

# Portsmouth Christian Academy Lower School Profile

## Administration

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## Our Mission

The mission of Portsmouth Christian Academy is to honor God joyfully by inspiring students to maximize their God-given potential.

## Who We Are

Portsmouth Christian Academy is the largest, private Christian school in New England and is located on a beautiful 50-acre riverfront campus in Dover, NH. Based on a classical philosophy, PCA's Preschool - Grade 12 educational program is academically rigorous and culminates in an excellent college preparatory Upper School program.

## Core Values

Biblical Integrity | Christ-Centeredness | Compassionate Community | Curiosity | Excellence | Humility | Joy

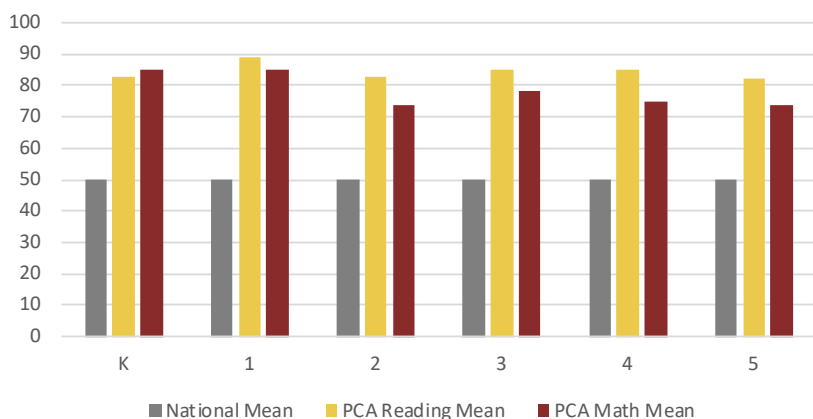
## The Curriculum

The Lower School provides students with opportunities to pass through the following levels of learning:

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

## NWEA Testing Scores

NWEA Mean Testing Percentiles by Grade



\*This chart indicates the mean testing scores achieved by PCA students compared to the national mean score.



## Accreditation



## Recognitions



**492**  
Students  
Preschool - Grade 12

**4**  
Musical Ensembles

**15:1**  
Student to Teacher Ratio

**40**  
Years serving the Seacoast

**35+**  
Student Clubs & Activities

**55+**  
Towns represented  
from ME, NH, & MA

## School Climate

Because the environment in which a child learns can determine his or her love of learning, the Lower School seeks to maintain a positive school environment through the following:

- Partnering with parents as a biblical call
- Purposeful teacher/student relationships
- Teaching children to be problem-solvers
- Pupil Assistance Team meetings to support student growth
- Redemptive Discipline Model, following Matthew 18
- Virtuous student recognition
- Communication through the PEEK of the WEEK
- Listening through an open-door policy
- After school study club to support families
- Focus on student needs
- Goal setting and celebrating success
- Service opportunities



## Kaleidoscope

Portsmouth Christian Academy emphasizes the education of the whole child, which takes place well beyond the walls of the classroom. Our after-school Kaleidoscope workshops change every quarter.

### Classes that have been offered include:

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Archery              | • Jewelry and Beading             |
| • Ballet               | • Jump Rope                       |
| • Basketball           | • Karate                          |
| • Book Writing         | • LEGO Builders                   |
| • Club Chess           | • Math Facts                      |
| • Club                 | • Blast Mountain                  |
| • Dodge Ball           | • Biking Off the Beaten Path Club |
| • Educational Gaming   | • Origami                         |
| • Golf                 | • Percussion                      |
| • Group Guitar Lessons | • Pottery                         |
| • Group Flute Lessons  | • Robotics                        |
| • Homework Club        | • Ski & Snowboard Club            |
| • Indoor Climbing      | • Stitching and Sewing            |
| • Jazz Choir           | • Strings                         |
| • Soccer               | • Workshop                        |
| • Tennis               | • Stage Presence Drama Workshop   |
| • Touch Football       | • Volleyball                      |

## Academic Highlights by Division

At all grade levels, PCA offers a differentiated program that maximizes each child's potential.

### Preschool Division - *Learning with One Another*

- Knowing the love of God
- Embracing creativity in learning
- Developing pre- and early-reading skills
- Building number sense
- Growing socially

### Primary Division (K-2)- *Learning to Love Learning*

- Knowing the biblical story
- Developing skills through differentiation
- Learning to read and spell through research-based programs
- Extending number sense
- Becoming engaged learners

### Elementary Division (3-5)- *Learning Foundational Skills of Thinking*

- Knowing the attributes of God
- Participating in differentiated math and reading groups
- Mastering reading in the content areas
- Embracing Fine Arts (theatre, visual arts, and musical ensembles)

## Fine Arts

### Visual Art

At PCA, making art is central in the education of all students. All grades, K-8, have a weekly art class. The most important aspect of the art curriculum is the process it takes to get there. Problem solving, creative thinking, and personal expression are skills that art education develops and that will serve each student long after the work is done.

### Music

Music is a weekly part of the fine arts education in the Lower School. Instrumental music is introduced in the third grade as part of PCA's strings program. Classroom music in the Lower School transitions to a performance-based program beginning in the fourth grade. All students in grades 4-8 perform in one of the musical ensembles.

### Offerings include:

Band  
Orchestra  
Chorus

