

PARK ACADEMY

Ignite. Empower. Imagine.

Family Handbook

2026-2027



Park Academy provides an inclusive community where evidence-based practices empower students with dyslexia and related learning differences to reach their highest academic and personal potential.

Board of Directors

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FACULTY & STAFF DIRECTORY

Administration		
Craig Lowery, Ed.D. Executive Director clowery@parkacademy.org 503.594.8800	Cliff Poage Head of School cpoage@parkacademy.org 503.594.8778	Elizabeth Dove Development Director edove@parkacademy.org 503.594.8780
Megan Holcomb Dean of Academics mholcomb@parkacademy.org 503.594.8776	Helena Martyn Dean of Students hmartyn@parkacademy.org 503.594.8773	Lucy Davis Admissions & Communications Coordinator ldavis@parkacademy.org 503.594.8780
	Katey Flack Administrative Support kflack@parkacademy.org 503.594.8800	

Faculty		
Christine Allen callen@parkacademy.org Reading	Jeff Barnes jbarnes@parkacademy.org Social Studies	Patrick Brady pbrady@parkacademy.org PE
Melissa Carroll mcarroll@parkacademy.org Music	Stacy DeBuhr sdebuhr@parkacademy.org Reading	Chris Devers cdevers@parkacademy.org English/Lang. Arts
Sara Erickson serickson@parkacademy.org Reading	Ana Erikson aerikson@parkacademy.org Theater	Gena Fields gfields@parkacademy.org Art
Eric Gundel egundel@parkacademy.org Math	Muaz Hijazin mhijazin@parkacademy.org Science	Dan Kimbro dkimbro@parkacademy.org Lang. Arts
Christie Lee christielee@parkacademy.org Reading	Laura Meeuwsen lmeeuwsen@parkacademy.org Grade 3 & Reading	Lizzie Najera enajera@parkacademy.org Reading
Katharine Phelps kphelps@parkacademy.org Grade 4 & Reading	Deirdre Plaster dplaster@parkacademy.org Mathematics	Jeni Sellers jsellers@parkacademy.org Reading
Emily Smith esmith@parkacademy.org Reading	Patricia Voelker pvoelker@parkacademy.org MS Math	

KEY ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

Need	Contact	Phone	e-mail
Reporting Attendance or Illness	Katey Flack	503-594-8800	kflack@parkacademy.org
Invoicing, Tuition & Payments	Katey Flack	503-594-8800	kflack@parkacademy.org
Admission, Re-enrollment & Financial Aid	Lucy Davis	503-594-8780	ldavis@parkacademy.org
School Records	Lucy Davis	503-594-8780	ldavis@parkacademy.org
Student Technology Issues	TBD	503-594-8800	techmanager@parkacademy.org
Student Scheduling	Megan Holcomb	503-594-8776	mholcomb@parkacademy.org
Student Conduct, Counseling & Support	Helena Martyn	503-594-8773	hmartyn@parkacademy.org
8th Grade Transition	Helena Martyn	503-594-8773	hmartyn@parkacademy.org
Curriculum, Literacy & Assessment	Megan Holcomb	503-594-8776	mholcomb@parkacademy.org
Special Education (IEP/504)	Helena Martyn	503-594-8773	hmartyn@parkacademy.org
Fundraising, Gifts & Donations	Liz Dove	503-594-8780	edove@parkacademy.org
School Policy and Procedure	Cliff Poage	503-594-8778	cpoage@parkacademy.org
Park Center Tutoring	Emily Smith	503-594-1029	esmith@parkacademy.org

PARK ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2026-2027

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

24-28 Staff Preservice Days
27 Welcome Back Social

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

07 Labor Day (No School)
01 First Day of School
14 Picture Day
16 Back to School Night

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

21-23 Parent-Teacher Conferences
26 Staff Inservice Day (No School)

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

11 Veterans Day (No School)
25-27 Thanksgiving Break (No School)
30 Staff Inservice Day (No School)

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

21-31 Winter Break (Campus Closed)

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

01 Winter Break (Campus Closed)
04 School Resumes
18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School)
22 Last day of Semester 1
25 Grading Day (No School)
29 Priority Application Window Closes
29 Re-Enrollment Contracts / Financial Aid Due

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

15 Presidents' Day (No School)
22 Staff Inservice Day (No School)

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

22-26 Spring Break (Campus Closed)
29 Staff Inservice Day (No School)

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

21-23 Parent-Teacher Conferences
26 Staff Inservice Day (No School)

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

31 Memorial Day (No School)

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

10 8th Grade Promotion
11 Last Day of School
14-15 Teacher Inservice Days
18 Juneteenth Obsvs. (Campus Closed)

July 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

05 Independence Day Obs (Campus Closed)

	First & Last Days of School
	Non-Student Day
	School Activity / Event

A WORD ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

This Family Handbook contains information about the school policies and practices. We expect students and parent(s)/guardian(s) to read this handbook carefully as it is a valuable reference for understanding both the school and your role as a member of the school community. The policies outlined in this Family Handbook should be regarded as management guidelines only. The school reserves the right to make changes to the handbook and/or policies which involve the school and its students as needed in order to conduct its work in a manner that is beneficial to the school culture, student population, and safety. This Family Handbook supersedes and replaces any and all prior handbooks and any inconsistent verbal or written policy statements.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Park Academy makes a concerted effort to communicate with parents clearly and efficiently. We offer a variety of ways for parents to communicate with us as well.

School staff are available between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. After hours, please leave a voicemail and your call will be answered the following day. You may contact teachers via phone or email. Most of our teachers prefer email communication and check them regularly. Emails will be read and responded to as teachers are able outside of classroom instructional time.

Successful Parent-Teacher Communication

It is important that school staff and parents communicate openly and honestly to help our students be successful. It is suggested that parents utilize email to contact teachers about routine information and concerns. However, a phone call, zoom meeting, or face-to-face discussion is better for more sensitive or serious concerns. In the event that you have a concern about your child's progress or other school-related issue, we recommend that you follow these steps:

- Contact your child's teacher for a broader understanding of the situation.
- Communicate the information you have received, if any, to the teacher.
- Ask the teacher for clarifying information.
- Work as a team to brainstorm solutions.
- Work with your child to navigate future situations if this is your concern.

In the event that you feel you cannot resolve a concern, please contact the Head of School to help in resolving the situation. We are always willing to meet with you to discuss your child's social, emotional, physical, and academic well-being.

Contacting Students during the School Day

Student cell phones and other personal technology are expected to be left at home or turned off and put away during the school day. If you need to contact your child, please call the front office and we will call your child from class immediately.

Website

Our school website (www.parkacademy.org) provides calendar information, online forms, and general information.

School Newsletter

Each week, our school newsletter, A Note from Parker, is e-mailed out to all of our families.

Back to School Night

Early in the school year, Park Academy hosts Back-to-School Night to give our families an opportunity to meet our faculty and staff, tour our facility, and learn about curriculum and instructional approaches. This is a parents-only evening and is important that all families attend.

Parent Conferences

Twice a year, we meet with each family in the school to communicate progress and discuss supports and services. We do our best to communicate openly and regularly with families so that no new information is being presented at the conferences. Rather, it is a time for families to ask questions, celebrate successes, and see what their students are working on.

Student Information System

Park Academy uses a student information system called Alma where families are able to view student attendance and grades, update contact information, and access documents such as report cards and permission slips. To log in, go to parkacademy.getalma.com. If you need help with registration or log-in information, please contact the Dean of Academics at 503.594.8776.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Inclusion and Diversity Commitment

Park Academy was founded on the principle of inclusion and equity, welcoming those who have struggled to find success in traditional learning environments. We are dedicated to building a community that supports all students who learn differently because dyslexia and language-based learning differences do not discriminate.

We recognize that our students' identities are comprised of more than just these learning differences. They come from a variety of cultural, racial, religious, and ethnic backgrounds, family structures, experiences and communities that influence their day-to-day lives.

Our community is represented by different races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, ages, languages, abilities, economic status, and the neurodiversity of its members. As we embrace our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we aspire to build a community that best serves students, families, faculty, and staff.

At Park Academy we believe that every student should feel safe, known, heard, understood, and

valued. We are committed to community-wide diversity and inclusion because students learn best in an atmosphere where multiple perspectives are welcomed.

In order to expand our mission, we are committed to extending our services to historically marginalized communities and providing access to students and families with limited financial means. We invite donors, partners, and the broader community to join us as we create inclusive classrooms, culturally accessible curriculum, and greater access.

Our board, faculty and staff embrace and understand this journey of making all feel welcomed and included at Park Academy.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Park Academy does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, recruitment and termination of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, school admissions, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. Park Academy is an equal opportunity employer.

Gender Inclusivity

Civil rights laws prohibit discrimination and discriminatory harassment on the basis of gender expression and gender identity in schools. Schools have a responsibility to provide a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all students, including transgender and gender-expansive students. Bullying or harassment that targets a student based on their gender identity or gender expression is discriminatory harassment.

Safe Schools Policy

Park Academy is committed to providing an environment that is conducive to learning and where all individuals are safe. All students are required to act in a manner that is respectful of others and does not threaten the emotional or physical safety of another student or interfere with the learning environment.

Although it is impossible to anticipate all behaviors that might be deemed unacceptable, the following are examples of behaviors that will not be allowed at Park Academy. This is not an exclusive list.

- Possession of any weapon. A weapon may be defined as any device which may be used to cause injury or death, including but not limited to guns; air guns; BB guns; explosives; knives; swords; metal knuckles; straight razors; poison; or noxious, irritating, incendiary, or poisonous gasses.
- Threats of violence. This includes direct and implied threats to engage in acts that may cause injury to another member of the school community whether made seriously or in jest.
- Physical Injury. This includes intentional acts of violence that cause injury to another member of the school community which may include kicking, pushing, hitting, body slamming, or throwing objects at another person.

- Incendiary devices. Students may not have any device or product that creates an open flame, including but not limited to matches, lighters, candles or incense.
- Bullying. This includes any behavior that is prohibited by our harassment policy (see below).
- Hazing. Students may not engage in acts of initiation of any kind.

Harassment Prevention Policies

Definitions

Unlawful discrimination refers to the denial of equal employment or educational opportunities based upon an individual's age, gender, race, color, physical or mental disability, religion, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Park Academy is also committed to providing accommodations requested or required based on any physical or mental disability as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Harassment refers to unwelcome conduct or behavior that is personally offensive or threatening and that has the effect of impairing morale or a student's emotional well-being, interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in an extra-curricular activity, or which has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

If a student believes that s/he is being harassed at school, they should immediately report the harassment to a staff or faculty member.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination based on sex. More specifically, it is unwelcomed sexual overtures in school when 1) your education depends on your putting up with or giving in to the overtures, or 2) the sexual overtures make a hostile environment. Sexual harassment may include any unwelcome verbal, written, or physical conduct that is directed at or related to a person's gender and that interferes with a person's learning or social environment. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Sexual gossip or personal comments of a sexual nature;
- Sexually suggestive or foul language;
- Sexual or lewd jokes;
- Whistling, leering, catcalling, or making other suggestive or insulting gestures or remarks;
- Spreading rumors or lies of a sexual nature about someone;
- Obscene or sexually suggestive graffiti;
- Displaying or transmitting pictures, emails, texts, items, or pictures that are degrading to anyone due to their sex, are sexually offensive, or pornographic;
- Offensive or unwelcome sexual flirtation or advances;
- Offensive or unwelcome touching, pinching, grabbing, kissing, or hugging; • Restraining someone's movement in a sexual way;
- Demanding sexual favors or forcing sexual activity;
- Stalking;
- Physical assault, including rape or any coerced or non-consensual sexual relations.

Students who engage in sexual harassment as described above will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion from school.

Racial, Ethnicity, and National Origin Harassment

This type of harassment is done on the basis of a person's ethnicity, race, or nation of origin. It includes but is not limited to racial slurs, the use of racial stereotypes; derogatory comments or conduct directed at a student's manner of speaking, national customs, surname, ethnic characteristics, or language.

Religious Harassment

This includes harassment based on a person's religion or creed and includes but is not limited to religious slurs, use of religious stereotypes, comments or conduct directed at an individual's religion, religious traditions, religious practices, religious symbols, or religious clothing.

Sexual Orientation Harassment

This includes harassment based on a person's sexual orientation and includes but is not limited to name calling, using nicknames emphasizing sexual stereotypes, imitating physical characteristics or mannerisms associated with a person's sexual orientation, bullying, or other social isolation.

Disability Harassment

This is based on a person's physical and/or mental disability and includes but is not limited to name calling, making derogatory references to the disabling condition, imitating manners of speech and/or movement associated with the disability, or interfering with access to or use of necessary adaptive equipment or aides.

Protection Against Retaliation

Retaliation is a very serious violation of the safety policies. Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports discrimination or harassment, provides information during an investigation, or has witnessed and/or has reliable information about these behaviors. Park Academy does not tolerate any form of retaliatory behavior. If you (or someone you know) is the victim of retaliation, you should immediately inform the Dean of Students or the Head of School. Students who engage in retaliatory behaviors will be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension and expulsion from the school.

Bullying Prevention

At Park Academy, we teach children age-appropriate definitions of bullying. Behavior becomes bullying when it is targeted, repetitive, and intentional. Bullying can be both subtle and obvious. From time to time, most children will experiment with some of the following behaviors:

- Spreading negative rumors about others
- Keeping certain people out of a "group"
- Making fun of the way someone looks, learns, speaks, or acts
- Teasing people in a mean way
- Making negative comments on race or gender
- Getting certain people to "gang up" on others
- Threats

- Punching, shoving, or hurting people physically

Cyber bullying is when children bully each other using the Internet, cell phones, or other cyber technology. This can include:

- Sending inappropriate or negative text, email, or instant messages
- Posting hurtful pictures or messages about others in blogs, social media or on websites
- Using someone else's username for any purpose, including to spread rumors or lies

Bullying incidents tend to involve three parties: bullies, victims, and bystanders. At Park Academy, we teach children to recognize these roles and to brainstorm strategies they can use when they find themselves in a bullying situation. Any student who feels they are being bullied should immediately report it to a staff or faculty member. (Adapted from the US Department of Health and Human Services.)

School Complaint Procedure

If Park Academy receives a complaint regarding harassment, unlawful discrimination or retaliation or has a reasonable basis to believe it has occurred, the schools standard practice is to promptly investigate to determine what occurred and then take the appropriate steps to resolve the situation. Even if a student chooses to not formally file a complaint, Park Academy may still take action if it learns of verifiable harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.

The specific steps in the investigation will be dependent upon the nature of the allegations, the age of the student or students involved, and other factors. Students are expected to fully cooperate in any investigation conducted by school administration, including turning over notebooks, backpacks, or electronic devices in the event there are images or evidence that could be a violation of Oregon's criminal statutes.

If a student refuses to participate or cooperate in an investigation for whatever reason, the school reserves the right to take action, including moving forward with an investigation with a student statement, asking the student to remain off campus during the investigation, or asking the student to withdraw. Park Academy's obligation to report a crime (such as a sex crime or other abuse subject to mandatory child abuse reporting laws) does not end if the student withdraws.

Complaints will be maintained in confidence to the extent possible considering the school's obligation to take appropriate responsive action; however, the school cannot guarantee total confidentiality to anyone involved in the investigation.

In communicating the outcomes of an investigation, Park Academy is required to maintain the confidentiality of all students on campus.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The purpose of discipline is to help change behavior; it is not to punish a student. Keeping our students' unique learning and behavioral needs in mind, we have developed a system of discipline that focuses on recognizing inappropriate behavior, taking responsibility for actions, and making restitution when necessary or appropriate.

Most behavioral issues are handled effectively at the classroom level. In the event that a behavior is repetitive or escalates beyond a minor infraction, a student may be referred to the counselor or an

administrator for intervention. This may involve counseling about the behavior, consequences such as the loss of privileges, parent contact, behavior contract, or other appropriate consequences.

If a student is involved in a more serious incident involving bullying or harassment, fighting or physical conflict, substance possession or use, possession or use of a weapon, theft, or vandalism, he/she may be subject to suspension or expulsion depending upon the severity of the behavior and other factors. During the investigation of more serious incidents, a student may be withheld from the classroom or other school settings until the investigation is complete or a plan for safe participation is in place.

Suspension

Suspension, like all forms of classroom exclusion, should be used when other means of correction fail to bring about the expected behavior.

1. On the same day of the occurrence, the parents will be contacted to pick up their student from school within two hours.
2. A conference will be arranged with the parents, the student, teachers (when appropriate) and an administrator prior to return.
3. A discussion of the nature of the offense(s) will be used to determine the length and type of discipline to be administered during the suspension period.
4. As a result of the parent conference, the administrator may or may not require that a contract be signed by all parties, (parent, student, school representative) that indicates future occurrences of disciplinary problems may lead to additional or escalating consequences.
5. A summary of the record from all meetings regarding the suspension may be made for the parents if a written request is made within five days of the last day of suspension.

Expulsion

If a student engages in a serious infraction such as those listed above and/or the frequency and consistency of behavioral concerns is deemed to be too impactful on the school environment, expulsion may be considered.

The Head of School shall schedule a parent meeting to inform them that expulsion is being considered. (See section regarding Suspension Policy).

1. After, and only after, a parent conference, the final decision regarding expulsion will be made.
2. Final decisions regarding expulsion are the sole responsibility of the Head of School of Park Academy.
3. A summary of the records from all meetings regarding these actions will be made for the parents and if a formal request is made in writing within five days after the final decision has been made.

CHILD ABUSE POLICY

Oregon law defines mandatory reporters as those people required by law to report child abuse. All Oregon teachers are mandatory reporters. Park Academy follows all of Oregon's laws regarding prevention, identification, and mandatory reporting of child abuse and sexual misconduct by employees (see ORS Chapter 419B and ORS Chapter 339). These laws require that any employee having reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse, a person has abused a child, or a

school employee has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student, must report or cause a report to be made to the appropriate authorities.

The purpose of the Park Academy Child Abuse Policy is to ensure the safety of our students. This policy will define mandatory reporters and describe the reporting process.

Oregon's child abuse mandatory reporting laws define six categories of reportable abuse.

- Physical Abuse: Deliberate, non-accidental physical injury.
- Psychological Abuse (mental injury): Extreme and/or repeated conduct which is isolating, frightening, intimidating, and undermining self-worth.
- Sexual Abuse: Sexual contact/involvement between a child or teen younger than 18 years and an adult with has greater knowledge, authority, power, and resources.
- Physical neglect: Extreme and/or repeated failure on the part of the caretaker to meet the child's physical needs, to such a degree that a child's health and safety are endangered, including the need for adequate supervision.
- Threat of harm: Subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.
- Child selling: Buying, selling or trading for legal or physical custody of a child.

All Park Academy employees are mandatory reporters and are required by law to report suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct related to a Park Academy student. As such, any school employee who suspects any abuse of any kind must report it to the Head of School. The Head of School will assist the reporting employee to properly document the report and submit it to the Oregon Department of Human Services (Child Protective Services). The Head of School will be notified of all reports made.

Due to reporting requirements, a member of the faculty or staff is not permitted to maintain total confidentiality to a student (or parent) who informs him/her of a concern of sexual assault or sexual misconduct if the concern leads the employee to believe s/he has a duty to report the information. Training on the prevention and identification of abuse and sexual conduct and on the legal obligations of school employees is provided for all Park Academy school personnel. Separate training is also available for parents and/or guardians of Park Academy students, and the students themselves (in an age appropriate manner).

If you, as a student, believe you have been abused by anyone in the Park Academy community or otherwise, please seek out any Park Academy adult whom you trust (teacher, counselor, the Head of School, etc.) immediately, so that person may ensure your safety. Park Academy will not discipline a student for initiating a report in good faith about suspected abuse or sexual misconduct by a school employee or suspected abuse by a student. Park Academy will notify the person who initiated the report about actions taken by the school based on the report. In the event that the person being accused is the Head of School, that report should be made to the Executive Director. Alternatively, the report may be made directly to the Board Chair.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency or critical incident, Park Academy uses The Standard Response Protocol for all safety and emergency response procedures. Weather events, fire, accidents, intruders and other threats to student safety are scenarios planned for and trained by students, faculty and school administration. The SRP was created by the I Love U Guys Foundation and is widely used by public and independent schools across the nation. For more information and detailed procedures, the

[SRP Information Sheet](#) is available to download.

Evacuation and Reunification

In case of an emergency requiring the evacuation of the school building, Park Academy is responsible for reuniting students and families. If a reunification is necessary, parents and guardians will be notified by broadcast phone or text messaging to distribute information on what has occurred, where to report, and what to bring. Parents and guardians will be required to present valid ID to pick up their student(s). Do not go to the school to pick up your child unless you have been given instructions to do so. Park Academy's reunification location is: The United Methodist Church of Lake Oswego at 1855 South Shore Blvd.

ACADEMICS

Curriculum

The curriculum at Park Academy is based on Common Core Standards as adopted by the Oregon State Department of Education. All students are exposed to a core curriculum aligned with these standards using teaching methodologies and groupings appropriate for their unique learning needs. Students are enrolled in classes by grade level and/or academic need to ensure exposure to grade-level curriculum, but also receive specialized instruction in reading and math based on their current levels of performance and individual needs. All students receive daily intensive small-group reading intervention using the Orton-Gillingham method.

In grades 3-4, students have a robust daily schedule including core classes in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science/Social Studies, and daily PE/Wellness, as well as a weekly combination of Art, Music, and Theater. Students also receive an Academic Support class that includes Social-Emotional Learning lessons, support for organization and executive functioning skills and additional time to complete unfinished work from core classes.

In grades 5-6, students continue with daily core classes in Reading, Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science, and also rotate through a sequence of elective courses designed to introduce them to additional courses available as electives later in Middle School. In addition to Art and Theater, STEM/Robotics, and Rock Band classes are introduced. Students continue to receive daily PE/Wellness as well as Academic Support 3 days per week.

In grades 7-8, students have daily core classes in Reading, Language Arts and Math. Science and Social Studies expand to year-long courses, and students continue to receive Academic Support 3 days per week. In 7-8th grade students can now select elective classes based on their interests and availability. Students can choose from elective classes such as Team Sports, Art, Rock Band, Podcasting, Gardening, Fitness & Strength Training, STEM/Robotics, Videography, or Yearbook, (this list represents commonly offered courses, and is not exclusive).

Assessments

When a student enters Park Academy, their existing assessments are reviewed carefully. Once enrolled, their progress in mathematics, decoding, fluency, and comprehension is monitored through a combination of formative, summative, and progress-monitoring assessments. Some of these are formalized tests that provide grade-level equivalencies, while others are measures of growth such as a

writing sample. On-going assessment is used to determine placement in intervention groups, plan instruction, and monitor student progress over time.

Standardized Testing

Park Academy does not participate in statewide standardized testing. Any assessment that utilizes normative scoring data is used only for instructional purposes, and does not impact a student's grade.

Field Trips and Experiential Learning

With the exception of occasional social events or celebrations, field trips have educational or cultural value and support grade-level curriculum and standards. These are opportunities to deepen student learning outside the school walls and may include trips to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, local theater productions, museums, community activities, service learning, and other enrichment opportunities.

As students get older, field trips may also include extended travel or overnight stays. Beginning in Middle School, students participate in expanded opportunities that have become school traditions. The 6th grade class attends Outdoor School, the 7th grade class hosts "Walk In the Shoes" dyslexia simulation events for the community, and the 8th grade travels to Washington DC. Park Academy views these events as important learning experiences as well as school traditions that help build school community, and are committed to ensuring all students can participate.

Each field trip will require a separate and specific permission slip. Students will not be allowed to attend without the appropriate permission slip returned prior to the day of the trip. Planning for each trip will include:

- Consent/release form from parents on file in school office
- Separate information form for each learning expedition
- Emergency information for adult in charge
- Transportation and insurance of transporting vehicle(s)
- A fee (when applicable)
- Adequate adult supervision

SCHOOL POLICIES

Alcohol, Tobacco, Vaping & Paraphernalia

Students may not possess, use, purchase, sell, distribute or display any alcohol, drugs (both illicit and prescription drugs), tobacco, or any related paraphernalia such as vaping devices, pipes, lighters, papers, either on campus or off campus during school activities or during school hours. This includes clothing promoting, advertising, and showcasing any of the above. Students may not come on to campus under the influence of any of the above substances.

Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and possible expulsion. Students who remain present when these activities occur may also be subject to disciplinary action.

Allergies

Park Academy understands that many children have food allergies. We will work with families to accommodate their child's needs. Students are provided with a refrigerator, freezer, and multiple microwaves to store and prepare their own food. Classroom parties are a rarity, but in the event of a special event involving food, families are notified in advance in case they would like to provide specialized food. Any life-threatening allergies must be disclosed and documented at admission in order to create a care plan for the student. Park Academy reserves the right to change any food-related policies in response to our student population.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is necessary to maintain the continuity of learning. It is impossible to reconstruct the same classroom learning experience once it has been missed. Therefore, we request parents not schedule appointments or vacations during scheduled school hours/days.

Absences

A student who arrives to class beyond 10 minutes after the expected start time will be marked absent. (For example, a student arriving to first period at 8:05 AM is marked tardy. A student arriving after 8:20 AM will be marked absent.) It is imperative that parents/guardians of students who are absent contact the school office at (503) 594-8800 by 8:30 a.m. to report the date and excuse the absence.

Planned absences should be communicated to the school seven days in advance. This provides teachers the opportunity to provide work for the student to complete in their absence. Although we hope that there will be minimal elective absences, we recognize that these are sometimes necessary for personal reasons.

If a student acquires six absences in a semester, parents will be contacted by the school to outline the attendance expectations for Park Academy and discuss potential solutions to positively impact attendance. If a student acquires ten absences in a semester, an attendance conference will be scheduled with the parents and student to review the attendance policy, identify any barriers to regular school attendance, and cooperatively find solutions to support regular attendance.

Students whose absences are great enough to become impactful on their learning or the environment may be asked to enter into a contractual attendance agreement as a condition of enrollment.

Tardies:

Teachers will be in their classroom at 7:45 a.m. so that instruction can begin at 8:00 a.m. Students who arrive up to 10 minutes to a class late are considered tardy. Past 10 minutes a student will be marked absent.

When a student acquires five or more tardies, parents will be notified by the school outlining the school attendance expectations. When a student acquires ten tardies, an attendance conference will

be scheduled with the parents and student to review the attendance policy and identify possible barriers to punctual school attendance.

Closed Campus

Park Academy has a closed campus policy. Students are expected to remain on campus except in rare, specific situations that are prearranged with school administration. Students must have a note or the office must have phone contact with a parent/guardian before the student leaves campus.

Confidentiality

All school records are kept in a locked file and only those authorized may view them. Parents/guardians may request access or sign a release of information to grant the school permission to share student records with relevant agencies through the school office.

Dress Code

Park Academy values empowering students to excel both academically as well as becoming responsible community leaders. To this end, student dress choices should reflect the intent to sustain a community that is both inclusive of individual expression as well as respectful of our community values and goals.

The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school is responsible for ensuring that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not interfere with the learning process or school climate, or contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student.

Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothing must be worn in such a way that the chest, torso, buttocks and genital areas are covered.

- Students Must Wear*
 - A Shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms)
 - Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, leggings, a dress or shorts)
 - Shoes

*Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum may include assignment-specific dress. Activity-specific shoes requirements are permitted (for example, athletic shoes for PE).

- Students May Wear:
 - Hats, which must allow the face to be visible to staff, and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff.
 - Religious head coverings.
 - Hoodie sweatshirts are allowed; however, hoods may not cover the head indoors.
 - Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and "skinny jeans"
 - Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed.
 - Tank tops that cover undergarments and body parts listed above.

- Students May Not Wear:
 - Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments.
 - Shirts that reveal the torso from the navel and above.
 - Violent language or images promoting hate speech, profanity, or pornography.
 - Gang-affiliated clothing.
 - Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity).
 - Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.
 - Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Park Academy follows Oregon Executive Order 25-09, which prohibits cell phone and personal electronic device use during school hours to support a focused learning environment.

When You Can Use Your Device: Cell phones and personal electronic devices may only be used before 8:00 AM and after 3:15 PM.

During School Hours (8:00 AM - 3:15 PM): All electronic devices must be turned off and stored away at all times, including during breaks, lunch, and anywhere while on campus.

Privacy and Respect:

- Students may not take photos or videos of other students or staff without their clear permission
- Sharing any photos or videos without permission is prohibited

Additional Information: Please refer to the school's Acceptable Use Policy for rules regarding school-owned devices and electronic data usage.

Family Service Hours

Park Academy requires 12 service hours from its families throughout the school year. These hours help maintain the quality of services and the safety of the environment at Park Academy, and foster a unified community. Each family is expected to complete and log 12 hours of service work. If a family does not complete their 12 hours, they will be responsible for any remaining time at the rate of \$25.00 per hour.

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available and range from supporting classrooms and teachers, participating on planning committees or completing small school projects. Current needs and opportunities are sent out weekly via the Note From Parker newsletter. It is the responsibility of families to track and record volunteer hours. Volunteer hours can be logged online [here](#). For questions about volunteer opportunities or family service hours please contact the school office at (503) 594-8800.

Fundraising

All families are expected to participate in Park Academy's fundraising efforts. Although tuition covers approximately 90% of the actual cost to educate each child, the remaining amount is generated

through fundraising and philanthropy. Participation in fundraising events, personal giving, inviting friends and family to give, and sharing your personal stories are ways you can be part of our efforts. Please contact the development director to learn more, 503.594.8780. This is also a great way to earn your family service hours.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

Emergency First Aid

When students are injured during school hours and on campus, they are usually brought to the front office for simple first aid treatment. Health and emergency information is consulted before any treatment is given. If a child has fallen ill or injured to a level at which they will not be able to attend class, parents will be notified. In the event that a more serious injury or illness occurs and emergency medical personnel are summoned, parents will be immediately notified. If a child is taken to the hospital and a parent cannot accompany the child, school personnel will accompany the child until a parent or guardian can arrive to be with the child.

Illness or Injury

We will call you if your child becomes injured or ill during the school day and is unable to participate in classroom activities. Our office staff will take care of your child until you are able to make arrangements to pick up your child. However, we do not have facilities to provide long-term care for sick children. Parents are encouraged to have back-up options in place in case they are unable to pick up their child themselves.

Sometimes it can be difficult to determine if you should send your child to school. Obvious signs of illness that should result in a school absence are a fever above 100 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, some rashes and skin infections, swollen eyes or eyes with discharge, severe sore throat, persistent or painful cough, active sneezing or nasal draining, significant headache, muscle aches, or evidence of head lice, scabies, or ringworm. In the absence of these significant symptoms, please consider your child's health and the health of others when sending your child to school. If he/she is complaining of not feeling well, we ask that you carefully evaluate whether school attendance would benefit your child or cause a prolonging of their symptoms.

Immunization Requirements

All students must provide proof of current immunization against the following diseases, per Oregon Health Authority requirements (OAR 333-050): diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (including a Tdap booster dose at or after 7 years of age), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, and varicella (chicken pox). Exceptions are made for students with a documented medical or nonmedical exemption, filed on the Oregon Certificate of Immunization Status form. These records/exemption documentation should accompany the forms in the "Back to School" packet. Students who do not have proof of current immunization status, or a completed exemption on file, will be excluded from attendance until the required documentation is submitted, per Oregon law.

Infectious Diseases

If your student has been diagnosed with an infectious disease, it is required that you call the school at 503-594-8800. Students should be kept at home if they have experienced a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea within the last twenty-four hours. If these symptoms appear during school hours, families will be contacted in order to take students home.

Oral Medication Policy

Medication to be administered at school must be accompanied by a completed "Authorization to Administer Oral Medication Form". This form applies to prescription as well as over the counter medicines and must be signed by the parent. Parents/Guardians must personally bring all medication to the office to be documented by office personnel. Medication MUST be in the original container with doses clearly stated. All medication will be kept in a locked, secure location.

Physical Education Exemptions

On occasion, a student may have a medical reason for being unable to participate in physical education such as a broken limb, surgery, or other condition. If a child is to be exempted from physical education, a written request must be submitted to the front office. If it is to be longer than one single class day, a note from the doctor is required.

Lunch

Park Academy does not have a formal lunch program. Students are provided with their own kitchen, stocked with a full-sized refrigerator, freezer, and multiple microwaves where they may prepare or heat up their lunches. If a child has a severe food allergy, it is imperative that it be communicated and documented at admission so that staff can be alerted.

Non-Solicitation Policy

We ask that families, faculty, and staff refrain from soliciting the school community for organizations and causes not related to the school. Any fundraising activities must be coordinated with the development director.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND ATTITUDES

Park Academy expects self-discipline, sound judgment, and respect for self and others. Our goal is to help students learn from experiences both in and out of the classroom, to be accountable for their own actions, and to behave honorably.

The following are considered fundamental standards of behavior.

Integrity

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own work and behavior. Park Academy regards dishonesty and disrespect as very serious and responds accordingly. Lack of personal integrity is evident by such actions as lying, stealing, or forgery. Lack of academic honesty is evidenced by such acts as plagiarism, cheating, or allowing others to represent your work as their own.

Respect and Responsibility

Students are expected to demonstrate respect for self, others, and the environment. The following behaviors are regarded as disrespectful and not permitted at school:

- Bullying: negative acts or statements that are targeted, repetitive, and intentional
- Discrimination: open or implied acts or statements directed against any racial, sexual, or religious group within or outside of the school community.
- Disruptive behavior: actions that interfere with the educational environment or process
- Harassment: unwelcome conduct or behavior that is personally offensive or threatening and that has the effect of impairing morale or a student's emotional well-being
- Intimidation: an intentional threat by word or action.
- Public Displays of Affection: Touching or intimate behavior other than holding hands or hugging.
- Sexually intimate behavior of any kind, (Including over text message, social media, or electronic communication where it may be viewed by others).
- Vandalism: willfully damaging, defacing, or destroying property.
- Verbal abuse: put downs, insults, slander, and ostracism including language or behavior that insults, offends, ridicules, or torments another person.

Out-of-School Conduct

Students should be aware that some behaviors, even outside of school hours or off school property, may result in disciplinary action. Bullying in person or using digital communication or other actions which interferes with the school culture or infringes on other students' rights will be addressed by site administration. Students engaging in these behaviors may be subject to school-based consequences, (including exclusion from school), based on the severity of the incident, or until a safe participation plan is in place.

Parent Group

Park Academy's Parent Group meets regularly throughout the school year in order to strengthen the school community and support school projects. Your participation as a parent ensures the best possible results for the students and the school. Participation in the PAPG also contributes towards Family Service Hours. The Parent Group is subject to the Board of Trustees, and is not authorized to act on behalf of Park Academy unless authorized by the Head of School or Executive Director.

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Classes begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. and students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Students will arrive and be picked up on time and in a prompt manner. Carpool arrangements are the responsibility of parents or guardians. School personnel must be informed in writing of changes to carpool arrangements.

Student Pick-Up

If a parent needs to pick up a student early, the parent must come to the school or call the front office to communicate arrangements. To ensure the safety of all students, the office staff will call a student to the front desk for early dismissal. If students are to be transported by anyone other than their parent/guardian or emergency contact on file, please inform the school in writing.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Park Academy recognizes the value of computers and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. To this end, we encourage the responsible use of computers; computer networks, the internet and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals of Park Academy. Each student in grades 3-8 will be assigned a school-provided Chromebook for classroom use. In order to reduce wear and unexpected damage, devices will typically remain at school. Chromebooks will be available for checkout for individual students or families that need increased access to online resources. To request a device be assigned for home use or to discuss technology-related policies, please contact the school office or email techmanager@parkacademy.org.

Acceptable Use

1. All use of school technology should be in support of the student's education.
2. Students understand that school personnel can direct their use of technology while at school, including being asked to put it away or leaving it at home.
3. The school prohibits the use of personal laptops or other electronic devices while at school.
4. Students will not personalize or change settings of any device that could be used by others.
5. Students agree to avoid damaging or permanently marking any school-owned devices.
6. School provided accounts are for use towards educational objectives in consultation with a teacher and are not for use or distribution for non-school-related activities or services.
7. Use of school-provided accounts or any kind should be limited to the student. Students will never access any other students' accounts or share passwords with other students.
8. The student understands that they are expected to use appropriate tone and content for a school environment when using school-provided devices and accounts. Student behavior expectations online are the same as in-person behavior expectations, and may be viewed by school personnel.
9. Students and families understand that they are responsible for repairing or replacing any damage done to school-owned technology.

Potential Damage or Issue	Fees
Lost or Stolen Device	Chromebook: \$400
Cracked/damaged screen	Full cost of repair (est. \$150)
Damaged keyboard/cracked touchpad	Full cost of repair (est. \$50)
Lost/damaged device charging accessories	At cost (est. \$25)

Unacceptable Use

1. Giving out personal information about another person, including home address and phone number is strictly prohibited.
2. Any use of the network for commercial or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
3. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network.

4. No use of the network shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by others. Hardware and/or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
5. Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited.
6. Hate mail, chain letters, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited on the network.
7. The unauthorized installation of any software, including shareware and freeware, for use on Park Academy computers is prohibited.
8. Use of the network to access or process pornographic material, inappropriate text files (as determined by the system administrator or building administrator), or files dangerous to the integrity of the local area network is prohibited.
9. The Park Academy network may not be used for downloading entertainment software or other files not related to the mission and objectives of Park Academy for transfer to a user's home computer, personal computer, or other media.
10. Downloading, copying, otherwise duplicating, and/or distributing copyrighted materials without the specific written permission of the copyright owner is prohibited, except that duplication and/or distribution of materials for educational purposes is permitted when such duplication and/or distribution would fall within the Fair Use Doctrine of the United States Copyright Law (Title 17, USC).
11. Use of the network for any unlawful purpose is prohibited.
12. Use of profanity, obscenity, racist terms, or other language that may be offensive to another user is prohibited.
13. Playing games is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a teacher for instructional purposes.
14. Establishing network or Internet connections to live communications, including voice and/or video (relay chat), is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the system administrator.
15. The use of social media platforms on school devices is strictly prohibited.
16. Any activity related to hacking into the network or utilizing malware or other invasive programs to affect, influence, or disable the network are strictly prohibited.

Use of Artificial Intelligence and Generative Technology Tools

Park Academy aims to help students achieve their educational goals and improve student learning, and recognizes that AI and other generative technologies represent a powerful tool for students when researching, creating, and editing school work, and can also be a support for students who struggle with expressive language tasks. We are committed to evaluating AI tools and educating our staff and students about their appropriate uses and potential risks and biases so that they serve our school community.

The use of AI and generative technology tools must adhere to existing acceptable use policies and guidelines. Any technologies used will align with guidelines to protect student privacy and personally identifiable information. The use of AI technologies are expected to supplement student learning,

and their use is at the direction of a teacher or administrator. Students are expected to credit sources and tools used when completing work, including the use of generative technologies when presenting work for evaluation and feedback. Teachers will clarify if and how AI tools may be used when completing a classroom activity or assignment, and articulate why its use may not be allowed.

Transportation

Skateboards, roller blades, scooters, and bicycles are allowed on campus for transportation to and from school. However, they must be parked and locked during school hours or turned in at the front desk for the duration of the school day.

Tuition Payment

Payments must be paid on time in order for your child's continued enrollment at Park Academy. All tuition arrangements or exceptions must be made with school administration. Failure to pay tuition on the prearranged time schedule may result in disenrollment from Park Academy. Tuition is due based on your selected payment plan and is due the first of the month. Invoices are regularly sent as a courtesy only. Please refer to the tuition policy in the 2026-2027 school contract.

Visitors

All visitors, including parents, family members, volunteers, guest speakers, community members and alumni, must obtain a visitor pass and sign in at the front desk. Students may not bring non-Park Academy students to school without obtaining permission in advance from the Head of School.

Withdrawal From School

If a family decides to withdraw from Park Academy during the school year they must submit written notification before the withdrawal is effective. Proper arrangements for the student's withdrawal will be made after all accounts have been properly taken care of, such as tuition and miscellaneous fees. Families are responsible for tuition costs for the remainder of the semester in the event of early withdrawal. School records will be sent to the new school only upon receipt of a written request from that school. An exit interview may be scheduled with the Head of School or Executive Director.