provide an athletic program that encourages all students to participate in interscholastic sports, promotes the spirit of good sportsmanship with competitive athletic experiences, and emphasizes excellence in academics and athletics. Our teams adhere to a “no-cut” policy, as we believe that all students should have the opportunity to experience athletics, regardless of skill level or expertise.

Varsity Sports:

- Soccer
- Field Hockey
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Track & Field
- Baseball
- Tennis
- Bowling



Performing Arts

Our students have the opportunity to participate in two productions in our National Youth Arts award-winning drama program every year. Recent NYA awards include Outstanding Lead Performance in a Musical, Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play, Outstanding Ensemble, and Outstanding Direction.

Our program enables students to grow as performers, directors, and stage technicians. Recent productions include musicals such as Little Shop of Horrors and Chicago, and plays like Almost Maine, The Gorges Motel, and in 2022-23, our Showcase of Plays (student-written, student-directed short plays) and Mamma Mia! Our Improv Troupe gives students the opportunity to hone improvisational skills and gain additional performance experience. Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble, at both the school and regional/state honor levels, are offered for instrumentalists and singers.



Academic Teams

Academic teams allow students to extend their passion for academics beyond the classroom. At the High School, Francis Parker academic competitions include two math contests (Math League and the AMC Math Competition), Science Olympiad, Quick Recall, Governor's Cup, Kentucky Youth Assembly, and Kentucky United Nations Assembly.

Recent academic team achievements include:

- **Governor's Cup 2023:** Placed 1st overall in District, including 1st in Quick Recall and 14 individual Top-5 finishes
- **Quick Recall 2023:** Won League Championship
- **KUNA 2022:** Won the Premier Delegation Award
- **KYA 2022:** Two bills passed both House and Senate
- **Science Olympiad:** Top-10 Regional finishes every year



Student Leadership & Clubs

Student voice is an essential aspect of Progressive education. Our Student Council is comprised of elected representatives from each grade level. They plan events and lead their classes in fundraising. The Student Court is a rung of the School's discipline system, consisting of four elected justices from the junior and/or senior classes. They hear and adjudicate cases throughout the year.

At Francis Parker, clubs are created by and run by students. A snapshot of clubs offered include:

- Chinese Club
- Encouragement Club
- The Why (student magazine)
- Yearbook
- Outdoor Activities Club
- Dodgeball Club
- Culinary Club
- Climate Club



Wyvern Retreat Program

The Wyvern Retreat Program is a series of outdoor trips for students starting in 5th grade that focus on empowering students' growth. The Wyvern Retreat Program builds leadership skills and fosters compassion and community among students in each grade.

- **9th Grade:** One-night stay at Bradford Woods in Indiana
- **10th Grade:** Four-day Outward Bound trip in the Pisgah National Forest of North Carolina
- **11th Grade:** One-night experience at Camp Joy in Ohio
- **12th Grade:** Two-night whitewater rafting and zip-lining adventure at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in North Carolina





Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) are central themes at Francis Parker.

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging work is embedded into our curriculum and classes, as a major goal at Francis Parker is to provide students with a broad worldview and expose them to a myriad of voices, particularly underrepresented voices. The faculty takes time to discuss and document how DEIB manifests in the curriculum and pedagogy within each division and department in order to ensure that we are constantly examining and evolving our practices in this area.

DEIB Student Groups

Our student groups meet regularly to discuss relevant topics, share their own thoughts, invite speakers, and plan events. Francis Parker has multiple DEIB student groups, including:

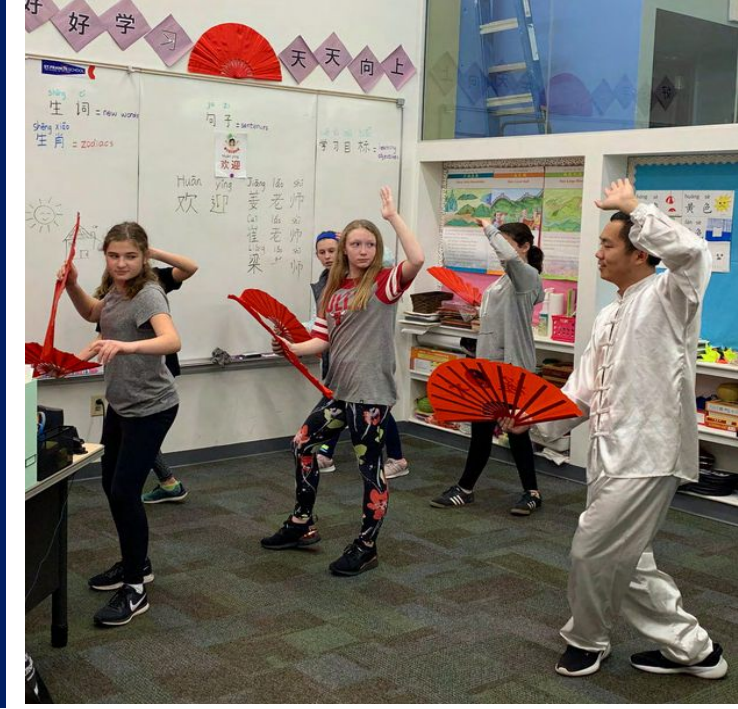
- Multicultural Students Association
- Chinese Club
- Sacred Space Committee -- promotes religious tolerance and social justice
- Black Students Association
- Jewish Students Association

Francis Parker has 20 years of experience teaching Mandarin Chinese; three previous Chinese graduates pre-pandemic; and 20 years of partnership with and support from the Confucius Institute.



Winston Hu '17 胡浩丞

- Alternative Investment Analyst,
- BlackRock Hong Kong
- M.S., Finance, London School of Economics and Political Science
- B.S., Business Administration, University of Southern California



Lucy Lv '16 吕一唯

- M.S., Architecture and Building Technology, MIT
- B.A., Architecture and Math, University of Southern California



Winston's Experience at Francis Parker

"The school emphasizes 'diversity' and encourages students to embrace all different cultural backgrounds and different personalities. We were guided to treat everyone the same. I developed the skills to make friends with people from diverse backgrounds and different appearances. This skill is highly valued and has been helping me a lot during my later study and work.

I learned a lot and developed my critical thinking skills at Francis Parker. The courses here are challenging and thought-provoking. The structure of course selection also encouraged me to think about and plan my curriculum critically.

Working with advisors, every student here can develop our personalized curriculum based on individual preferences and plans for the future.

I also developed very close, longstanding, and valuable relationships with other students, faculty, and my host family.

Overall, I really enjoyed my life at Francis Parker and it became one of the most memorable experiences in my life. I feel so lucky to grow up here with all the lovely students and kind faculty. I am excited to have you join this wonderful school and community and I look forward to sharing with you more about my experience here!"

- Winston Hu '17



Resources for International Students

- Onboarding support:
 - Student Visa
 - Transportation to and from the airport
 - Orientation to the city and school
- Homestay with an American family or a native Chinese-speaking family
- Weekly ESL sessions
- On-campus Chinese Student Advisor, Tianling Li
- Opportunities to engage with local Chinese community, including Chinese language classes and activities



Components of the Application

- Application Form
- Student Application Supplement
- Student Interview (conducted virtually)
- Two Letters of Recommendation (at least one from core courses)
- Awards (if applicable)
- Original Transcript
- Translation of Transcript
- Proof of English Proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo)
- Student Personal Essay/Statement
- Parent Questionnaire
- Parent Interview



International Student Tuition is \$35,000 per year. Additional fees include international student insurance and a host family stipend for housing and meals.



www.francisparkertouisville.org



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