



PARENT HANDBOOK

2022-23 School Year

compiled by

The Parents' Association

A special note for new-to-Park families: We are pleased to welcome you as new parents and guardians to The Park School of Baltimore. You are now a part of a network of dedicated adults working together to ensure a quality education for our children. Your involvement in the Park School community is important and much appreciated. This handbook will introduce you to the school and share some of the ways in which parents help to meet its present and future needs.

In this handbook, you will find:

- Useful Contacts and Links
- A list of School Publications and Communications
- Information about the Parents' Association's Mission, Communications, Events and Activities
- A list of Parents' Association Officers and Grade Representatives
- A list of Parents' Association Activities and Events
- The Parents' Association 2022-23 Calendar of Events
- The Ellen Small Speaker Series 2022-23 Schedule
- Park Connects Information and Calendar
- Information about Parent Engagement and Volunteer Opportunities
- A description of the Parents' Association Grant Program
- Information about The Park School Board of Trustees, and
- A description of The Park Fund

If you have any questions, or if the Parents' Association can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at pa@parkschool.net.

USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

The Park School <https://www.parkschool.net>

Park's Digital Campus <https://sites.google.com/parkschool.net/parksdigitalcampus/home?authuser=0>

Contact Information <https://www.parkschool.net/about/contact-information-directions/>

Lower School <https://www.parkschool.net/academics/lower-school/>

Middle School <https://www.parkschool.net/academics/middle-school/>

Upper School <https://www.parkschool.net/academics/upper-school/>

College Guidance

<https://www.parkschool.net/academics/upper-school/college-counseling/>

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

<https://www.parkschool.net/life-at-park/diversity-equity-inclusion/>

Civic Engagement and Service Learning <https://www.parkschool.net/life-at-park/civic-engagement/>

Parents' Association <https://www.parkschool.net/parents-association/>

Park Bulletins <https://www.parkschool.net/life-at-park/park-bulletins/>

Veracross <https://accounts.veracross.com/park/portals/login>

Magnus Health <https://secure.magnushealthportal.com/vclogin/login.jsf?schoolID=247264>

FACTS <https://online.factsmgmt.com/signin/3QDPP>

The Park Fund <https://www.parkschool.net/giving/the-park-fund/>

Park Community Listserv <http://groups.google.com/group/parkschool>

SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

The Park Bulletin: <https://www.parkschool.net/life-at-park/park-bulletins/> Each week, parents receive an email with links to the three divisional bulletins, each featuring grade level-specific information, division-specific information, and all-school information. The Bulletins are your go-to place for current information about what's happening on campus. They are published every Thursday, and the content is on the web all week.

Veracross: <https://accounts.veracross.com/park/portals/login> This secure parent portal provides access to important information for parents about their student(s), including class lists and directories, student reports, and calendars of school events.

Postscript: <https://www.parkschool.net/news/postscript/> The Upper School student newspaper, is published several times each academic year and is mailed home to all Park families.

Cross Currents: <https://www.parkschool.net/news/cross-currents/> The school magazine, is typically mailed home twice a year.

Brownie: The Park School yearbook, is published in June.

The Park Parent and Community Listserv: <https://groups.google.com/g/parkschool> Not officially affiliated with the school, the listserv provides a forum for current and former Park parents and caregivers, alumni, and other Park community members to connect.

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Park School encourages the involvement of parents in school life. The Parents' Association (PA), of which every parent is a member, exists to foster partnership among the Park School's home and school communities by serving as a forum to connect these constituencies. Further, the mission is to support and promote the philosophy of the Park School by providing a vehicle to communicate with, educate, integrate and involve the Park School family. In order to accomplish this mission, the Parents' Association sees as its priorities the following areas: Communication, Parent Education, Community Interaction, Fundraising and Special Projects.

The PA is supported in its efforts by the Parent Program Coordinator and Parent Program Administrative Assistant - who work closely with administrators, PA officers, and volunteers. PA activities are governed by a board of officers elected at the organization's June meeting. In addition to the Board, PA leaders include at least two appointed Grade Representatives for each grade, who are liaisons for parent support, as well as Park Connects parent discussion facilitators, and special event committee chairs.

2022-23 PARENTS' ASSOCIATION BOARD

PRESIDENT

Missy Rohrbach

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Stephen Murphy

VICE PRESIDENTS

GRADE LEVEL SUPPORT

Pam Cochran* (US)

Amanda Shapiro (MS)

Sally Munemitsu (LS)

NEW PARENT SUPPORT

Karla Bunz*

Monsurat Bucknor

VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATION SUPPORT

Marianna LaCanfora*

Emily Ries '01

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

Amy Highstein-Berman

Kate Mack

PROGRAMMING

Fran Huber

Michelle Feist

Emanda Lenet '93

SECRETARY

Lindsey Sachs

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Sheri Gordon*

TREASURER

Patti Stude*

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Chad Johnson

PARK CONNECTS CHAIRS

Tracee Fruman*

Dori Chait

SPECIAL GRANTS CHAIRS

Nina Knoche*

Carla Cooper '03*

Betsy Hannibal

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Makia Tabourn

Katie Phillips

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Balcita*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Stacey Kunar

PARENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Jayme Wood '93

PARENT PROGRAM ADMIN. ASSISTANT

Lori Isaac '98

** Continuing Representative*

2022-23 PARENTS' ASSOCIATION GRADE REPRESENTATIVES

Pre-K	Amy Akman Lauren Herschman	7 th	Chad Johnson* Vered Nusinov Laura Lamb
K	Lindsay Devon '00* Caroline Rummel* Deon Provost	8 th	Amanda Shapiro* Elena Bradley Danielle Nekimken
1 st	Megan Brown* Danielle Nestadt Hyeon-Jin Kwon	9 th	Liz Bronstein* Andrea Downs Liza Hicks '88
2 nd	Emily Ries '01* Sara Nett* Deetria McCorr	10 th	Makia Tabourn* Michelle Feist* TJ Intner
3 rd	Becca Bartholomew Cathy Skinner Amber & Eric Waddy	11 th	Jenny Gamliel* Mark Kelemen Shauna Krupnick
4 th	Susan Harris* Leslie Moore* Scott Bloomberg	12 th	Nancy Hudes* Melissa Kaplan Toni St. John
5 th	Anne Hurley* Margarita Zubkus Adena Lerner		
6 th	Nat Koren Betsy Plowman Elisabeth Ebert		

** Continuing Representative*

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The PA supports community engagement in a wide variety of ways that benefit parents, students and the school, as detailed below. All PA events are open to all Park School families, and many are also open to the greater Park School community and the general public. In addition to these major PA-sponsored events and activities, the Parents' Association and Grade Representatives may add programming and parent engagement activities throughout the year which will be communicated in the Park Bulletin and through emails from Grade Representatives. *Please see calendar below for 2022-23 dates.*

ADMISSION SUPPORT

The PA assists the Admission office with events throughout the year, including Open Houses, receptions and orientations for prospective and newly accepted families, and with phone calls and other outreach to families who are new to Park.

ATHLETIC SUPPORT

Parents join together to support and promote the sports and athletics programs at Park.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The PA supports and enhances school efforts related to ongoing, meaningful community service projects.

DIVERSITY

The PA Board encourages, supports, and enhances the school's initiatives related to matters of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in partnership with Akira Townes, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

ELLEN SMALL SPEAKER SERIES

The PA hosts a series of programs featuring invited guest speakers on topics of parenting, child development, and other topics of interest to parents and caregivers.

FACULTY & STAFF APPRECIATION

The Parents' Association provides lunch or treats to Park's faculty and staff on some professional days throughout the year as a thank you.

FUNDRAISING

Amazon Smile, Bingo, School Pictures, restaurant nights, and sales of magnets, stickers and other items— the PA sponsors all of these activities, and more, to raise money for Park programs and events, the PA Grant Fund, and other contributions to the school.

GRADE LEVEL GATHERINGS and SOCIAL EVENTS

These events play an important role in building a sense of community and educating families. Socials offer new families an opportunity to connect with “veteran” families who can help them with information, advice, and friendship. Veterans enjoy renewing previous acquaintances and making new ones.

GRANT FUND

The PA funds some student- and faculty-driven start-up projects and events, as approved by the PA Board, and in conjunction with the needs and priorities of the school. In past years, the fund has supported a hiking club, the robotics team, the Lower School Organic Garden, and the US Civil Rights Trip.

MAY DAY

The PA assists with the activities included in May Day, a traditional Lower School festival. Highlights include a Maypole dance by graduating fifth graders, songs, family activities, and picnic lunches.

NEW PARENT BREAKFAST

This is an opportunity for parents new to Park to meet each other, PA representatives, administrators, and staff at a social and informational function at the beginning of the academic year.

NEW PARENT COFFEE

Held in November, the new parent coffee is an opportunity to check in with new families on school-year progress, and to answer any questions.

OPENING MEETING/CLOSING MEETING

The first and last formal meetings of the Parents’ Association each year provide an opportunity for parents and caregivers to get to know one another and the PA, and all are encouraged to attend. The opening meeting in the fall includes a budget review and special speaker, and in the spring, parents gather for breakfast, vote for the new slate of officers, and participate in a hands-on activity together.

PARENT DROP-INS, COFFEES, AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The PA hosts periodic, informal gatherings as a way of building community. These gatherings may be simply for conversation and the exchange of ideas, or may include specific parent-led activities such as hikes, yoga or other classes. These gatherings help parents to get to know one another and the PA and help the PA identify interested volunteers.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Parents' Association has established a library resource center for parents, housed in the Middle and Upper School Library. The collection holds over 300 books that may be checked out for use by all Park parents. Additionally, on the PA web page there is a link for online resources that will be continually expanded and updated.

PARK CONNECTS

A school-wide program designed to promote the well-being of our students and to help reduce the risk factors that contribute to unhealthy behaviors. In Park Connects' Parent Networking Groups, trained parent facilitators lead discussion groups once or twice a year at each grade level. Parents are encouraged to share their ideas, experiences, and concerns to promote better understanding and awareness. The parent chairs of Park Connects sit on the PA Board. The Park Connects program also offers parent education workshops throughout the year hosted by the Park Health and Counseling Team.

LISTSERV

Parents can utilize the Park community listserv at <http://groups.google.com/group/Parkschool>. This is an easy-to-use format that provides a great way for the community to stay in touch.

RESIDENT SCHOLAR

For over 40 years, the Resident Scholar program has brought distinguished scholars and artists to Park so that Upper School students can explore current ideas relating to academic disciplines. Funded in part by a grant from the PA, the program involves a presentation to the Upper School student body followed by a day of in-depth seminars in the scholar's area of expertise.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Students' pictures are taken individually and by class (for Lower Schoolers) in the fall. Picture packages may be selected and purchased by parents.

SATURDAY IN THE PARK

Park School families and friends are invited to enjoy the school campus and participate in a variety of activities, including canoeing, stream walking, and arts and crafts. Newly-enrolled families are especially encouraged to attend, as this is a great opportunity to engage with the community early in the fall.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022-2023

In addition to these Parents' Association events, Grade Representatives will communicate additional opportunities for parent engagement throughout the year. The Veracross calendar includes a broader list of all school events, as well as specific times and locations. (Calendars can also be downloaded and synched to personal calendars through Veracross.)

SEPTEMBER	7	New Parent Welcome Breakfast 8:15 a.m.
	29	All School Picture Day - 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
	29	Parents' Association Opening Meeting & Ellen Small Speaker Series 7 p.m. William Stixrud, PhD and Ned Johnson – <i>What do You Say? How to Talk with Kids to Build Motivation, Stress Tolerance, and a Happy Home</i>
OCTOBER	7	PA Parent Coffee for Lower School 8:15 a.m.
	8	Saturday in the Park II a.m.
	12	The Ellen Small Parents' Association Speaker Series 7 p.m. Traci Baxley, Ed.D – <i>Social Justice Parenting</i>
	14	PA Parent Coffee for Middle School 8:15 a.m.
	28	PA Parent Coffee for Upper School 8:15 a.m.
NOVEMBER	1	PA New Parent Coffee 8:15 a.m.
	4	PA Parent Coffee for Lower School 8:15 a.m.
	9	The Ellen Small Parents' Association Speaker Series 7:30 p.m. Ron Lieber – <i>The Price You Pay for College</i>
	11	PA Parent Coffee for Middle School 8:15 a.m.
	16	School Picture Day Make-up Date 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
	18	PA Parent Coffee for Upper School 8:15 a.m.
JANUARY	6	PA Parent Drop-In 8:15 a.m.
FEBRUARY	25	Children's Concert II a.m.
	25	Family Bingo 12:30 p.m.
	28	The Ellen Small Parents' Association Speaker Series 7 p.m. Kenneth Ginsburg, MD, MS Ed. – <i>Building Resilience in Children and Teens</i>
APRIL	19	The Ellen Small Parents' Association Speaker Series 7 p.m. Jean Twenge, PhD - <i>iGen</i>
MAY	12	May Day II a.m.
JUNE	2	PA Closing Meeting and Activity 8:15 a.m.

Please note: All dates and locations are subject to change. Please confirm on the Park School calendar or website (www.parkschool.net) before attending.



Ellen Small Speaker Series

2022-2023

September 29, 2022 • William Stixrud, PhD & Ned Johnson

What Do You Say? Talking with Kids to Build Motivation, Stress Tolerance, and a Happy Home

Dr. William Stixrud and Ned Johnson, authors of the national best-seller, *The Self-Driven Child*, will discuss their new book, *What Do You Say? Talking with Kids to Build Motivation, Stress Tolerance, and a Happy Home*. The focus of their presentation will be how to communicate with kids in a way that supports the autonomy and self-drive that are so important for healthy development. This talk will emphasize communication strategies for building a strong emotional connection with our kids, communicating healthy expectations, fostering intrinsic motivation, and helping kids find their own reasons to change when they're struggling. Also, it will address ways to get "buy in" before we share our experience and advice, how to change the energy when it feels like we're trying to force our kids, and how to manage conversations when emotions run high.

October 12, 2022 • Traci Baxley, Ed.D

What is Social Justice Parenting and How Can We Use it in Our Anti-Racist Journey?

At the heart of Social Justice Parenting is the acronym ROCKS – Reflection, Open dialogue, Compassion, Kindness and Social Justice Engagement. The ROCKS are the building blocks to nurturing a pro-justice home and raising socially engaged children. Dr. Baxley will discuss why raising "good people" is no longer enough and how making shifts in our daily lives can create big ripples of change in our communities.

November 9, 2022 • Ron Lieber

The Price You Pay for College: An Entirely New Roadmap for the Biggest Financial Decision Your Family Will Ever Make

Figuring out how to save for college is hard, and figuring out how to pay is harder. But figuring out what to pay is the most difficult challenge of all. As parents, we're beset by emotions as we try to push our kids off into the world, and some of those lead to the opposite of clear-headed thinking. In this talk, Ron will talk about the unhelpful feelings that cloud sound decision-making; explain the right way to shop for colleges that deliver real value; and pull the curtain back on college pricing schemes, including the black box known as merit aid.

February 28, 2023 • Kenneth Ginsburg, MD, MD Ed

Resilience in Action: Raising Children and Adolescents Who are Prepared to Thrive!

This talk is an overview of the Seven C's Model of Resilience. It focuses on communication strategies that position parents to be unwavering positive forces in their children's lives. Parents will leave the session better prepared to:

- Build confidence in their children
- Notice and reinforce their children's competence
- Foster the vital connection between parents and children
- Develop character and a sense of contribution in their children
- Develop those critical coping strategies that will help their children thrive even through difficult times
- Help their children and teens gain control by learning that the privileges they earn are linked to the responsibility they demonstrate.

This presentation provides an overview of resilience with attention to strategies parents can use to help their children help themselves.

April 19, 2023 • Jean Twenge, PhD

iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy – and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood

Today's kids, teens, and young adults are iGen (born after 1995), the first generation to spend their adolescence with smartphones. iGen'ers are growing up more slowly as adolescents, spending more time online, and spending less time hanging out with their friends in person. They are also spending less time sleeping. Perhaps as a result, they are more likely to experience unhappiness, anxiety, and depression. You'll walk away from this session with ideas for how to help your family find a better balance with technology and be healthier and happier.

PARK CONNECTS 2022-23

This parent program, now in its 23rd year, aims to support our students' healthy social and emotional development while at the same time helping to reduce the risk factors that contribute to unhealthy choices and behaviors. Park Connects is structured in ways that promote important dialogue among families and within the school community. You will be invited to Park Connects programs for each grade level. During these events, you will hear grade-level updates, attend workshops and summits sponsored by Park's Health Team, and participate in facilitated discussions with other parents. The full calendar can be found below and will be accessible on the Park School website. Event times will vary depending on the program.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

9/20 Parent Discussion
10/18 PK-Grade 2 Lower School Summit
1/23 K-Grade 3 Sexuality Workshop for Parents
2/2 Parent Discussion #2

First Grade

9/22 Parent Discussion
10/18 PK-Grade 2 Lower School Summit
1/19 Parent Discussion #2
1/23 K-Grade 3 Sexuality Workshop for Parents

Second Grade

10/18 PK-Grade 2 Lower School Summit
10/26 Parent Discussion
1/23 K-Grade 3 Sexuality Workshop for Parents

Third Grade

10/25 Parent Discussion
1/11 Grades 3-5 Lower School Summit
1/23 K-Grade 3 Sexuality Workshop for Parents

Fourth Grade

11/2 Parent Discussion
12/5 Grades 4-6 Sexuality Workshop for Parents
1/11 Grades 3-5 Lower School Summit

Fifth Grade

11/29 Parent Discussion
12/5 Grades 4-6 Sexuality Workshop for Parents
1/11 Grades 3-5 Lower School Summit

Sixth Grade

10/6 Parent Discussion
11/15 Middle School Summit
12/5 Grades 4-6 Sexuality Workshop for Parents
1/31 Parent Discussion #2

Seventh Grade

11/7 Parent Discussion
11/15 Middle School Summit

Eighth Grade

10/27 Parent Discussion
11/15 Middle School Summit
4/26 Parent Discussion #2

Ninth Grade

10/11 Parent Discussion
1/9 Parent Discussion #2
1/25 Upper School Summit

Tenth Grade

10/19 Parent Discussion
11/30 Parent and Student Workshop (option 1)
1/25 Upper School Summit
2/13 Parent and Student Workshop (option 2)

Eleventh Grade

12/12 Parent Discussion
1/25 Upper School Summit

Twelfth Grade

9/28 Parent Discussion
1/25 Upper School Summit

PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT PARK

Park School is dependent upon hundreds of volunteer hours to maintain the quality of its programs and facilities. Parental involvement in a broad variety of activities enhances the students' educational experience while fostering the sense of community that makes Park unique. While the school requests volunteers in various ways, parents can also get involved by contacting the Parents' Association at pa@parkschool.net. Examples of PA volunteer opportunities are listed below.

Grade Representatives

Park Connects Parent Discussion Facilitators

Parent Coordinators for:

- Parent-led classes, hikes, book and film discussions and other events
- Community service partnerships
- Groups with shared identities or interests

PA Community Events, including:

- Saturday in the Park
- Rivalry Day
- School Picture Day
- Bingo
- Lower School Children's Concert
- May Day
- PA Closing Meeting parent activity

Outside of the Parents' Association, the school also seeks volunteers periodically to help with athletic events; theatrical, musical and visual arts events and performances; classroom and library activities; chaperoning field trips; service learning projects; assemblies; Middle School Exploratory Learning Week; The Senior Project Internship Program; The Park Fund; Grandparents' and Special Friends' Visiting Days; the Park Bruin Buddy Program; the Park School Auction; the Park School Carnival, and BRAIN sPARK (Park's "Ted Talk" event).

THE ROLE OF THE GRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Each grade level is served by at least two parent representatives who volunteer for a two-year term. Grade Reps assist the Parents' Association with its goals of building community among families and maintaining a support network for families. They do this by facilitating parent participation, education, communication, and understanding. Among their other duties, Grade Reps meet regularly with division principals to learn about new developments and to communicate issues and concerns of parents. Grade Reps also coordinate a grade-level parent-only gathering to foster relationships among parents outside of school. Your Grade Rep is a resource for you – please feel free to:

- Suggest issues and topics of interest for a presentation and/or parent discussion group
- Communicate your feedback — academic, social, philosophical, administrative
- Ask questions about practice, policy, process, or matters you don't understand
- Volunteer to assist with meetings, socials, chaperoning, etc.

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION GRANTS PROGRAM

In a typical year, the Parents' Association allocates \$10,000 towards student- and faculty-driven initiatives that are not included or planned for in the school division or academic department budgets. Traditionally, the grants are for one-time opportunities, with the goal to support many different student groups across all three divisions. Each grant request is thoroughly reviewed by the Special Grants co-chairs and their committee, and recommendations are made to the PA Board to approve, modify, or deny the request. In the past, the PA has helped to fund the Upper School Civil Rights Trip, ISAMR (International Student-led Arctic Monitoring and Research), Engineering Team, Latino/Hispanic Coalition Performance Group, Asian Cultural Events, Model UN, Debate Team, the 4th Grade Ellis Island field trip, Circuit Playground Express (Middle School Technology), The Tectonic Theater Project, diverse books in the Lower School, and the Lower School Garden Club.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees has approximately 30 members who are elected to three-year terms and one *ex-officio* representative each from The Parents' Association, the Alumni Council, the Student Government, and one faculty member. The Head of School, Associate Head of School, Director of Development, and the Business Manager also attend meetings. Kevin Pearson is the current President of the Board of Trustees.

The primary functions of the Board are to:

- *establish general policies and objectives*
- *measure the performance of the school as it relates to policies and school philosophy*
- *appoint the head of school, who serves as the school's chief executive officer; and*
- *encourage financial support of the school's annual and capital fund drives.*

Through its standing committees (Audit and Risk Management, Committee on DEI, Committee on Trustees, Development, Facilities, Finance, and Investment), the Board considers various aspects of the school's business operations (long range planning, development activities, the annual budget, tuition levels, tuition assistance funds and major expenditures for buildings and grounds), and brings recommendations to meetings of the full Board. Through its Executive Committee, the Trustees also advise the Head of School.

THE PARK FUND

The Park Fund <https://www.parkschool.net/giving/the-park-fund/> plays an essential role for every student, every year. Gifts to The Park Fund support all students, faculty, and programs, enabling the school to provide an extraordinary education. As part of the school's operating budget (and separate from the PA budget), The Park Fund contributes to academics, arts, and athletics programming, tuition assistance for a broad range of families, and faculty support.

Throughout the year, Park volunteers and staff reach out to parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, Park employees, and other friends of Park to raise money for The Park Fund. Please expect a friendly call from a Park volunteer regarding your willingness to support The Park Fund! Gifts of any amount make an immediate impact. This past year the Park community contributed over \$1.63M to The Park Fund.