

The Pennfield School



The Nutshell

A Guide to Our Curriculum & Community

2025–2026

The Nutshell

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THE PENNFIELD SCHOOL

does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, religious affiliation, non-disqualifying handicap, sexual orientation, family composition, ethnic or national origin, in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational policies, hiring or any of its school practices.



Our mission is to
create an inclusive
community of
dedicated learners,
where students
are given a
foundation and
appreciation for
the joyful pursuit
of understanding—
and respect for
themselves and
others as
a way of life.



A Letter from the Head of School

Work Hard. Be Kind. Have Fun.

Dear Pennfield Families,

“If only we could bottle it.”

I have heard that statement numerous times in the past two years. The “it” is the way people feel when they experience Pennfield. As biased as you may think I am, the Pennfield community is unlike any other I have experienced in 30+ years in school leadership. Each morning, we start our day in Assembly filled with music, student speeches, and stories. These small, joyful connections are part of what makes our school feel like home, and each student feels it. I especially love when parents and siblings join us for morning assembly—it’s a beautiful way to start the day together and to remind ourselves of our shared motto: “Work hard, be kind, and have fun.”

Recently, a family shared, “We did not think schools like Pennfield existed anymore. Our son is in preschool, and almost every student in the school knows him. How could you ask for anything more?”

At Pennfield, we believe education is about more than academics—it’s about nurturing the whole child through active learning, academic rigor, and real-life experience. Our goal is to inspire curiosity, build character, and cultivate a lifelong love of learning. From our youngest preschoolers to our eighth-grade leaders, we are committed to helping each student grow into a confident, compassionate, and capable individual.

You’ll see our values come to life in countless ways: through joyful classroom learning, hands-on projects, outdoor exploration, service opportunities, and the many traditions that make Pennfield such a special place. Our exceptional faculty and staff are here to support your child every step of the way, and we are excited to partner with you in this journey.

I’m incredibly proud of the Pennfield curriculum. It’s a dynamic blend of academic rigor and active, hands-on learning that sparks critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Our faculty inspires students to ask big questions, explore new ideas, and take ownership of their learning. From preschool through 8th grade, we’re dedicated to helping students grow into confident, compassionate individuals who are ready to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you to discover The Pennfield School.

Warmly,



PAUL AMADIO



THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten

One teacher and one assistant teacher per classroom

School day:
8:00 a.m.
to 1:00 p.m.
with free
Extended
Day until
2:45 p.m.

The Primary School program focuses largely on socialization and early life skills, introducing children to the world of school and learning in a nurturing environment.

Teachers model respectful listening and appropriate language for conflict resolution, involving children to find positive solutions for disagreements. Children learn to use their words to effectively communicate their thoughts and feelings. Through games and group

activities, young students practice patience and sharing. They build friendships and learn to appreciate their peers' different backgrounds, ideas, and emotions. Teachers foster positive group dynamics through the emphasis on cooperation and teamwork during group play and clean-up times.

Thematic units provide a basis for elementary learning of all kinds, interweaving activities, literature selections, field trips, games, and discussions. Weekly visits to the school library extend the learning experience beyond the classroom. Daily recess on the playground provides for development of gross motor skills and spatial awareness.

Here's a look at the co-curriculars for all Primary School students.

Science

The Primary School science curriculum focuses on simple natural and physical science concepts, which are explored further each week as students visit the science table and investigate a variety of material with scales, magnifying glasses, and their senses. Weekly science lessons are often aligned with the monthly theme and allow students to explore

the natural world. During the fall and spring, students spend time in the Pennfield garden to observe nature, including seeds, plant growth, harvesting, and composting.

Social Studies

Social studies lessons are part of the Morning Meeting. Units include seasonal themes, community helpers, and social/emotional development.

Spanish

At Pennfield, the study of Spanish begins in Primary

School, with weekly lessons that introduce young students to the language they will study through the 8th grade. Students learn songs in Spanish, along with beginning numbers and basic vocabulary.

Library

A weekly visit to the school library gives Primary School students an opportunity to broaden their interests, participate in story time, and select a book to check out.

Art & Music

Primary School students are encouraged to explore their creativity through music and visual arts exploration. Art and music are also used to reinforce academic lessons.

Physical Education

Weekly physical education classes include active time outside, weather permitting, with a focus on gross motor skills and being part of a team. Mindfulness techniques are introduced through yoga instruction. Games and activities help students learn to use their body, mind, and breath to control themselves in a more mindful and intentional way.

Extended Day

● **The Primary Extended Day Program provides care and supervision for our Primary School students every day from 1:00–2:45 p.m. Activities include rest time, arts and crafts, stories, free play, and outdoor play. There is no charge for this service. Students may stay until 5:00 p.m. for an additional fee (see page 31).**

Our children are
not just receiving
an education,
they are growing
in an environment
that fosters curiosity,
kindness, and a
love for learning.







THE LOWER SCHOOL

Kindergarten to Grade 5

A full-day program with a more structured class schedule.

Extended Day Program:
3:00–5:00 p.m.
Included with tuition for 4th and 5th grades.

For kindergarten to 3rd grade, see page 31 for additional rates.

In Kindergarten through 5th grade, each year builds upon the lessons learned from the previous year, allowing students to master skills in each discipline at an age-appropriate level. Core subjects of English, math, and social studies are taught by the classroom teacher in a self-contained classroom. Students also engage in science, Spanish, art, music, physical education, and theatre, developing their strengths

in each of these areas. As they reach 5th grade, students prepare for middle school, utilizing personal laptops for study, as well as participating in cross-grade collaborations and after school activities.

Here's a look at the co-curriculars for all Lower School grades.

Science
Pennfield's Lower School science curriculum focuses on hands-on learning and providing outdoor experiences that utilize our campus and Aquidneck Land Trust trail. Students actively explore science through dynamic activities and experiments while gaining a deeper understanding of scientific concepts. By 5th grade, students spend a majority of their class time and double-period labs going out into the field, conducting scientific experiments and inquiry,

and reflecting in their journals to track progress.

Spanish
Students build on Spanish studies introduced in preschool and pre-K. Level-appropriate interactive games, songs, cultural materials, and literature are routinely used within lessons, giving students opportunities to practice using the language through student-created skits, emphasizing greeting vocabulary. An introduction to Latin American geography also provides real-world context for the students. In the 4th and 5th grades, studies prepare students for the structure and rigor of Spanish in the Middle School.

Art
Art is a core part of every student's education at Pennfield. Kindergarteners through 5th graders work with a wide variety of media to grow their understanding of art elements and principles. They explore drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture to find ways to express their creativity, progressing gradually each year. The teacher introduces art history and multicultural arts to foster an appreciation of different kinds of art and to learn how to discuss their own work constructively. Students partake in Arts Week each spring.

Music
In the Lower School music program, students learn to recognize beat and rhythm patterns, build confidence in their singing and vocal range, and experiment with simple instruments, including the xylophone, drums, and electronic keyboards. Dance is incorporated to improve physical coordination and rhythm comprehension. Often different musical traditions are woven into classroom social studies of world geography and cultures. Students are able to perform for their peers and families.

Students in 5th grade are introduced to modern band and select a musical instrument such as guitar, ukulele, piano, or drums to study. They learn to play songs they love from different genres, sing lyrics, improvise solos and background parts,

Academically, the curriculum is not only comprehensive, but also tailored to each student's unique learning style. The dedication of the teachers is evident in the way they inspire a love for learning.

and compose music. Students may also choose to participate in Select Chorus, an optional ensemble that meets weekly and performs at school and outside events.

Theatre

The Lower School theatre program is designed to ignite a life of creative thinking. Our curriculum fosters creativity, self-expression, personal and social growth, collaboration, and problem-solving. Most importantly, students gain confidence and an appreciation for aesthetics, all while having fun.

Library

Students in kindergarten through 4th grade visit the library each week to discover classic and contemporary literature and learn age-appropriate fundamentals of research in conjunction with classroom projects.

Physical Education and Health

The Lower School physical education program focuses on movement, utilizing games, gymnastics, and dance to foster students' physical and emotional development through movement

concepts such as body awareness, space, effort, and relationships. It is designed to build on those concepts through axial movements, locomotor skills, balance, and manipulative skills. This development leads into sports education as the students become competent in basic skills and mature physically and emotionally.

The health education curriculum aims to increase student awareness of their role in taking care of their own health. Emphasis is placed on the steps necessary to maintain overall health including staying physically fit, eating nutritious foods, and establishing an awareness of their social and emotional health.

Diversity

Beginning in 5th grade, students attend a weekly diversity class where they have the opportunity to explore different cultures and ideas from around the world. Classes provide opportunities for real-world problem solving and encourage students to seek answers to important global questions.

The Buddy Program



● Pennfield's Buddy Program is a treasured way students can build community and lasting relationships. Each year, older students are paired up with younger students as Buddies. Once a month, Buddies have the opportunity to meet and work together in a variety of fun and educational activities. Additionally, during Thursday morning assemblies, Buddies enjoy starting the day dancing together during Movement Thursday. The partnerships benefit both younger and older students by building self-esteem, communication, and empathy skills.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grade 6 to Grade 8

Students move independently from class to class and store their belongings in personal lockers

Extended Day Program:
3:00–5:00 p.m.
(included in tuition)

In the Middle School, students in 6th through 8th grade prepare for the higher level of autonomy they will experience in secondary school.

Each Middle School student is assigned a faculty advisor, who they periodically meet for individual advisory as well as group meetings during one lunch period each week to discuss goal setting, study skills, decision-making, and universal values. Advisors also assist students

with their assembly speeches to be presented to the entire school. These include 6th and 7th grade presentations on a topic of their choice—such as hobbies, pets, travels—and 8th grade presentations on their community service project (see page 24). Through this program, students learn the value of civic and social responsibility.

A number of activities are incorporated into the Middle School schedule to address the needs of this age group and their level of study. These include a weekly “town meeting” led by the Student Council every Wednesday morning to discuss issues and concerns that pertain solely to 6th through 8th graders. In addition, middle school students meet weekly with the Head of School in a class designed to build public speaking skills, strengthen social-emotional learning, and encourage thoughtful discussion. Through group projects and open conversations, students grow in confidence, self-awareness, and connection to others while developing a stronger voice and sense of community.

Along with the core subjects of English, math, social studies, science, and Spanish, the Middle School co-curriculars of art, music, health, and physical education follow a progression where students master basic skills that enable them to work independently and advance according to their own abilities and stamina. Enrichment programs provide additional opportunities for collaboration and discovery.

Here’s a look at the co-curriculars for all Middle School grades.

Art

The Middle School art program is a foundation course focusing on the elements and principles of design. Skills are developed through projects in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. Art history is woven into the curriculum and museum explorations expose the students to the wider art world. By 8th grade, students are fluent in a variety of media with a firm foundation in design and an appreciation for the diversity and art of many cultures.

Music

In Middle School, students participate in two music classes per week. They may choose between modern band or general music. Students in modern band are encouraged to maintain a schedule of individual lessons on the instrument of their choice. Opportunities for performances arise throughout the year at school assemblies and concerts. Students may also choose to join Select Chorus, a singing group that meets weekly during one lunch period. Select Chorus members have performed at the Newport Tree Lighting and Providence Bruins Games.

Theatre

Middle School students explore character motivations, scene

work, audition skills, and discipline required to successfully execute ensemble productions - all while building confidence and emphasizing emotional, physical, and vocal control when speaking before an audience.

Physical Education and Health

The Middle School PE curriculum uses both the PE Scholar Sport Education and Tactical Games model. The program aims to develop skills and fitness specific to particular sports, appreciate and execute strategic play,

work effectively within groups, share in class outcomes, and provide responsible leadership. Students develop and apply knowledge about the sport and learn about the roles that surround athletics: officiating, publicizing, keeping statistics, and the celebration of culminating events.

Health education in the Middle School builds upon the Lower School health curriculum. As students get older, new topics are discussed in addition to their overall physical and emotional fitness. Older students also concentrate

on conflict resolution, establishing and maintaining relationships, understanding common diseases, nutrition, and medicine safety.

Diversity

Weekly diversity classes, which begin in 5th grade, become more complex in the Middle School, where students explore different cultures and ideas from around the world with a focus on solving real-world problems. Students are encouraged to seek answers to important global questions while being inspired to participate in Diversity Club (*see page 12*).

Middle School Trips



Outdoor Education

● In the fall, students go on a trip to an outdoor educational camp for 3 nights accompanied by Pennfield faculty chaperones. This shared experience fosters mutual respect, cooperation, goal setting, and leadership opportunities, along with a greater appreciation for the natural world.



Travel Abroad

● Students are invited to travel abroad during Spring Break accompanied by Pennfield faculty. In recent years, trips have included Spain, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. Beyond sightseeing, students spend time with a local host family and help with a community project. Travel abroad gives students a unique opportunity to practice language skills, increase cultural awareness, and learn to become responsible global citizens.





Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

Our motto:
Everyone has
the right to be
treated with
kindness and
respect.

At The Pennfield School, joy, understanding, and respect are cornerstones to creating an inclusive and vibrant community where our members recognize areas of commonality, share diverse perspectives, and celebrate the unique characteristics of each individual.

We strive to nurture a sense of belonging, enabling every student to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally to become engaged global citizens. Through our collective sustained and intentional effort, we are committed to building a diverse and robustly inclusive community where all members are seen, challenged, affirmed, respected, and valued.

Building Community

● Pennfield is dedicated to providing students with a strong foundation in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Weekly diversity classes for students in 5th – 8th grade aim to equip them with the ability to think independently and work collaboratively. Our goal is to prepare them for a constantly evolving future, enabling them to navigate complex

challenges with thoughtful understanding and kindness towards others. Classes provide opportunities for real-world problem solving and encourage students to seek answers to important global questions.

We work towards being good community members and responsible global citizens. Middle School students look forward to participating in Newport's Festival Latino organized by

Conexión Latina Newport. Students used their Spanish speaking skills to engage with the local community, spend time creating art with children, and create friendships outside of our school community.

The Pennfield Art Gallery

● A mini-gallery near the school's front desk showcases rotating art exhibits featuring works by diverse artists and a wide range of subject matter and media, including painting, sculpture, and photography. Past installations have celebrated women artists and women around the world, along with artwork from Africa, Asia, and even Pennfield alumni and their families. Plans are always underway for installations from a diverse range of artists such as renowned photographer Rick Guidotti whose "Positive Exposure" series celebrates the beauty of human diversity.

Diversity Club

● Our Diversity Club is made up of students who are passionate about promoting inclusion and helping others. The club explores topics such as self-identity, cultural awareness, and social justice, while also organizing service efforts like clothing drives and community outreach. Through open discussion and hands-on projects, students build empathy, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Library & Technology

The Pennfield Library

● Our library serves the whole school, offering a range of print and electronic materials intended to inspire a love of reading and a proficiency in finding, evaluating, and using information effectively. With a wide variety of works of fiction and nonfiction, the library supports student interests and provides appealing materials that pique curiosity and motivate students to reach for a book or encourage a friend to share a good read.

While students in preschool through 4th grade participate in a weekly library class, older students use the library to support their growth toward becoming independent, curious, and skillful learners. Students learn how to creatively and thoroughly gather information, while honing communication skills and honoring the conventions of academic research.

Technology

● Pennfield students have access to technology throughout the school building to facilitate and enhance learning. All classrooms are equipped with projectors or interactive display boards, and students and faculty use technology daily in each class to research, plan, and complete homework. At Pennfield, we are always finding new ways to use technology to improve the educational experience.

Tablets and Laptops: In addition to our computer lab, students in kindergarten have access to iPads via a mobile pod. Lower School students in 1st – 4th grade benefit from a 1:1 iPad program and each classroom is equipped with its own iPad cart. Students in 5th – 8th are given MacBooks.

Academic and Social Guidance

The Center for Student Success

● The Center for Student Success (CSS) is available to support individual learning needs and nurture student success. Based on the understanding that every child is unique in how they learn, CSS offers an integrated approach to learning that turns challenges into opportunities for students at all levels. Support focuses on helping students recognize their own learning style and develop strategies for personal and academic growth.

The CSS is housed in a sensory-friendly room that allows students who are neurodiverse to receive targeted intervention and support as deemed necessary by formal evaluations and classroom teacher assessments. It also provides support for students who are at an accelerated level to provide greater challenge in their academic program.

The CSS team consists of literacy, math, and OT specialists, classroom teachers, and administrators working with families to support individual student needs. Based on learning objectives, students participate in small-group work to help them gain academic independence and greater self-awareness and confidence.

Social and Emotional Wellness

● At Pennfield, we believe that a child's social and emotional well-being is as important as their academic growth. Through school-wide programs such as the Choose Love curriculum, students practice empathy, cooperation, and conflict resolution. Our student support coach may work with students one-on-one or in small groups to help them develop self-awareness, manage emotions, navigate conflicts, and strengthen social skills. Support also includes close collaboration with teachers, administrators, and families to help create a safe, inclusive, and positive learning environment for every child. Clinical assessment and support are provided as needed, working with families to optimize their Pennfield experience.

Looking Ahead

Secondary Schools

● The Head of School regularly meets with 8th graders and their families to guide them through the process of selecting and applying to appropriate secondary schools. Recent Pennfield graduates have attended the following secondary schools:

- Dublin School**
Dublin, NH
- Middlesex School**
Concord, MA
- Middletown High School**
Middletown, RI
- Miss Porter’s School**
Farmington, CT
- Moses Brown**
Providence, RI
- Mt. Hope High School**
Bristol, RI
- Phillips Academy Andover**
Andover, MA
- Phillips Exeter Academy**
Exeter, NH
- Pomfret School**
Pomfret, CT
- Portsmouth Abbey School**
Portsmouth, RI
- Portsmouth High School**
Portsmouth, RI
- The Prout School**
Wakefield, RI
- St. George’s School**
Middletown, RI
- The Salisbury School**
Wicomico, MD
- Tabor Academy**
Marion, MA
- The Wheeler School**
Providence, RI

Colleges & Universities

● After completion of secondary school, Pennfield alumni have gone on to attend a wide variety of colleges and universities, including:

- American University**
Washington, DC
- Boston University**
Boston, MA
- Brown University**
Providence, RI
- Bucknell University**
Lewisburg, PA
- College of Charleston,**
Charleston, SC
- Endicott College,**
Beverly, MA
- George Washington University**
Washington, DC
- Georgetown University**
Washington, DC
- Hamilton College**
Clinton, NY
- Harvard University**
Cambridge, MA
- Hobart & William Smith Colleges**
Geneva, NY
- John Hopkins University**
Baltimore, MD
- Marist College**
Poughkeepsie, NY
- Middlebury College**
Middlebury, VT
- Northeastern University**
Boston, MA
- New York University**
New York, NY

- Princeton University**
Princeton, NJ
- Roger Williams University**
Bristol, RI
- Rollins College**
Winter Park, FL
- Salve Regina University**
Newport, RI
- Skidmore College**
Saratoga Springs, NY
- Stanford University**
Stanford, CA
- St. Lawrence College**
Canton, NY
- Trinity College**
Hartford, CT
- United States Air Force Academy**
Colorado Springs, CO
- University of Colorado**
Boulder, CO
- University of New Hampshire**
Durham, NH
- University of Pennsylvania**
Philadelphia, PA
- University of Rhode Island**
Kingston, RI
- University of Wisconsin**
Madison, WI
- University College**
Dublin, Ireland
- Vassar College**
Poughkeepsie, NY
- Wheaton College**
Norton, MA
- Yale University**
New Haven, CT



The Arts

Individual Music Lessons

● Students of all ages may take advantage of individual music lessons on a variety of instruments as well as vocal instruction. Arrangements for afternoon lessons and instrument rentals can be made through the music instructors.

Spring Production

● Older students in 4th through 8th grade are invited to participate in the much-anticipated Spring Production. Students can choose on-stage or off-stage roles, pouring their hearts into rehearsals, stage sets, technical wizardry, and costumes. The show always premieres with a performance for the entire school, with a highly anticipated Friday night performance for the greater community. Rehearsals begin in the spring trimester.

Arts Week

● Art is truly a part of the Pennfield curriculum, exceeding the bounds of the “everyday.” Arts Week features an exciting series of performances and workshops, culminating in a daylong extravaganza with students participating in different hands-on workshops, tailored to their ages, abilities and interests. Dozens of guest artists from all over New England and beyond join in this learning celebration. The purpose of the week is multifaceted: to expose students to as much cultural and artistic diversity as possible, give students the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of media, encourage them to think creatively, and generate new ideas and fresh perspectives.

Athletics



● Our after-school Athletics program focuses on having fun and learning positive life lessons by participating in intramural and introductory-level competitive sports. We provide an atmosphere of acceptance that gives each student a chance to be a contributing part of a team.

Our new golf program takes place at the YMCA and is open to students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Starting in 4th grade, students can choose to join the School's cross country team. In 5th grade, they can start to play against other local and regional schools throughout the year in a variety of sports: soccer and cross country in the fall; basketball, indoor track, and swimming in the winter; and lacrosse and track in the spring. Some of the schools Pennfield competes against include: Moses Brown, Providence Country Day, The Wheeler School, Rocky Hill, St. Michael's Country Day School, Friend's Academy, Middletown, and Wilbur & McMahon in Little Compton.

Practices and games are usually scheduled Monday through Thursday with occasional Friday games or weekend tournaments. Student athletes are transported by bus for most scheduled events.

Young Athletes

● Pennfield's Athletics program also provides non-competitive club activities, skills clinics, and recreational sports for little ones. Although they don't compete, younger students in 3rd grade may be invited to participate in cross country and track practices.

Sustainability

● Our sustainability program is centered around community, care, and conservation, preparing students to adopt lifelong habits that benefit the planet. Through interactive learning, after-school programming, and summer camps, students are introduced to sustainability topics and projects that are interwoven into curriculum and take full advantage of our beautiful 19-acre campus, located adjacent to the Aquidneck Land Trust.

The Green Team

● A popular extracurricular offering at Pennfield, the nature-driven Green Team is made up of dozens of eco-conscious students who enjoy preserving and beautifying our sprawling campus. Successful projects include establishing a school composting program and planting our school vegetable garden. The Green Team is divided into 2 groups that meet after school on separate days:

Grades 1 - 4:

● Students often find themselves on nature-based walks around campus, learning about ideas and strategies to help our environment. They also participate in a recycling-based activity each month.

Grades 5 - 8:

● Students delve into environmental issues facing our state and the country, discussing electric vehicles, global warming, threatened species, and other relevant topics. The club is both a place for discussion and an action committee where students can develop projects that have a positive impact on the environment.

Bushcraft & Hiking Club

● This after-school club invites students to explore favorite nature trails while learning some primitive survival techniques along the way. Spring hiking and bushcraft is aimed at outdoor enthusiasts looking to get active each spring and explore the wet spring environment in a series of challenges while soaking up the beauty of the forest. Shelter building, foraging, and much more are explored each week.

Student Clubs & Leadership

● Lower and Middle School students can choose to participate in special-interest clubs and activities after school, allowing unique opportunities for service and leadership. Activities include student government and activism, producing the school newspaper, yearbook, and activities centered around student interests such as chess club, robotics, horsemanship, reading, and other subjects. Clubs are often student-run and meet regularly with Pennfield faculty and parent volunteers who help facilitate. Faculty welcome suggestions for new clubs throughout the year.

Student Council

● Students nominate their peers and hold elections to serve on the Student Council, which coordinates school fundraising activities, Spirit Week, dances, and other extra-curricular activities. Student Council also organizes a variety of community service projects.

Spanish Honor Society

● Students in 8th grade are encouraged to participate in Pennfield's chapter of the Spanish Honor Society, which involves activities that support and promote the Spanish language and culture both within the school and in the greater community.

Summer Camp

● Summer is a special time in the Ocean State, and Pennfield offers a memorable camp experience for students. Our goal is to ensure children have fun while learning new skills and developing friendships. We provide thematic camps led by a dedicated staff of educators and camp instructors. Our 19-acre tree-lined campus on Little Slocum Farm is an idyllic setting for outdoor activities, and campers enjoy use of our gymnasium, athletic fields, playgrounds, art studio, computer lab, science lab, and stage. For more information, please email us at summer@pennfield.org.



Our programs in
and out of the
classroom nurture
children's creativity,
self-expression,
and understanding
of the world
around them.

Our Curriculum By Grade

The Primary School Curriculum

Preschool

- **Language Arts:** With a focus on developing emerging language skills, children discover the connection between print and speech. Through singing, storytelling, and rhyming games, preschoolers learn to explore books independently and re-tell favorite stories; recognize each letter of the alphabet and the sound(s) it makes, uppercase and lowercase, and words that begin with each letter; write their own name; ask and answer pertinent questions; state facts and observations; and use language to solve problems. Children are also introduced to American Sign Language.
- **Mathematics:** Math learning is comprised of classifications, patterning, one-to-one correspondence, sequencing, numeration, measurement, and graphing. Students explore numbers through puzzles, rhymes, and songs, as well as hands-on manipulatives of all sorts. Sand and water play teach students about measuring, weighing, and volume.

Pre-Kindergarten

- **Language Arts:** Pre-kindergarten language arts learning expands to memorization of rhymes, songs, and poems. Students increase letter and word recognition through letter-of-the-week activities and comprehend that print is read from left to right. Teachers use the *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum to teach correct letter formation techniques and to help children observe their own dictated

stories in written form. Children's speaking and listening vocabularies continue to grow.

- **Mathematics:** In math, pre-kindergarteners expand their shape vocabulary and continue to explore patterning and sequencing. They readily count up to 20 objects and begin to recognize and apply number symbols. Spatial concepts such as in/on, above/below, and top/middle/bottom are examined through play and stories.

The Lower School Curriculum

Kindergarten

- **Language Arts:** Kindergarten teachers use a variety of materials to ensure each student's growth in reading and writing proficiency. These include Capstone *Engage Literacy* readers for guided practice; Heggerty Phonemic Awareness and UFLI Foundations to support daily phonics lessons and activities; Collaborative Classroom *Being a Writer*™ for instruction in handwriting with a focus on posture, grip, paper position, capital and lowercase letter formation, and writing words. Supplemental activities, games, and practice materials are often introduced to provide support and engage learners.
- **Mathematics:** Beginning in kindergarten, math is taught using the Singapore Math series, *Math in Focus*. The hands-on program teaches young learners about time, money, and measurement, geometry and spatial sense, as well as the concepts of data and chance. Study includes counting and numeration, correct number formation, numerical patterns, functions, sequences, operations, and problem solving.
- **Social Studies:** Among many topics studied throughout the year, social studies units may include families, friendship, travel, amazing animals, neighborhoods, food, traditions, and children's interests. Activities including "show and tell," field trips, and reading selections may all be based on the current theme.

Curriculum

Grade 1

• **Language Arts:** In 1st grade, students continue to develop their reading and writing skills every day, both independently and in teacher-led small groups. Language arts instruction uses a workshop model to enhance applied spelling, grammar, and handwriting abilities, while encouraging imaginative and original storytelling and a love of reading.

• **Mathematics:** The *Math in Focus* program continues to engage students in a hands-on examination of linear and weight measurement, thermometers, calendars, clocks, and money. Students begin to use mental arithmetic by memorizing addition and subtraction facts. First grade math introduces a number of concepts such as fractions, place value, number sense, mathematical relations, and word problems, which will be expanded on in later grades.

• **Social Studies:** Students explore a variety of themes such as Families and Communities, Working Together, Economics, Landforms and Bodies of Water, and Colonial Times and Customs/Traditions. They keep up with current events through *Scholastic News*® magazine. Participation in the cross-grade presentation—a cross-curricular project for grades 1, 2, and 3 that combines social studies, language arts, research, music, movement, and public speaking—is also an integral part of the 1st grade social studies program.

Grade 2

• **Language Arts:** With the help of the *Being a Reader*™, *Being a Writer*™, and *Making Meaning* programs, students continue to gain depth of reading comprehension and writing skills. With more advanced fine motor control, students work on handwriting formation and ultimately, cursive formation using Zaner-Bloser. Students develop their vocabulary skills with Sadlier *Vocabulary Workshop* and the CCC curriculum components. And UFLI Foundations is used to teach students the foundational skills necessary for proficient reading.

• **Mathematics:** In 2nd grade math, students review addition and subtraction facts, time and money concepts, and patterning. The study of fractions, measurement, decimals, and place value becomes more in-depth. Two- and three-dimensional shapes are introduced as a prelude to geometry and students begin memorization of multiplication facts and operations.

• **Social Studies:** Over the course of the year in social studies, 2nd graders move through a series of units on Native Americans, national symbols and landmarks, Rhode Island state history, local geography, and basic economics. Students discuss current events they read about in the *Scholastic News*® magazine. Participation in the cross-grade Lower School presentation—a cross-curricular project for grades 1, 2, and 3 that combines social studies, language arts, research, music, movement, and public speaking—rounds out the social studies curriculum.

Grade 3

• **Language Arts:** The 3rd grade language arts program begins using the HMH *Into Reading* curriculum. With this program, students build a love of reading through practice of foundation skills, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. They connect literacy instruction and content areas, work in small groups and independently, and learn effective writing skills for communication. Formal spelling, grammar, and handwriting practice round out the program.

• **Mathematics:** Math students continue using the *Math in Focus* curriculum as they move ahead to multi-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Study of fractions, place value, decimals, and geometry continues. Math facts and skills are reinforced through a variety of math and computer games.

• **Social Studies:** In social studies, 3rd graders are introduced to mapping and map reading skills as they discover both the geography and history of Rhode Island. As in grades 1 and 2, the cross-grade presentation that combines



social studies, language arts, research, music, movement, and public speaking plays a major role in the social studies curriculum.

Grade 4

- **Language Arts:** With a focus on writing, 4th grade students learn the mechanics of writing as they create narrative, descriptive, expository, procedural, and persuasive pieces, in addition to poetry. *Being a Writer™* workshops emphasize the steps of writing: drafting, revising, editing, proofreading, and publication. Students learn to peer edit while working together to enjoy the writing process. Curriculum includes the Collaborative Literacy suite (writing, literature, spelling, grammar), Sadlier-Oxford *Vocabulary Workshop*, and novels in a wide variety of genres.

- **Mathematics:** In math, students gain a more in-depth understanding of decimals, fractions, measurement, and probability. Previously mastered skills, such as multiplication and division facts, are applied

to new multistep concepts. Fourth graders identify and construct geometric shapes, estimate and compute with larger numbers, and interpret data using graphs and statistical landmarks.

- **Social Studies:** The social studies curriculum has a dual emphasis—geography of the US and major countries around the world, and history from the Industrial Revolution through the Gilded Age. Both studies guide students as they explore the history of events that have impacted the United States with a close study of Rhode Island. Students also learn about current world events. A cross-grade focus unit for 4th and 5th graders combines a social studies topic with research writing and culminates in a schoolwide presentation from each student.

Grade 5

- **Language Arts:** The 5th grade language arts curriculum uses Houghton Mifflin *Into Reading®* as the foundation of reading, writing, vocabulary, spelling, and grammar.

Curriculum

Students are able to explore a variety of genres to deepen their understanding of both fiction and nonfiction works through whole class novels, small literacy circles, and independent reading. They practice the mechanics of writing and explore numerous forms of writing, including narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive, and poetry.

- **Mathematics:** With a strong focus on more advanced computation, students develop an understanding of math concepts through hands-on learning, visualization, and pictorial models. The 5th grade math curriculum uses Houghton Mifflin *Math in Focus*® to develop critical thinking skills necessary to solve math problems. Students learn to compute with fractions, decimals, and percentages, explore geometric and algebraic concepts, organize data for analysis, and learn graphing skills.

- **Social Studies:** In social studies, 5th graders develop a deeper understanding of the past by exploring the significance of historical events through inquiry and investigation. Units focus on map work, geography of North America, and the history of Native peoples, European explorers, early colonial settlements, the American Revolution, and the formation of the United States government. Through videos, readings, research, maps, note-taking, discussions, and reporting, students build knowledge about how these historical events have shaped the world we live in today.

The Middle School Curriculum

Grade 6

- **Language Arts:** In 6th grade English, students improve their reading and vocabulary by increasing their familiarity with a variety of literary genres, including poetry, drama, and novels of fiction and nonfiction. Students work towards project-based culminating assessments such as creating their own Podcasts and graphic novels. In both expository and creative writing, 6th graders continue to hone their writing process: drafting, revising, and editing. Students are introduced to the MLA writing style, which they will continue to use through 8th grade. Readings may include *Beowulf*, *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt, *Becoming Muhammed Ali* by Kwame Alexander and James Patterson, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, and *Tales from the Odyssey* by Mary Pope Osborn.

- **Mathematics:** In mathematics, 6th grade students further develop their number sense by mastering operations with fractions and decimals. Special emphasis is placed on proportional reasoning as students apply their number skills to solve problems. Students use geometry to solve perimeter, area, and volume problems, transformations, and measurable attributes of two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects. They are also introduced to statistics and some algebra competencies.

- **Social Studies:** The 6th grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient history, specifically that of the Stone Age, the Fertile Crescent, Egypt, China, Greece, and Rome. Using texts, stories, art, and multi-media projects, students examine the political and economic systems, religions, social institutions, languages, customs, and technological and artistic development of these civilizations.

- **Science:** In science, 6th graders concentrate on astronomy and Earth science, using

experimentation and observation, prediction and collection, and analysis and presentation of data. Students learn about the planet Earth from core to atmosphere as they also explore Earth's moon and our planet's place in our solar system and the universe beyond. Students master techniques for designing their own experiment for both written and graphic communication of data.

- **Spanish:** Spanish lessons continue in 6th grade with a focus on oral proficiency. Speaking practice is part of the group's daily routine. Grammatical points covered in 6th grade include definite and indefinite articles, regular AR, ER, and IR verb conjugations, interrogative expressions, and the use of adjectives. Class projects allow students the opportunity to utilize their language skills in creative ways. Cultural studies focus on the geography of Latin America, as well as relations between the United States and Cuba.

Grade 7

- **Language Arts:** English in 7th grade students explore nonfiction, science fiction, and dystopian, fantasy, and realistic fiction genres of reading and writing. Students contemplate more deeply the structure of socioeconomics in literature such as S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, K.A. Holt's *House Arrest*, and Lois Lowry's *The Giver*. Writing assignments include students' own fiction stories, personal narratives, and journaling.

- **Mathematics:** In 7th grade students transition to pre-algebra using the Prentice Hall series textbook, with emphasis on algebra competencies. Students model and solve more complex real-world problems using equations and graphs and are introduced to the concept of function. They build on their number sense to understand properties of numbers and continue to apply geometry and measurement skills.

- **Social Studies:** World Cultures is the 7th grade history course and focuses on developing a meaningful understanding of the world around us. Using the elements of culture and themes of geography as tools,

students examine several regions of the world, including Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and/or Latin America. Students also engage in a survey study of world religions. Novels, short stories, and films provide greater insight into the life of these regions. A concurrent study of local, national, and global current events is included in the curriculum.

- **Science:** In 7th grade biology, students delve into the unity and diversity of biological evolution, inheritance and variation of traits, ecosystems and their interactions, and the history of biology and the scientists who shaped modern theories and practices. Students begin studies of growth, development, and reproduction of organisms along with their study of natural selection and adaptations. During lab periods, students observe cells under microscopes, dissect ocean animals, and develop possible solutions to specific engineering challenges.

- **Spanish:** Seventh graders develop increasingly more sophisticated use of the Spanish language as their grammar skills and vocabulary increase. Possessive adjectives, comparative phrases, and stem-changing verbs are a few of the concepts covered. Cultural studies focus on the countries of Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Spain. In the 7th grade, students have their first opportunity to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

Grade 8

- **Language Arts:** English emphasizes the development of strong reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in preparation for high school. Students read a variety of literary and informational texts, analyzing themes, figurative language, tone, and author's purpose. The curriculum balances classical and contemporary works with memoirs such as *Night* by Elie Wiesel, novels like *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, and a Shakespearean play. Writing includes narrative, argumentative, and informative pieces, with focus on crafting clear thesis statements, supporting

Curriculum

ideas with evidence, and citing sources properly. Journaling and free writing offer opportunities for creative expression and personal voice.

• **Mathematics:** In 8th grade math, students complete a full year of Algebra I using the Prentice Hall series textbook, learning mathematics as a symbolic language to represent ideas. Students use multiple representations (graphs, charts, and words) to make predictions and demonstrate their understanding of real-world relationships. They also master their understanding of exponents, powers, and roots and how to apply algebraic reasoning to geometry, statistics, and probability problems.

• **Social Studies:** In history, students examine American history from early colonization through the Civil War. The major units of study include: Religious and Economic Motives of Colonization, the American Revolution, the United States Constitution, United States Expansion, and the Civil War. In addition to course content, particular focus will be given to writing, researching, and critical thinking skills.

• **Science:** Science study in 8th grade concentrates on human physiology and physics. By this level, students can independently apply the techniques of experimentation, data collection, and analysis they have been practicing in the previous years to create, conduct, document, and analyze their own experiments.

• **Spanish:** Spanish language students continue to build upon their grammatical and vocabulary base, including reflexive verbs, present progressive and preterite tenses, while sharpening their composition skills. The study of culture in the 8th grade focuses on Dominican Republic, Argentina, and Chile. Eighth graders complete an independent study as their final Spanish project at Pennfield. By the end of Middle School, students have built a solid foundation in the language and a well-developed understanding of the cultures of the world's Spanish speaking countries. Our graduates regularly enter advanced placement foreign language classes in secondary schools.

8th Grade Presentations

Community Service

● During the summer before 8th grade, Pennfield students complete a community service project as part of a 20-hour requirement for graduation. Past projects have included creating a special summer reading program at a public library, volunteering as a junior counselor at a summer camp, supporting Special Olympians, and even helping to write a grant proposal to create Land Acknowledgment

signage to honor Narragansett and Wampanoag Nations. Pennfield's spirit of giving back to the community sets the tone for some creative and truly amazing projects. In the fall of 8th grade, students share their projects during a morning assembly. As our younger students listen and learn, they can imagine themselves in the future giving back to our community, too.

Panther Project

● The Panther Project is Pennfield's 8th grade capstone experience, designed to let students explore a topic or challenge that reflects their personal passions and academic interests. Through independent research and hands-on learning, students tackle real-world issues, develop critical thinking and communication skills, and create a meaningful final product. With guidance from a

faculty mentor, each student engages in a process that encourages creativity, responsibility, and reflection. The project culminates in a presentation to peers, faculty, and community members, allowing students to share their work and leave a lasting, personal contribution to the Pennfield community.



Volunteering

● There are many opportunities for parents to get involved at The Pennfield School—and we are grateful to our volunteers who generously share their time and expertise in a variety of different ways to enrich our programming.

Classroom and co-curricular teachers are always on the lookout for parents with special talents, or simply those willing to lend a helping hand in a wide array of areas, including musical accompaniment, computer skills, chaperones and drivers, library time, stuffing envelopes, and more. All efforts to help are welcome and appreciated!

The Pennfield School Association (PSA)

● Our parent-teacher organization offers dozens of volunteer opportunities for interested parents. PSA-sponsored activities include a weekly hot lunch program, Teacher Appreciation Day, special assemblies, and field trips for students. The PSA raises funds for these projects and also for classroom wish lists for all grades and departments. Meetings are held monthly.

The Pennfield Board of Trustees

● In addition to our PSA, the Board of Trustees provides ample opportunity for parents to share their energy and expertise with the school. Parents are invited to participate in Board subcommittees, which range from Buildings and Grounds to Finance and Advancement.

Coaching and Assisting

● The Athletics program provides opportunities for parents to offer sport-specific positional coaching such as soccer and lacrosse goalie instruction, as well as score table operation during basketball and lacrosse tournaments.

Events & Traditions



● Part of what makes the Pennfield community so special is the many different ways we include families in a number of events throughout the school year. Our weekly newsletter, the **Lunchbox Express (LBE)**, is distributed via email each Thursday to keep families informed about current and upcoming events, along with a letter from the Head of School. While subject to change, here's a listing of annual events and Pennfield traditions we've hosted in the past. Suggestions for new events are always welcome!

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ● 8th Grade Dinner | ● Kickball Night |
| ● Annual Corporation Meeting | ● Parent Conference Day |
| ● Arts Festival Week | ● Pennfield Harvest Night |
| ● Commencement Ceremony | ● Pennfield Movie Night |
| ● Fall Festivity | ● Spring Production |
| ● Fall Parents Evening | ● Talent Show |
| ● Family Game Night | ● Teacher Appreciation Day |
| ● Field Day | ● Thanksgiving All-School Feast |
| ● Grandparents and Special Friends Day | ● Middle School Evening Dances |
| ● Golf Tournament | ● Winter Concert |
| ● Halloween Parade | |

Our Faculty

Paul Amadio
Head of School
BFA, Roger Williams University
MFA, Wayne State College

Diana Ackerman
Pre-K
BA, Keene State College

Kerri Antonevich
Assistant Teacher
Extended Day
Bay State Early Childhood
Certification

Meredith Benvenuto-Botelho
Grade 4
BA, University of Rhode Island
MAT, University of Rhode Island

Mathew Bottone
Coordinator of Student Life
Science, Preschool & Pre-K
Science, Grades 6 – 8
Theatre, Grades 6 – 8
BFA, University of Colorado

Andrea Breyer
CSS, Occupational Therapy
Yoga, Preschool & Pre-K
BS, University of Hartford

Diane Campagna
Communications Manager
BA, University of Colorado
RI Certification in
Elementary Education

Kaylee DelDebbio
Grade 4
BA, Roger Williams University

Lizz de Villegas
Development Manager
BA, Hobart and William
Smith Colleges

Peter Dorrien Traisci
Spanish, Grades 4 – 8
BA, Harding University
MA, Middlebury College

Mattie Edwards-Kemp
Director of Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion & Belonging;
World Cultures, Grade 7
Ancient Civilization, Grade 6
BS, University of Tennessee
BS, Salve Regina University
M.Ed, Rhode Island College

Kristin Emory
Senior Director of Enrollment
and Advancement
BA, University of Colorado
MAT, University of San Francisco

Sarah Evans
Preschool
BA, Salve Regina University
RI Certification in
Early Childhood Education

Nicole Fagan
Advancement Associate
Ancillary Programming
BA, University of Rhode Island

Alex Fernandez '01
Mathematics, Grades 6 – 8
CSS Mathematics
BS, Salve Regina University

Kate Filloramo
Assistant Teacher
BA, Roger Williams University
RI Certification in
Elementary Education

Danielle Frawley
Grade 3
BA, Siena College
MAT, Adelphi University

Marta Garcia Tasich
Spanish, Preschool - Grade 3
Assistant Teacher
BS, CUNEF University

Alexis Gibbs
Assistant Teacher
Theatre, Grades K – 8
Music, Preschool and Pre-K
BS, Northern Arizona University

Briana Grelinski
Grade 2
BS, SUNY College at Oneonta
MS, SUNY College at Oneonta

Veronica Hardy
Director of Center
for Student Success
BA, University of New Hampshire
MAT, Rhode Island College

Elle Hawks
English, Grades 6 – 7
BA, Fairfield University
MA, Northern Arizona University
PhD, Salve Regina University

Ryann Humes
Pre-K
BS, University of New Hampshire

Eddie Jewel
Athletic Director
Physical Education
Technology, Grades 2 – 8
BA, Bridgewater State University

Emily Johnson
Assistant Teacher
BS, University of Rhode Island
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Early Childhood Education

Patricia Johnson
School Nurse
ADN, Community College
of Rhode Island

Jane Kirkpatrick
Grade 5
Curriculum Coordinator
BA, Tufts University

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Assistant Head of School
for Students and Faculty
BA, Salve Regina University
RI Certification in
Early Childhood Education

Allegra Lovoy
Physical Education
Assistant Teacher
Mathematics, Grade 6
BA, Salve Regina University

Derek Martin
Assistant Band Director
Assistant Teacher
BA, Salve Regina University

Priscilla McGlaughlin
Student Wellness Coach
BSN, Drexel University
BA, Purchase College of NY

Kristina Michelson
CSS, Literacy
BA, St. Lawrence University
MA, University of Colorado

Emily Moulton
Assistant Teacher
BS, Plymouth State University

Reagan Mulligan
Kindergarten
BA, Salve Regina University

Erin Musich
English, Grade 8
Library, Preschool - Grade 4
BS, Manhattan College
MA, College of New Jersey

Kaitlynn Nolan
Assistant Teacher
BS, Bridgewater State University

Blayne Norton-Hayes
Art, K – Grade 8
BFA, Roger Williams University

Dawn Cronin Pigott
CSS
BS, University of Maine

Kim Ripa
Kindergarten
BA, Roger Williams University

Abby Rowe
Office Manager and
Administrative Assistant
to the Head of School
BA, Colby College

Sam Schreiber
Science, K – Grade 5
Sustainability Educator
U.S. History, Grade 8
BFA, Tufts University
MA, Tufts University

Allison Serina
Senior Director of
Operations and Finance
BA, Assumption College

Kate Sisk
Assistant Teacher
BA, Trinity College

Amy Sylvia
Grade 1
BA, Bridgewater State University

Jessica Stadel
Events Coordinator
BS, Lasell College

Loralee Swanson
Music, K – Grade 8
BA, University of Wyoming
MA, University of Kentucky

Accreditations & Affiliations

● The Pennfield School is accredited by the Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE), of which it is a member. The Lower School is approved annually as an elementary school by the office of the Commissioner of Education of the State of Rhode Island. In addition, Pennfield holds memberships in the following organizations:

The National Association of Independent Schools
(NAIS)

The Independent Schools Association of Rhode Island
(ISARI)

The Educational Records Bureau
(ERB)

The Secondary School Admission Test Board
(SSAT)

National Association of Independent Schools

● *The Pennfield School is proud to be a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).*

Principles of Good Practice for Member Schools

Building on the work of the early childhood educators, elementary educators continue to nourish the child’s joy of discovery and passion for learning. They strive to provide for the child’s social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and moral growth—giving special attention to the mastery of basic skills and concepts that are the foundation of all future learning. *The Pennfield School adheres to the following NAIS principles:*

1. Elementary school educators, and all personnel who interact with children, have appropriate training and knowledge regarding the developmental characteristics and needs of this age group.
2. Elementary school educators create a safe and secure environment, in which students grow in both autonomy and the ability to work and play together.
3. Elementary school educators design and implement programs that actively engage students in making connections, solving problems, and thinking independently.
4. Elementary school educators teach to individual learning styles and intelligences and assess learning in a variety of ways.
5. Elementary school educators support the child’s emerging identity by respecting and providing for each student’s voice.
6. Elementary school educators build relationships with their students, in which each child feels understood, nurtured, and challenged.
7. Elementary school educators work to create a relationship with parents that facilitates the exchange of information necessary to ensure the child’s progress.
8. Elementary school educators create opportunities for children to become increasingly responsible for the many communities in which they live.
9. Elementary school educators defend the dignity and worth of each member of the community, and create an environment that fosters respect, understanding, and acceptance of differences.

Tuition & Fees

2025-2026 Tuition Schedule

Preschool – Pre-Kindergarten	\$15,130
Kindergarten – Grade 3	\$19,135
Grade 4 – Grade 5	\$21,045
Grade 6 – Grade 8	\$26,760

• Financial aid and military discounts are available.

Tuition costs include

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Early Bird care before school | • Field trips (excludes any optional Spring Break trips) |
| • Primary School care from 1:00–2:45 p.m. | • Small group resource support |
| • Extended Day program for 4th – 8th grade | • Athletics |
| • Technology (including laptops for 5th – 8th grade) | • Books |
| | • Spring Production |
| | • Yearbook |

Annual Extended Day Program Fees

● Preschool to 3rd Grade, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

1 Day	\$720
2 Days	\$1,400
3 Days	\$2,160
4 Days	\$2,880
5 Days	\$3,220

School Hours

Arrival

- The Early Bird program begins at 7:30 a.m. for students who need to be dropped off early.
- All students are expected to arrive for school between 7:55 and 8:05 a.m. Any student who is not present for morning assembly at 8:10 a.m. is considered tardy.
- The Primary School program is a half-day from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. for preschool and pre-kindergarten students.
- There is an extended day option for these grades, free of charge, from 1:00–2:45 p.m.

• Lower and Middle School grades are full-day from 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. After-school activities for 4th – 8th graders typically conclude by 4:45 p.m. depending on the sport or activity.

Transportation

- Municipal bus service is available for students living in Little Compton, Tiverton, and Aquidneck Island.
- In other areas, many families carpool to school. Contact the front desk or your class representative for names of families in your area who wish to share the driving.

2025–2026 Calendar

Major dates subject to change

2025

Wednesday, August 27	New Family Welcome Dinner, 4:30–7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 1	Labor Day Holiday (no classes)
Tuesday, September 2	Orientation 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 3	First Day of Classes
Tuesday, September 23	Rosh Hashanah (no classes)
Thursday, September 25	Fall Parents Evening, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 2	Yom Kippur (no classes)
Friday, October 10	Professional Development Day (no classes)
Monday, October 13	Indigenous Peoples' Day Holiday (no classes)
Monday, October 27	Fall Parent Conferences (no classes)
Tuesday, November 11	Veterans Day Holiday (no classes)
Friday, November 21	Thanksgiving Holiday begins, 3:00 p.m.
Monday, December 1	Classes resume
Thursday, December 18	Winter Concert Winter Holiday begins at 12:00 p.m.

2026

Monday, January 5	Classes resume
Monday, January 19	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (no classes)
Friday, Monday & Tuesday February 13 - 17	Winter Long Weekend & Professional Day (no classes)
Friday, March 6	Spring Break begins, 3:00 p.m.
Monday, March 23	Classes resume
Friday, April 3	Good Friday (no classes)
Thursday, April 23	The Corporation Meeting, Pennfield's Annual Meeting
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)
Friday, June 5	Final Friday Assembly
Tuesday, June 9	Last Day Primary and Kindergarten
Wednesday, June 10	Field Day
Thursday, June 11	Commencement, 10:00 a.m.



The Pennfield School was founded as *The New School* by Father John A. Cranston Jr. and a group of families in Newport in 1971. In 1993, the school was renamed to honor its beloved Assistant Head of School and English teacher, Isabelle Penny. After years of growth, Pennfield moved into its new building and 19-acre property at Little Slocum Farm in Portsmouth in 2004.



JOY | UNDERSTANDING | RESPECT

The Pennfield School

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Preschool (age 3) - Grade 8