



Expanded Learning  
Opportunities



FACT SHEET

FRANCIS PARKER  
SCHOOL NO. 23



## Focus

Francis Parker School No. 23 focuses on providing Powerful Learning experiences to every student. Powerful learning incorporates four core elements: Rigorous Academics, Behavior Supports, Relationships, and Engaging Learning. Daily instruction occurs within a loving and trusting community where authentic relationships with students and staff are a priority.

*If You're Going To Do It, Do It With Excellence!*



## Expanded Learning Time School

- Francis Parker provides high-quality learning time, within an expanded (longer) school day
- Francis Parker offers students an additional 180 hours of school time per year (an additional 60 minutes of daily instructional time) – the equivalent of five more weeks of school than the typical school year
- The expanded school day is from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



*“School 23 has been a staple in my daughter’s life since Pre-Kindergarten. They are not just responsible for her excelling academically, but also hold a part in her blossoming into a young adult.”*

Quanda Boswell, parent

*“As a parent of 3 kids at 23, I have been impressed every year with the teachers’ diligence in meeting students’ varying needs, both in the broader classroom setting and through specialized instruction groups or one to one instruction. I also appreciate that my kids experience the traditional classroom, along with a growing amount of project-based explorations of topics (like the Pioneer Expo and the Acceleration group). I think they are creating an excitement in kids to learn and think critically about things.”*

Leslie Buzzell, parent



## Why Choose School 23: Essential Elements Highlights

### Engaging Enrichment

- Student schedules include exciting enrichment electives beyond traditional Rochester City School District classes. Sample enrichment classes include the following:
  - Ballet** – students learn the basics of ballet
  - Super Hero Training** – students build self-confidence through performing a variety of physical skills and learning important safety and first aid lessons
  - Minecraft** – provides an understanding of a fictional world of farmland, raising animals and mining, in which students must work together to survive; students write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence
  - School Play** – gives students a basic understanding of theater production, process, and performance
  - STEM** electives are available for all students grades K-6
  - Zombie Geography** – provides an understanding of the tools of geography in a creative and fun way, and how to apply those tools to find solutions to current real-world challenges
- Offers applications** on iPads, Chromebooks and Apple TV, tied to student assessments
- Established** a writing club, chess club, dare to dance, school newspaper, boys/girls on the run, art club, and student council
- Students also participate in** recitals, technology showcases, art galleries, and community service projects

### School-Wide Priorities

Francis Parker focuses on providing equitable opportunities to students using the Powerful Learning Framework. Essential elements of Powerful Learning are the following:

- Rigorous Academics** – holding our teaching and learning to the highest standard
- Behavior supports** – providing clear expectations and accountability for appropriate behavior all day, every day
- Engaging Learning** – exciting experiences allowing students to problem solve and work collaboratively with one another
- Authentic Relationships** – building solid understanding of students beyond their academics. Students, parents, community partners, teachers, and administrators are seen as one big family

### Enhanced School Culture

- The school has established Community Houses; these houses provide smaller families of student within the school. Relationship building, celebration and a culture of excellence are common threads in each house.

### Targeted Teacher Development

- Teachers participate in weekly professional learning opportunities in order to continue their growth. Each staff person at Francis Parker School No. 23 participates in a Shared Governance Team where he or she is able to focus their expertise and support the forward movement of the school community.



## Community Partners

School 23 works with community partners to enrich the educational experiences of its students, while continuing the strong commitment to academic excellence. Our community partnerships are structured in a way to provide students with off-campus learning experiences. Our partnership with the Memorial Art Gallery is an example of how we do things differently for our students. Students are provided the opportunity to learn onsite at the Memorial Art Gallery, where they can make connections between art and the learning at happening at the school.

### Memorial Art Gallery

- Students in grades 1 through 4 visit the gallery for trips throughout the school year
- Students receive instruction from resident artists in drawing, painting and sculpting, create their own art projects, and host their own showing

### Center for Youth

- The Center for Youth provide social-emotional supports to students during the instructional school day
- A “HelpZone” model has been established as a place for students to receive rapid support when they need it



*“The Gallery is thrilled to be a part of the RCSD-ELT initiative. By working together with all participating classroom teachers and employing this multi-tiered approach of looking at, thinking about, and making art, we believe we have designed a program that makes wonderful use of the expanded school day.”*

Marlene Hamann-Whitmore  
McPherson Director of Education  
Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester



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