

The Wyvern Report

SUMMER 2025



2025 Graduate Jada Jefferson



Francis Parker
School of Louisville

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Notes from the Head of School



By Alexandra S. Thurstone G'80, '84

On Friday, May 23, the 47th graduating class of Francis Parker School of Louisville crossed the stage at Actors Theatre of Louisville to receive their diplomas. Each graduating class is as unique as the individual students who comprise it, and the Class of 2025 is no exception.

Among them are pilots; KMAC Couture fashion designers and models; varsity athletes, including multi-sport athletes and our first-ever letter winners in Esports; talented visual artists, photographers, filmmakers, and needlepoint and fabric artists; true crime devotees; poets, short story writers, and novella authors; culinary artists; fashion lovers, including enthusiasts of Japanese denim and BAPE; musicians, dancers, singers, actors, and theater directors; STEM scholars and future biologists, mathematicians, and engineers; immigrants and refugees; KYA and KUNA leaders; equestrians; Governor's Cup State competitors; LGBTQ+ advocates; Soviet scholars and Ukraine activists; Thomas the Tank Engine enthusiasts; Governor's Scholars and Governor's School for the Arts attendees; volunteer tutors; animal lovers; chess and poker players; linguists; sports fans; film buffs; pop music and pop culture followers; podcasters; dopamine fasters; aspiring FBI agents; entrepreneurs and future financiers; and world travelers, including two students who are heading to Asia for college. Above all, they are Wyverns for life and 39 completely unique individuals.

At Francis Parker, every student has a voice. They are seen, heard, and affirmed for who they are, which is why we continue the tradition of allowing any senior who wishes to speak at Graduation to do so. This year, several students chose to share their reflections with classmates, families, and faculty.

Nola Melhuish G'21, '25 expressed gratitude to her classmates: "Thank you for a class full of the most well-rounded, creative, and intelligent people I know. I'm lucky to have grown closer to lots of you over these past few months."

Zoë Petiprin G'21, '25 paid tribute to her teachers: "It's easy to love learning when surrounded by mentors who personify intellectuality, curiosity, and care. I step forward, carrying pieces of each of you. Through your collective hand, I now embody a beautiful patchwork tapestry that was intentionally, artistically, and graciously woven because you saw me."

Jude Sleadd G'21, '25 encouraged his peers with these words: "Class of 2025, as we get ready to walk off this stage headfirst into whatever may come next, remember to take not just *what* we learned, but *how* we learned — together. Remember to have the humility to share and the kindness to accept the generosity of others."

Ishai Wall '25 shared a thoughtful reflection: "I don't think any one factor has ever determined anyone's success in life, but this school has certainly been quite the opening gambit."

The sentiments these graduates shared serve as a powerful reminder of what makes our School so special. Their words capture the heart of our mission and the enduring essence of a Francis Parker education. Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2025. Fly, Wyverns!





Francis Parker AP Scholars

Amy Ashby Roma, Siggy Gross, Lillie Hale, Zoë Petiprin, Ishai Wall

Senior Project Honors

Steph Avila	“The Art of Needle & Thread: A Journey Through Fabric Arts”
Sarah Ernst	“Escaping the Cult: Exploring the Developmental Impacts of a Cult Childhood”
Eliza Frazier	“Digital Prayers: Studying Storytelling Through Speculative Fiction and Writing a Sci-Fi Novella”
Jada Jefferson	“Grisly Desires: Developing a True Crime Podcast”
Zoë Petiprin	“I Ought to Be Thy Eve: An Art Exhibition Exploring Identity, Family, and Memory”
Jude Sleadd	“Interrogating the Cinematic Canon: A Comparative Analysis of the AFI Top 100 vs. the BFI Sight & Sound List”

Francis Parker School of Louisville Lifers

Attended Francis Parker School of Louisville continuously from Preschool, Junior Kindergarten, or Kindergarten through 12th grade: Fiona Jones (PS), Jude Sleadd (PS), Eliza Frazier (JK), Jayden Frazier (JK), Quentin Johnson (K), Zoë Petiprin (K), Wyatt Reynolds (K)

Graduating Children of Alumni

Jude Sleadd



Graduation Awards

The Phi Beta Kappa Award

Zoë Petiprin

The Head of School Award

Jude Sleadd

The Thomas H. Pike Award

Amy Ashby Roma, Zoë Petiprin

The Class of '93 Esprit de Corps Award

Sloane Coughlin

Rotary Club Unsung Hero Award

Lillie Hale

Honors Graduates

Erin Adamchik, Amy Ashby Roma, Kawin Bista, Thomas Borges, Sarah Ernst, Eliza Frazier, Jayden Frazier, Siggy Gross, Lillie Hale, Henry Johnson, Nola Melhuish, Sophia Ovechkin, Maxim Peniaz, Zoë Petiprin, Emori Rosenbaum, Abdi Sharif Mohammed, Jude Sleadd, Ishai Wall, Zelda Wheeler

High School Awards Day Ceremony

Junior Book Awards

English	Aisha Abdulbaqi
History	Leda Beale
Math	Bryce Jackson
Science	Ari Rabin
World Language	Della Peron
Fine Arts	Lilly Rounsavall
Senior Departmental Awards	
English (Cia White Prize)	Eliza Frazier
History	Lillie Hale
Math	Jude Sleadd
Science	Maxim Peniaz
World Language	Wyatt Reynolds

Senior National Society of Arts and Letters Awards

Music	Zelda Wheeler
Visual Art	Steph Avila
Drama	Sloane Coughlin
Creative Writing	Fiona Jones
Outstanding Senior in the Creative Arts	Zoë Petiprin
Athletic Awards	
Senior Scholar-Athlete	Ishai Wall
Athletes of the Year	Leda Beale John Henry Brown

High School 2nd Semester Honor Roll

Students who earned all As and Bs

12th Grade

Erin Adamchik, Amy Ashby Roma, Estella Autry, Steph Avila, Kawin Bista, Thomas Borges, Sloane Coughlin, Mustafa Durrani, Sarah Ernst, Eliza Frazier, Jayden Frazier, Siggy Gross, Lillie Hale, Jada Jefferson, Henry Johnson, Fiona Jones, Nola Melhuish, Sophia Ovechkin, Maxim Peniaz, Zoë Petiprin, Wyatt Reynolds, Emori Rosenbaum, Trey Rothschild, Abdi Sharif Mohammed, Jude Sleadd, Ashley Stephens, Ishai Wall, Zelda Wheeler, Zella White

10th Grade

Nyla Adonis, Jack Baldwin, Jasmin Bartlett, Theo Bennett, Felipe Borges, John Henry Brown, Oliver Chaffin, Sophia Ehrler, Madeline English, Khalid Farah, Adam Harshaw, Connor Lin, Maren Loewy, Hawa Muse, Ruby Pirog, Duncan Scalf, Emilie Vandermeer, Abigail Walker, Nevia Wall, Annieya Wickcliffe, Evan Williams, Max Wright

11th Grade

Aisha Abdulbaqi, Bonito Agahire, Leda Beale, Julia Boogers, Isabelle Brewer, Thomas Dewson, Evelyn Faber, Tiago Goetz, Adrian Grady, Elliot Hall, Bryce Jackson, Audrey Kersey, Rowan King, Finn Kitson, Gabriela Perez, Della Peron, Ari Rabin, Lia Rincon, Lilly Rounsavall, Eleanor Sabo, Sydney Shoemaker, Andrew Snyder, Emir Tucakovic, Kymani Turner, Lila Watts, Nicole Zapata

9th Grade

Bilal Abdulbaqi, Tes Bleifer, Booker Claude, Gabbie Grady, Liam Knaebel, Abe Pena, Jasmine Scott, Jack Slattery, Zoe Wall

Class of 2025 Enrollments and Acceptances

Erin Adamchik - University of Cincinnati, Bellarmine University, College of Charleston, Suffolk University, University of Kentucky, University of Massachusetts (Boston)

Amy Ashby Roma - Centre College, Denison University, Loyola University Chicago, University of Louisville

Estella Autry - PJ's College of Cosmetology, Bellarmine University, University of Louisville

Steph Avila - Bellarmine University, Columbia College (Chicago)

Kawin Bista - University of Louisville, Concordia University (Irvine), Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Kentucky

Thomas Borges - Western Michigan University, Eastern Kentucky University, University of Oklahoma

Cameron Bryant - Skilled Trade Apprenticeship

Sloane Coughlin - Butler University, Appalachian State University, Ball State University, Centre College, Earlham College, Elon University, Florida Southern College, Indiana University Indianapolis, Santa Clara University, University of New Hampshire

Will DeLozier - Fordham University (ED)

Luca Dries - Bellarmine University, DePaul University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville

Mustafa Durrani - Bellarmine University, University of Louisville

Sarah Ernst - University of Kentucky, Appalachian State University, Eckerd College, Miami University (Oxford), The University of Tampa

Bella Feitelson - Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University

Eliza Frazier - Virginia Commonwealth University, American University, DePaul University, Elon University, George Mason University, Michigan State University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Seattle University, Syracuse University, Temple University, University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, University of Massachusetts (Amherst)

Jayden Frazier - Fordham University, Bard College, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, St. John's University

Brody Goodpaster - Bellarmine University, Centre College, Hanover College, Transylvania University

Siggy Gross - American University (ED), University of Louisville

Lillie Hale - NYU Shanghai (following gap year in Taiwan), American University, Centre College, Duke Kunshan University, Fordham University, Indiana University (Bloomington), University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University

Erin Jacobs - University of Louisville, Bellarmine University, DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Loyola University Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago

Jada Jefferson - Bellarmine University, Clark Atlanta University, Columbia College (Chicago), Morgan State University, Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville

Henry Johnson - Purdue University, George Washington University, Penn State University (University Park), Santa Clara University, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Cincinnati, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Denver, University of Kentucky, University of Pittsburgh, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Quentin Johnson - Skilled Trade Apprenticeship

Fiona Jones - Western Kentucky University

Nola Melhuish - George Washington University (ED), American University, Indiana University (Bloomington), Miami University (Oxford), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Pittsburgh

Sophia Ovechkin - Berea College, Indiana University (Bloomington), Savannah College of Art and Design, Temple University, University of Cincinnati, University of Louisville

Maxim Peniaz - University of Louisville, Illinois Institute of Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Zoë Petiprin - Occidental College, American University, Bryn Mawr College, University of Kentucky, University of Pittsburgh

(Bold text denotes enrollment)

Wyatt Reynolds - Temple University, Japan Campus, American University, Ball State University, Centre College, George Mason University, Indiana University (Bloomington), Xavier University

Emori Rosenbaum - George Washington University (ED), Bellarmine University, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Sarah Lawrence College, University of Cincinnati, University of Louisville

Trey Rothschild - Butler University, Bellarmine University, Centre College, Earlham College, Indiana University (Bloomington), Indiana University (Southeast), University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University

Abdi Sharif Mohammed - University of Louisville, Bellarmine University, Transylvania University

Jude Sleadd - Brown University (ED), Centre College, University of Kentucky

Ashley Stephens - Florida Institute of Technology, Eckerd College, Florida International University, University of Louisville

Alice Vella - Denison University, Bellarmine University, Centre College, Eckerd College, Hanover College, Loyola University Chicago, Miami University (Oxford), SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Xavier University

Shayal Wakhley - Bellarmine University, Eastern Kentucky University

Ishai Wall - University of Florida, Indiana University (Bloomington), Penn State University (University Park), Purdue University, University of Cincinnati, University of Louisville, University of Miami, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Zelda Wheeler - University of Kentucky, DePaul University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach), Indiana University (Bloomington), Loyola University Chicago, Michigan State University, Northern Kentucky University, Oberlin College, Saint Louis University, University of Cincinnati, University of Louisville, Xavier University

Zella White - Eastern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati, Western Kentucky University

Felix Winn - University of Vermont, Savannah College of Art and Design, Temple University, University of Louisville

8th Grade Celebration of Learning and End-of-Year Awards

The Scholarship Award
Nolan Schmitt

The Frank Q. Cayce Award
Arden Lin

The Edward Y. Mason, Jr. Athletics Award
Jack Gray, Sophie Harshaw, Charlotte Mueller

The Ed Gupton Memorial Drama Award
Lizzie Boardman, Lily Marie Schneider

Francis Parker School of Louisville Goshen Campus Lifers
Attended Francis Parker School of Louisville continuously from Preschool, Junior Kindergarten, or Kindergarten through 8th grade: Lizzie Boardman (PS), Alex Conway (PS), Makenley Hood (PS), Ryken Murphy (PS), Wilson Shoemaker (PS), Kamal Muse (K)

8th Grade Children of Alumni
Sophie Harshaw, Caroline Matly, Katie Matly, Vivian Saltzman

The Cassie Stevens Memorial Award (5th grader)
Emmett Pell





Building Curiosity One Project at a Time

By Bethany Heckel, Director of Advancement
Architect rendering by Lockett & Farley

As part of our ongoing Capital Campaign to elevate and strengthen both campuses, we are thrilled to announce an exciting development on the Goshen Campus: the creation of a new Tinker Lab, made possible by a generous \$100,000 gift from Anne and Mike Hampton, and family.

The new Tinker Lab will be a vibrant, hands-on space where our youngest Wyverns can explore, experiment, and engage in the process of creating and discovering. Created to support design, construction, and collaborative problem-solving, the lab will serve all subject areas in the Lower School. It will support



The Hampton/Wilhem Family

students' natural curiosity and bring our curriculum to life in new and inspiring ways.

"We're so grateful to the Hampton family for this meaningful investment in our students," said Head of School Alexandra Thurstone G'80, '84. "The Tinker Lab will help us elevate our Lower School STEAM curriculum and provide more opportunities for experiential learning to our youngest students. This gift is a wonderful example of how philanthropy makes a transformative and lasting impact on our community."

Anne and Mike have a long history with the School, and many members of their extended family share strong ties as well. Some have served as faculty members, several nieces and nephews are graduates, and their grandchildren are now current students in the Lower School. Deep believers in

Progressive education, Anne and Mike have seen firsthand the impact it has had on their grandchildren and the resulting joy they experience at school each day.

When asked what inspired their generous gift, they shared: "We're delighted to fund the Tinker Lab. We believe all Francis Parker students will benefit from the creativity it fosters, and it will support their continued growth in math and science, helping them become well-rounded individuals."

Design planning is currently underway, and we hope to begin construction over the summer. This project adds momentum to the campaign and demonstrates the powerful role philanthropy plays in bringing our vision for the campuses and our students to life.

To learn more about how you can help our Capital Campaign efforts, contact Director of Advancement Bethany Heckel at 502-795-3890 or bheckel@francisparkertouisville.org.

2024-25 Annual Fund – Together We Thrived!

We extend the deepest and most heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave to the Annual Fund this year. We are thrilled to share with you that we not only met but exceeded our 2024-25 Annual Fund goal!

This incredible achievement is a direct reflection of your generosity, your belief in our mission, and your unwavering support of the students, faculty, staff, and programs that make Francis Parker so exceptional. Your commitment helps us ensure that Francis Parker continues to be a place where curiosity is sparked, character is shaped, and every student is empowered to thrive.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support makes a difference every single day!

Save the Date for Imagine!

Save the date! On **Saturday, February 7, 2026**, we will host our *Imagine!* Art Auction + Scholarship Fundraiser at Mellwood Arts Center. *Imagine!* directly supports the scholarship fund of Francis Parker School of Louisville. Please make plans to join us! More details coming soon.



Francis Parker 2nd Graders Honored with Kentucky Civic Seal

This spring, our 2nd grade students — guided by Lower School language arts and social studies teacher Marilyn Rincon — embarked on an inspiring journey to earn the Kentucky Civic Seal.

This statewide program recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional civic understanding, active participation in democratic processes, and thoughtful reflection on their roles as citizens at the local, state, and national levels.

The Kentucky Civic Seal program challenges students to go above and beyond in exemplifying good citizenship — and these young learners rose to the occasion.

Over several months, the class explored the roles and responsibilities of local government leaders, crafted thoughtful questions for Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg, and were thrilled to receive a personal video response and an invitation to visit with him in person at Metro Hall, which they did later in the spring! To share what they learned, the students created five podcasts about their journey and discoveries.

"When you listen to the podcasts, you can hear just how much dedication and teamwork these young citizens poured into this project," said Marilyn. "It's my hope that their journey inspires all of us to continue supporting civic education in meaningful ways."



Suzanne Gorman



David Beard



Ralph Marshall

Faculty Retirements: The End of an Era

The end of any school year arrives with mixed emotions. We feel proud of our achievements, eager for the break, excitement about summer vacations we will take, and also a little sadness about the goodbyes that must be said — to our seniors, to 8th graders charting a new course, and to others moving on to new chapters.

As the sun sets on the 2024–25 year, we honor the legacies of Suzanne Gorman (Associate Head of School – Downtown Campus), Ralph Marshall (Master History Teacher and former Dean of Faculty), and David Beard (Preschool Teacher), whose combined service spans 70 years. Their dedication speaks not only to their passion for the Francis Parker mission but also to the strength of our school community and the lasting impact it has on all who are part of it.

Suzanne Gorman - 25 Years

Suzanne Gorman has been a driving force at our School for 25 years, shaping nearly every aspect of high school life with extraordinary heart and dedication. From her start as the Admissions & Marketing Director, through a stint as Dean of Students, to her many years as Associate Head of School overseeing the Downtown Campus, she has been at the center of operations these last two and a half decades. Suzanne is a trusted problem solver, sharp-eyed editor, and steady presence. She kept everything running smoothly and played a key role in shepherding the School through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Behind her impressive capabilities, high standards, and tireless work ethic is a passionate advocate for students, a devoted colleague, and a loving friend to all of us. Her contributions have left a lasting imprint on the School and on all who have had the privilege of working with her. Suzanne will be deeply missed, and we send her off with our heartfelt gratitude for the many ways she has enriched our community.

David Beard - 25 Years

David's journey with us began 25 years ago, not as a teacher, but as a parent who was calm, patient, and deeply attuned to his child's experience. It wasn't long before his quiet insight and natural connection with young children led him to the Preschool classroom as a teacher, where he quickly became an essential part of our early childhood program. Over the years, David has guided, nurtured, and inspired hundreds of students with a thoughtful, child-centered approach that emphasizes curiosity, independence, and wonder. Long before it was common, he envisioned and brought to life our natural playground, reflecting his deep belief in outdoor exploration and meaningful, unhurried learning. David has been more than a teacher — he has been a mentor, a collaborator, and a steady, compassionate presence. His legacy is woven into the fabric of our school, and we are profoundly grateful for the care and wisdom he has shared with all of us.

Ralph Marshall - 20 Years

Ralph Marshall joined the School in 2005 as a soccer coach. In this role, he brought a passion for the sport and years of his own experiences playing at the college level and abroad. A year later, Ralph joined the High School faculty as a history teacher. With his undergraduate degree in East Asian Studies

and a Ph.D. in Religion, he added new and extraordinary depths to the history curriculum, including the introduction of new electives such as *Women in Buddhism*, *Critiques of Capitalism*, and *History of Climate Change*. His enthusiasm for athletics later expanded to coaching tennis and even bowling. Over his 19 years on the faculty, Ralph also served twice as Dean of Faculty and was a member of the Leadership Team, offering wise and balanced guidance through many challenges. His many roles reflect his deep belief in the mission of the School. We are profoundly grateful for all Ralph has contributed to our community, and we will miss his presence, leadership, and friendship.

The contributions of these three individuals are immeasurable, as is the gratitude we feel for their time, service, and friendship. For now, we simply say “thank you.” Thank you for the unwavering dedication, loyalty, love, and care you have given to our school and, most especially, to the students. You will be greatly missed, and we wish each of you all the joy and fulfillment your hearts can imagine in the next chapter of your journey.

To honor one or more of these individuals for their outstanding service, please consider a gift to the Annual Fund.

Kentucky Civic Seal continued

At the project's conclusion, the students were honored with certificates from the Kentucky Civic Education Coalition, the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies, and the Office of Secretary of State Michael G. Adams for completing the Kentucky Civic Seal program.

“I am so proud of our students for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout this project,” Marilyn added. “They’ve gained knowledge, confidence, and a deeper connection to our community — what an accomplishment!”



Take a Listen!

Scan the QR code to hear our 2nd graders talk local government, Metro Hall, and student council!



Give in Honor!

Scan the QR code to give in honor of Suzanne, David, and Ralph and their years of service!



“My passion is creating schools where students and teachers thrive – where learning is joyful, curiosity is ignited, and every student is known and supported.”

- Gabe Grabarek, Associate Head of School - High School

Beyond the classroom, Gabe has enriched school communities by coaching basketball and weightlifting, leading student travel experiences abroad, directing summer programs, and serving as a dorm leader at a boarding school. His ability to build relationships with students, faculty, and families makes him a natural fit for this role in leading our High School forward.

“My passion is creating schools where students and teachers thrive – where learning is joyful, curiosity is ignited, and every student is known and supported,” Gabe said. “Francis Parker’s commitment to intellectual exploration, individuality, and justice deeply resonates with me, and I am eager to become part of this dynamic and caring community.”

We will be welcoming to Louisville Gabe, his wife Kristie, and their family this summer. Gabe’s son, Jacoby Edgar, will be a junior at Gonzaga University. Kristie’s daughter, Keely Parker, just graduated from high school and is planning to attend the University of Louisville, and her son, Rhys Parker, will be joining Francis Parker as a 10th grader.

“Louisville is the hometown of one of my lifelong idols, Muhammad Ali,” Gabe noted. “And in his hometown and final resting place, it is all the more imperative to continue his work regarding civil rights and fundamental humanity. Francis Parker has placed DEIB work at the center of what they do. This courageous work is something I want to be a part of, and I have every intention of keeping the momentum going that Francis Parker has already created.

“The magic of Francis Parker happens both in and out of the classroom, so it is with excitement and determination that I will preserve, protect, and foster the sanctity of a Francis Parker education. There is already such a strong administrative team in place, both at the Goshen and Downtown Campuses, that I’m looking forward to joining and working with for years to come.”

Meet Dr. Gabe Grabarek, New Associate Head of School – High School

After a comprehensive national search, we are thrilled to announce that Dr. Gabe Grabarek will join Francis Parker School of Louisville as our new Associate Head of School – High School.

Gabe, known as Dr. G to students, brings over two decades of experience in Independent Schools, a deep passion for student-centered learning, and a commitment to fostering intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning – all of which align beautifully with our mission and core values.

He earned his B.A. in Classics from Indiana University before earning an M.A. in Greek and Latin at Florida State University and a Ph.D. in Classical Civilization from Indiana University. Throughout his 23-year career in education, he has been a dedicated educator and leader, serving in a variety of roles that reflect his holistic approach to education.

Gabe’s leadership experience includes serving as Associate Head of School for Academics at Thomas Jefferson School (MO) and, most recently, as Head of Upper and Middle School at Wayne County Day School (NC), where he oversaw all aspects of academic and student life, including curriculum development, faculty support, admissions, and student well-being.



Student Profile: Zoë Petiprin G’21, ’25

What brought you to Francis Parker? When did you start?

Funnily enough, I would never have attended Francis Parker if it weren’t for my second-oldest brother, Ryan. He was going into 8th grade, and I into Kindergarten. Obviously, not wanting to miss out on a *whole day* with my rockstar older brother, I accompanied him on his shadow day at the School. Although I don’t recall what happened during my time in the Kindergarten classroom, when I saw my mom again, I was all smiles. A few days later, the Admissions Director offered an invitation to both Ryan and me to become Wyverns. As they say, the rest is history.

What are some of your favorite Francis Parker memories?

Choosing *favorite* moments doesn’t feel right since virtually every moment (the mundane included!) of my Francis Parker experience proves special in its own regard. That being said,

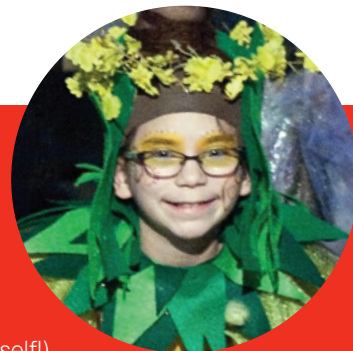
two magical memories at Francis Parker occurred in 2nd and 9th grade. As a project in our 2nd grade language arts class, the entire travel group I was a part of (2C, better known as “too cool for school”) collaboratively wrote and illustrated two books that were later printed. Our debut novella, *Dutch the Turkey Who Thought He Was a Turtle*, proved to be a true bildungsroman that explored themes of identity, marginalization, and the transformative power of support systems that ultimately lead to self-acceptance. Well, that was the goal. Although our scholarly brilliance didn’t quite land, the production and manufacturing of the novella cultivated collaborative creativity that beautifully laid the foundation for plot development and literary analysis.

At the High School, a moment I doubt I’ll ever forget occurred in room 102: 9th grade physics with Dr. B. My lab partner and I had successfully positioned a system of weights and strings to remain in equilibrium by only planning with math. When I pulled the pin out and saw that the system didn’t move, I felt superhuman. Capable.

The supportive environment at both of Francis Parker’s campuses has given me the opportunity to explore and stumble into parts of myself, ultimately playing a formative role in the shaping of identity. Now that’s magic.

Now that you’ve graduated from Francis Parker, what’s next?

Right now, the plan is to drive across the country with my oldest brother, Dylan, in August to head to my next home away from home: Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. The dream is to continue dancing and acting (maybe even dabble in screenwriting) while traversing through the delightful world of mathematics. It is also very possible that I will discover another insatiable passion and pursue none of what I just listed. Whatever I do, I know I will never stop learning. And, like nearly every incoming first-year college student, I am excited to meet more amazing humans and hear their stories.



Zoë in her Middle School play, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

Fun Facts About Zoë

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Grade: Class of 2025 graduate

Favorite Subject(s): Literature and mathematics

Favorite Book(s): *Endless Life* by Lawrence Ferlinghetti or *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra

Favorite Movie: *Broadcast News*, directed by James L. Brooks

Hobbies: Dance, theater, reading, and discovering words in the dictionary (when I want to treat myself!)

Most Influential Teachers: Brandon Doble, Angela Katz, Brett Paice, Benjamin Studevent, and Holden Wells. I step forward carrying pieces of every teacher who has taught me since Kindergarten, and I am forever grateful to the outstanding Francis Parker faculty and staff.



Sara in her junior year at Francis Parker

In her remarks at commencement, Sara encouraged students to carry forward the Francis Parker spirit: "Spread the joy, kindness, and curiosity... Pursue your dreams with the preparation that Francis Parker has given you."

We are deeply grateful for Sara's loyal leadership and lasting impact. **Please join us in congratulating her as the 2025 Alum of the Year.**

Alum of the Year: Sara Shaughnessy G'96, '00

Each year at commencement, we honor an alum whose dedication, service, and support have left a lasting mark on our community. This year, we are proud to recognize Sara Shaughnessy G'96, '00 as the 2025 Francis Parker Alum of the Year.

After graduating from Francis Parker, Sara earned a degree in Political Science from Vanderbilt and an MBA in Brand Management and Entrepreneurship from DePaul University. She returned to Louisville to join Brown-Forman, where she held key roles in brand management. Her deep connection to the School is reflected in her decision to enroll her children, George and Andrew, at our Goshen Campus.

Since joining the Board of Trustees in 2022, Sara has served with passion and purpose, making major contributions to both the Development and Alumni Committees. She also stepped up to chair the School's gala, *Imagine!*, and has led for three consecutive years. *Imagine! 2025* was one of the most successful events to date, and she has agreed to chair again in 2026. Her leadership combines creativity and tenacity. From overseeing big-picture strategy to managing hands-on event logistics, Sara contributes to all aspects of any project she undertakes.

Sara now begins a new chapter of service as Secretary of the Board and member of the Executive Committee. Her generous support of the Annual Fund further underscores her belief in the School's mission and future.

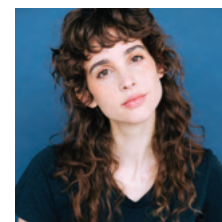
Alumni Updates



Paige Collier Miller G'89, '93, and her 17-year old daughter, XiuXiu Collier, are returning to Louisville after 22 years living out west. Having experienced Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado, Paige is excited to return home and rebuild her life here.



Mary Grissom '97 has been named the new executive director of the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, where she will lead efforts to restore, enhance, and protect Louisville's Olmsted-designed parks and parkways. Recently, she helped launch Invest Louisville, an impact investment initiative at the Community Foundation of Louisville aimed at boosting local philanthropic support. Her daughter, Ella, will join us for 8th grade this year.



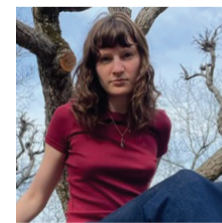
Samantha Westervelt '06 starred in, co-wrote, and co-produced her debut feature film, *Sour Party*, which premiered in Louisville at Baxter Avenue Theatre on February 28, 2025. The absurd comedy, featuring cameos from Corey Feldman and Reggie Watts, follows two broke besties scrambling to find \$150 for a baby shower gift.



Allysón Mejores '15 founded Mejores Branding Design LLC, a luxury branding agency for women entrepreneurs. She has also led empowering masterclasses and coached dozens of powerful women toward liberation through branding. Allysón continues to inspire others to take transformational action, just as she did in high school. Beyond her career, she just celebrated her 8th wedding anniversary.



Ben Cornett '20 studied architecture at Tulane University and was recently named one of *Metropolis* magazine's Future 100 – an honor recognizing the top graduating architecture and interior design students in North America this year.



Blake Millwood '22 celebrated the publication of four poems in the 2024 issue of the literary journal *AGON*. Blake, who will finish her senior year at Bard College this fall, is studying U.S. intervention in the Global South and writing her senior project on the U.S. role in the Guatemalan Genocide under Rios Montt. This summer, she is interning with Physicians for Human Rights in the Human Rights Archive housed at Columbia University. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Latin American history.



Jane McLeroy G'19, '23 is a rising junior at Centre College, double majoring in Anthropology/Sociology and Religion with a Music minor. This summer, she is interning with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, assisting with research related to Medicaid access.



Jack Scantland G'20, '24, in his first year at Dickinson College, won first place in the Public Speaking Contest with a powerful speech on linguistic diversity. He reflected on how his regional dialect shaped his identity and academic experience, and highlighted code-meshing (the blending of dialects and languages in writing) as a way to preserve authenticity and voice.

Our Alumni Reunion & Homecoming Weekend is September 19-20!

Alumni Open House

Friday, September 19 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Goshen Campus
Join our admissions team with your future Wyvern or take a trip down memory lane and tour our Goshen Campus!

Alumni Tailgate

Friday, September 19 | 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Goshen Campus
Cheer on the Wyverns with fellow alums! Bring the family, wear school colors, catch the athletic games, and stop by the alumni tent for freebies and a Wyvern Grill voucher.

Alumni Reunion Dinner

Saturday, September 20 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | High School
The classes of 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2015 will celebrate milestone reunions with a casual evening of tours, a cocktail reception, and dinner at the High School. Want to help plan? Contact Alumni Relations Coordinator Melanie Vaughan at mvaughan@francisparkeirlouisville.org.



Save Your Spot?

RSVP to all of our Alumni Reunion & Homecoming Weekend events now by scanning the QR code.

Wyvern Babies



Calley Heffer '04 and wife, Lillian, welcomed their beautiful daughter, Maya Reed Mehran, on December 30, 2023. Maya is a happy, funny, and smart kid, and the family currently lives in the New York area.



Jillian Morrison Southworth G'13, '17 and **Edward 'Brownie' Southworth '17** celebrated the birth of their son, Edward Brown Southworth, VI on April 28, 2025 (the 9th anniversary of his parents' first date!).



Francis Parker

School of Louisville

233 W. Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202

francisparkerylouisville.org

Francis Parker Fall Open Houses!

Help us spread the word! Our Fall Open Houses are scheduled for **Wednesday, November 5 (High School)** and **Sunday, November 9 (Preschool - 8th grade)**.

Why wait? Do you or someone you know want to experience Francis Parker today? To learn about our admissions process, view a list of upcoming key dates, or schedule a personal tour, scan the QR code below or reach out to our admissions team at admissions@francisparkerylouisville.org.



Learn More!

Your journey to become a Wyvern begins here.



Preschool Kentucky Derby Races '25