

*The Pennfield School*



# The Nutshell

A Guide to  
Our Curriculum  
& Community

2024-2025

**The  
Nutshell**

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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.





# Work Hard. Be Kind. Have Fun.

**My favorite part of every day** is when faculty and I greet students and families at morning drop-off. I say “hello” and “good morning” as each student passes me by, and I often get a moment to check in with families before they leave. Those 15 minutes mean the world to me, with high-fives, smiles, occasional hugs, and countless “good morning, Mr. A’s” being my daily reminders of how special our community is—and our commitment to nurturing students to discover their love for learning, provide service to others, and take care of our planet.

Families are always welcome at Pennfield. Recently, a preschooler raced up to me with outstretched arms, waiting for me to hoist her over my head. I did as directed, and after that she ran to me every morning, wide-eyed with a huge smile, excited for me to lift her up. A short time later, her little brother got in on the action, and now he runs to me with waiting arms outstretched, too. I love interactions like these and am always happy when parents and younger siblings join us for our morning assemblies, which are almost always filled with students and parents. It’s a wonderful way to connect with one another and remind everyone to “work hard, be kind, and have fun!”

I’m very proud of the Pennfield curriculum, which combines rigorous classroom instruction with active learning and real-world projects that foster critical thinking, collaboration, and self-responsibility. Our outstanding faculty ignite curiosity, encourage creativity, and empower students to thrive in an ever-changing world. From the first day of preschool through 8th grade graduation, we’re committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are prepared and inspired to make a positive impact in their communities. Over the following pages, you’ll see firsthand just how we do this at all levels—Primary, Lower, and Upper—through our many programs and activities.



PAUL AMADIO

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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.**

## THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten

One teacher and one assistant teacher per classroom

**Preschool**  
(age 3)  
average class size: 12

**Pre-Kindergarten**  
(age 4)  
average class size: 16

**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.

### 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).**



Every  
child has  
something  
they can  
be good at,  
and we  
celebrate  
that at  
Pennfield.

## THE LOWER SCHOOL

### Kindergarten to Grade 5

Average class size: 16

**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.

**Starting in kindergarten through 5th grade, the Lower School is a full-day program with more structured classes.** 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 a variety of enrichment classes, developing their strengths in each of these areas.

*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 Upper 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



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.

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, 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.

### **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 UPPER SCHOOL

### **Grade 6 to Grade 8**

**Average class size: 16**

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

Each Upper 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 sidebar). Through this program, students learn the value of civic and social responsibility.

A number of activities are incorporated into the Upper 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, one class period per week is set aside for each Upper School section to meet with the Head of School for timely discussions of current events, values clarification, and preparatory information about choosing and applying to secondary schools.

Along with the core subjects of English, math, social studies, science, and Spanish, the Upper 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 Upper School grades.*

### **Art**

The Upper 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 Upper 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.

### **Physical Education and Health**

The Upper 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 Upper 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 Upper 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 Young Activists (see page 12).

## **8th Grade Community Service Project**

**We strive to produce positive contributors to society.**

● **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.**

## **Upper School Trips**



● **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.**

● **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.**

There's no question about it—our programs are academically rigorous. We have to push our kids to do well, but we push them in a loving way and in a way that motivates them as individuals.





# 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. Upper 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.

### Young Activists

● Our Young Activists group is made up of students passionate about issues related to diversity and helping communities in need. The group's focus areas include self-identity, clothing drives, and a new initiative in collaboration with the school's Green Team to donate vegetables grown in the school's garden. This group is supported by a grant from the Military Spouses of Newport.

# The Enrichment Program

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**Our Enrichment Program** provides students the opportunity to explore non-traditional subjects during the regular school day in weekly classes for Primary and Lower School students or 10-week mini-courses for students in 6th – 8th grade.

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## Makerspace

### Kindergarten - Grade 2:

● Children have a natural ability to explore and discover new ways to use toys. In this co-curricular, children are invited to create, build, and problem solve using Lego®. The Lego ecosystem provides limitless construction possibilities that can be continued at home or combined with other media. This enrichment class encourages students to see themselves as inventors and creators all while having fun. Key benefits of working with Lego include:

- Development of spatial skills
- Enhancement fine motor skills
- Problem solving
- Teamwork and a sense of accomplishment
- Building self-confidence

### Grades 3 - 5:

● Makerspace classes offer different real-world situations and challenges for Lower School students to create collaborative solutions. Students document their process as they solve each situation or turn an idea into

a creation. When finished, students present their final result to the class.

### Grades 6 - 8:

● This Upper School class encourages students to take ownership of their creative skills while coming up with solutions to real-world applications. The first term class focuses on reading for meaning in multiple genres. In the second term, students showcase their creative talents by producing their own books, short stories, screenplays, and magazines. The third term class encourages students to create a country with its own economic structure, exporting capabilities, government, and living communities—all of which may be impacted by natural phenomena and manmade problems.

## Sustainability

### Grades 6 - 8:

● In this class, Upper School students learn about a multitude of environmental issues including climate change, recycling, carbon audits, composting, and protecting animal populations.

Taking this information, students investigate and learn healthy practices for the future that promote sustainability. Students work together on sustainability-based projects and hands-on activities around the school—and learn how fun it is to go green!

## Theatre

### Grades 1 - 5:

● 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.

### Grades 6 - 8:

● Upper School students explore character motivations, scene work, audition skills, and the discipline required to successfully execute ensemble productions—all while building confidence and emphasizing emotional, physical, and vocal control when speaking before an audience.

## Yoga

### Preschool & Pre-K:

Yoga and mindfulness practices in the school setting have been proven to help children improve focus, memory, self-esteem, academic performance, classroom behavior, and even reduce anxiety and stress. Through games, activities, and yoga flow, students learn to use their body, mind, and breath to control themselves in a more mindful and intentional way.

## 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

● New for the 2024-2025 school year, 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 specialists, classroom teachers, and administrators working with families to support individual student needs. Based on learning objectives, students can receive one-on-one instruction or participate in small-group work to help them gain academic independence and greater self-awareness and confidence.

### Social and Emotional Wellness

● At Pennfield, we understand the importance of social and emotional wellness. Our school counselor works with students weekly to provide a gentle ear and helpful techniques to promote social/emotional wellness and academic success. We provide a sensory arena all students can access whenever they need a quiet and nurturing space. 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:

**Middlesex School**  
*Concord, MA*

**Middletown High School**  
*Middletown, RI*

**Miss Porter's School**  
*Farmington, CT*

**Moses Brown**  
*Providence, 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*



Pennfield's  
extra-curricular  
programs  
emphasize  
character  
development,  
instilling  
important  
values that  
extend outside  
school.



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## 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.” The first week of May 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.

Starting in 4th grade, students can choose to join the Upper 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, track, and squash 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 & McMahan 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.

## 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 Upper 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, peer tutoring, chess club, and activities centered around student interests such as the environment, 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](mailto: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

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## The Primary School Curriculum

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### 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-kindergartners 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

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### 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; Wilson *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.

## 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.

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## 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.

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## Grade 3

• **Language Arts:** The 3rd grade language arts program builds on skills taught in 1st and 2nd grade. Students focus on reading a wide variety of books while continuing to write daily and create meaning between reading and writing. Formal spelling and

vocabulary are important components of the curriculum, along with grammar instruction and handwriting practice.

• **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, along with geography of the United States and the continents of the world. Immigration to the US through Ellis Island during the late-1800s into the 1900s is also highlighted. As in grades 1 and 2, 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—plays a major role in the social studies curriculum.

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## 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.

# Curriculum

• **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.

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## 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. 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 Upper School Curriculum

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### 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. In both expository and creative writing, 6th graders continue to hone their writing process: outlining, drafting, and editing. Reading may include *The Mighty Miss Malone* by Christopher Paul Curtis, *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, and Rodman Philbrick's *Freak the Mighty*. Students are introduced to the MLA writing style, which they will continue to use through 8th grade.

• **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 exposes students to nonfiction and dystopian, fantasy, and realistic fiction genres of reading and writing. Students contemplate more deeply the structure of socioeconomics in classic literature such as S.E. Hinton’s *The Outsiders*, Saroo Brierley’s *Lion: A Long Way Home*, J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*, 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

# Curriculum

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.

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## Grade 8

• **Language Arts:** English focuses more deeply on dystopian and historical fiction, nonfiction, and Shakespearean literature. Students analyze order vs. chaos, among other themes in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. Historical fiction is approached in two ways: Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Elie Wiesel's *Night* examines the atrocities

of the Holocaust. Finally, students study a Shakespearean play giving them the opportunity to learn iambic pentameter.

• **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 Upper 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.

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



## 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!

<b>8th Grade Dinner</b>	<b>Golf Tournament</b>
<b>Annual Corporation Meeting</b>	<b>Halloween Parade</b>
<b>Arts Festival Week</b>	<b>Parent Conference Day</b>
<b>Commencement Ceremony</b>	<b>Pennfield Movie Night</b>
<b>Fall Festivity</b>	<b>Spring Production</b>
<b>Fall Parents Evening</b>	<b>Talent Show</b>
<b>Family Game Night</b>	<b>Teacher Appreciation Day</b>
<b>Field Day</b>	<b>Thanksgiving All-School Feast</b>
<b>Grandparents and Special Friends Day</b>	<b>Upper School Evening Dances</b>
	<b>Winter Music Performances</b>

# Our Faculty

## **Paul Amadio**

### **Head of School**

BFA, Roger Williams University  
MFA, Wayne State College

## **Diana Ackerman**

### **Preschool**

BA, Keene State College

## **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

## **Diane Campagna**

### **Communications Manager**

BA, University of Colorado  
RI Certification in  
Elementary Education

## **Shannon D'Eramo**

### **Pre-Kindergarten**

BS, Salve Regina University  
M.Ed, Rhode Island College

## **Lizz de Villegas**

### **Director of Development**

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**

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 Assistant**

BA, University of Rhode Island

## **Alex Fernandez '01**

### **Mathematics, Grades 6 - 8 History, Grade 6**

BS, Salve Regina University

## **Kate Filloramo**

### **Grade 3**

BA, Roger Williams University  
RI Certification in  
Elementary Education

## **Danielle Frawley**

### **Grade 3**

BA, Siena College  
MAT, Adelphi University

## **Alexis Gibbs**

### **Assistant Teacher**

### **Theatre, Grades 1 - 8**

BS, Northern Arizona University

## **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

## **Michelle Hodes**

### **Library, Preschool - Grade 4**

### **Spanish, Preschool - Grade 3**

### **Technology, Grades 1 - 3**

BS, Franciscan University

## **Ryan Humes**

### **Assistant Teacher**

BS, University of New Hampshire

## **Eddie Jewel**

### **Athletic Director**

### **Physical Education**

### **Technology, Grades 4 - 8**

### **Makerspace, Grades 3 - 8**

BA, Bridgewater State University

## **Emily Johnson**

### **Yoga, Preschool & Pre-K Makerspace, K - Grade 2**

BS, University of Rhode Island  
RI Certification in  
Early Childhood Education

## **Patricia Johnson**

### **School Nurse**

ADN, Community College  
of Rhode Island

## **Jane Kirkpatrick**

### **Grade 5**

BA, Tufts University

## **Karen Lambert**

### **Assistant Head of School for Students and Faculty**

BA, Salve Regina University  
RI Certification in  
Early Childhood Education

## **Marianne Lawless**

### **Assistant Head of School**

### **for Curriculum and Instruction**

### **English, Grade 8**

BS, Fairleigh Dickinson University  
MAT, Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Ed.D, Northeastern University

## **Allegra Lovoy**

### **Physical Education**

### **Assistant Teacher**

BA, Salve Regina University

## **Kristina Michelson**

### **Resource**

BA, St. Lawrence University  
MA, University of Colorado

## **Emily Moulton**

### **Assistant Teacher**

BS, Plymouth State University

## **Reagan Mulligan**

### **Assistant Teacher**

BA, Salve Regina University

## **Kaitlynn Nolan**

### **Assistant Teacher**

BS, Bridgewater State University

## **Blayne Norton-Hayes**

### **Art, K - Grade 8**

BFA, Roger Williams University

## **Dawn Cronin Pigott**

### **Resource**

BS, University of Maine

## **Cynthia Plante**

### **Grade 2**

BA, College of New Rochelle

## **Wendy Randle**

### **Grade 1**

BA, Salve Regina University  
MS, Providence College

## **Kim Ripa**

### **Kindergarten**

BA, Roger Williams University

## **Abby Rowe**

### **Office Manager and Administrative Assistant to the Head of School**

BA, Colby College

## **Sharon Rust**

### **School Counselor**

BA, Salve Regina University  
MSW, Rhode Island College  
Adolescent Treatment Specialty,  
Harvard Medical School

## **Sam Schreiber**

### **Science, K - Grade 5**

### **Sustainability Educator**

### **History, Grade 8**

BFA, Tufts University  
MA, Tufts University

## **Allison Serina**

### **Senior Director of Operations and Finance**

BA, Assumption College

## **Jessica Stadel**

### **Events Coordinator**

BS, Lasell College

## **Loralee Swanson**

### **Music, Preschool - Grade 8**

BA, University of Wyoming  
MA, University of Kentucky

## **Frank Tito**

### **Director of Technology**

AS, Thames Valley State  
Technical College

## 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

## 2024-2025 Tuition Schedule

Preschool – Pre-Kindergarten.....	\$14,410
Kindergarten – Grade 3.....	\$18,225
Grade 4 – Grade 5.....	\$20,040
Grade 6 – Grade 8.....	\$25,485

• *Financial aid is available.*

### Tuition costs include:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Early Bird care before school</li> <li>▪ Primary School care from 1:00–2:45 p.m.</li> <li>▪ Extended Day program for 4th – 8th grade</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technology (including laptops for 5th – 8th grade)</li> <li>▪ Field trips (excludes the optional Upper School international trip)</li> <li>▪ Small group resource support</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Athletics</li> <li>▪ Books</li> <li>▪ Spring Production</li> <li>▪ Yearbook</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|

## 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

## Continued Enrollment Advantage Program

● Pennfield has always been known for its close-knit and supportive community. Families actively participate in the school’s various initiatives, contributing their time, resources, and energy. To honor and reward their commitment, the Continued Enrollment Advantage Program offers a discounted tuition rate for our returning students. This exclusive program is a testament to our appreciation for the ongoing trust and loyalty our families place in us. The Continued Enrollment Advantage Program is more than just a discount; it’s a celebration of our shared commitment to excellence in education.

# 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 Upper 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 may wish to share the driving.

# 2024–2025 Calendar

*Major dates subject to change*

## 2024

<b>Wednesday, August 28</b> .....	New Family Cookout, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, September 2</b> .....	Labor Day Holiday
<b>Tuesday, September 3</b> .....	Orientation, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, September 4</b> .....	First Day of Classes
<b>Thursday, September 26</b> .....	Fall Parents Evening, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, October 14</b> .....	Indigenous People’s Day Holiday
<b>Wednesday, October 23</b> .....	Fall Parent Conferences (no classes)
<b>Friday, November 1</b> .....	Professional Development
<b>Monday, November 11</b> .....	Veterans Day Holiday
<b>Friday, November 15</b> .....	Admission Open House
<b>Friday, November 22</b> .....	Thanksgiving Holiday begins 3:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, December 2</b> .....	Classes resume
<b>Thursday, December 19</b> .....	Winter Concert, 10:00 a.m.; Winter Holiday begins 12:00 p.m.

## 2025

<b>Wednesday, January 1</b> .....	New Year’s Day Holiday
<b>Monday, January 6</b> .....	Classes resume
<b>Monday, January 20</b> .....	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
<b>Friday, January 31</b> .....	Admission Open House
<b>Friday, Monday &amp; Tuesday February 14–18</b> .....	Winter Long Weekend & Professional Day (no classes)
<b>Friday, March 7</b> .....	Spring Break begins 3:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, March 24</b> .....	Classes resume
<b>Monday, April 14</b> .....	Professional Day (no classes)
<b>Thursday, April 24</b> .....	The Corporation Meeting, Pennfield’s Annual Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 7</b> .....	Teacher Appreciation Day (half day)
<b>Friday, May 16</b> .....	Grandparents/Special Friends Day (half day)
<b>Monday, May 26</b> .....	Memorial Day Holiday
<b>Friday, June 6</b> .....	Final Friday Assembly
<b>Tuesday, June 10</b> .....	Last Day Primary School & Kindergarten
<b>Wednesday, June 11</b> .....	Field Day
<b>Thursday, June 12</b> .....	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.

*The Pennfield School*



JOY | UNDERSTANDING | RESPECT

Little Slocum Farm  
110 Sandy Point Avenue  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
401-849-4646  
[pennfield.org](http://pennfield.org)  
Preschool (age 3) - Grade 8