



Teaching to the Heart of the Child



PORTSMOUTH
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY
— AT DOVER —

— PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 5 —



“I am honored to serve in such a caring and Christ-focused learning community. Because of the safe and nurturing environment created by PCA faculty and staff, our students are thriving.”

*Dr. John Engstrom
Head of School*

Portsmouth Christian Academy’s Lower School provides a quality educational program for the preschool (from age 3), primary (grades K-2), and elementary (grades 3-5) years. A highly qualified and caring faculty and staff are personally invested in each student’s development and success, ensuring opportunities for all students to advance in:

- Skill development in reading and math;
- Content mastery of factual knowledge;
- Integration of learning and application to new areas;
- Analysis and evaluation to consider the evidence in making decisions.

NURTURING POTENTIAL

“We look at each child’s learning style and personality as well as their skill levels. We pray for our students and seek to know them all the way to their hearts.”

*Dr. Connie Lawrence
Lower School Principal*



Developing Each Child's Potential

The Portsmouth Christian Academy Preschool (PCAP) provides a safe, fun, and nurturing environment where young children learn to love learning with each another. Our program introduces students to learning in ways that build strong self-efficacy (“I can do that!”) through discovery and instruction. We partner with parents to educate their children.

The preschool day offers students opportunities to:

- Learn about community, including cooperative play, experimentation, and family activities;
- Explore God’s creation, recognizing how they fit into that world;
- Develop pre- and early-reading skills;
- Build number sense.



PRESCHOOL (PCAP)



Preschool Program Options

Days per week	Hours per day	Ages
2 (Tuesday and Thursday)	Half day (8:30 – 11:30)	3
3 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)	Half day (8:30 – 11:30) OR Full day (8:30 – 3:30)	3
3 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)	Half day (8:30 – 11:30) OR Full day (8:30 – 3:30)	4-5
5 (Monday through Friday)	Half day (8:30 – 11:30) OR Full day (8:30 – 3:30)	3-5

Enrichment classes in Music, Art, PE, and Library are provided to all full day PCAP students.

Before and After Care are also available, starting at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 5:45 p.m.

“We considered another school, but when we drove up and saw the PCA campus we just loved it, we love the Christian atmosphere everywhere on campus. We also love how they incorporate music into the curriculum all the way from Preschool through senior year.”

*Nicole Marquis, Parent with her daughter
Fremont, NH*



Teaching to Your Child's Strengths

The goal of the Primary Program at the Lower School is to encourage children to become engaged learners. We provide students with the tools to master core skills such as math, reading, writing, and social studies.

Primary Years (K-2)

In the primary grades, it's important for students to master literacy. Using a phonics-based program, students move from actively listening to reading independently by the end of Kindergarten.

"This is a collegial environment where we work closely with both students and their parents. It makes it even more rewarding to see the effect you have on students."

Ruth Brown, PCA Kindergarten Teacher for more than 20 years

PRIMARY YEARS (K-2)

Reading Lab

Because the need to develop early literacy skills is critical to future academic success, our first grade students spend time in both guided reading and in the Reading Lab. The Reading Lab helps beginning readers progress to reading fluently with comprehension.

Reading Buddies Program

Students in grades 4-8 have a unique opportunity to help younger students learn. As the younger child's "buddy," students share reading strategies during weekly meetings. Both children learn, interact, and make lasting friendships.



"It's important that my children have a Christian education that expands beyond black and white to provide guidance on how to conduct themselves in the real world."

Jodi Karnes, Parent
Rochester, NH



“By the end of third grade students have moved from learning to read to reading to learn. It’s so exciting to see them develop comprehensive skills and become more independent learners.”

Ingrid Phoenix, Third Grade Teacher

ELEMENTARY (3-5)

Creating Competent Learners

Our elementary program seeks to establish a foundation for higher thinking skills. Students work with math facts, grammar rules, and history time lines—competencies that facilitate innovative thought.

The English language arts curriculum encourages high levels of decoding, comprehension, word analysis, and writing.

Spiritual Development

Moving to a higher level of spiritual development, elementary students study the Bible as a tool for spiritual growth. They study biblical characters, discuss Christ-like characteristics, and develop the discipline of personal Bible study.



Math Clusters

Beginning in fourth grade math, students are grouped by skill level with others who learn at a similar pace using data from standardized tests, curriculum-based assessments, and teacher input. The goal is to be sure that students are challenged, but not overwhelmed. Math cluster classes continue through Junior High.



“It’s a delight to give all of our third graders a full year of violin as a springboard for participation with ensembles in future grades.”

Susie Stevens, Music Teacher

EXPLORING THE FINE ARTS

Music and Art Build Community

At PCA, creating art and making music are an important part of our students’ learning process. Within a fun and engaging environment, children have the opportunity to discover the joy of creativity within a community.

Visual Art

All students in grades K-8 have a weekly art class. The foundation of our art curriculum is focusing on the process. Problem solving, creative thinking, and personal expression—all of these skills can be developed in our art education and serve students long after their time in the classroom.

Music

Music is a weekly component of our fine arts education. Students are introduced to music in kindergarten through second grade, learning to sing, beat rhythms, and “read” music. Instrumental music is introduced in third grade as part of PCA’s strings program. Classroom music transitions to a performance-based program beginning in fourth grade. All students in grades 4-8 perform in a musical ensemble—orchestra, band, or chorus.



“As the Fine Arts Director, I appreciate that the arts are foundational to education. We’re created in the image of a creative God and we want to build on that.”

Carroll Stevens, Fine Arts Director



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to honor God through teaching and encouraging students to maximize their God-given intellectual, artistic, physical, and spiritual potential in preparation for a life of Christian commitment and service to family, church, community, country, and the world.

“PCA teachers tailor the way they teach to each child so the children can learn in the way they know how to learn. Everything else— learning values, being safe, being around family—is a bonus.”

Christine Diehl, Parent
Cape Neddick, ME





“...THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH.
THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES...”

Isaiah 40:31

PORTSMOUTH
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY
—AT DOVER—

20 Seaborne Drive • Dover, NH 03820
(603) 742-3617 • pcaschool.org