



25-26 Student Application for grades Pre-K through 5th is now open!

- Apply by April 1st to be included in the lottery for the 25-26 school year.
- All applications received after April 1st will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist.
- Click here to apply: <https://compass.schoolmint.net/>

COMPASS INFO & VIDEOS

[Compass Info Session Recording](#)

[Compass Info Session Slides](#)

[5 Minute Compass Overview Video](#)

Compass Studio Videos for Sustainability, Music, and Visual Art

- [Sustainability](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Visual Art](#)

[Compass Information Packet for Prospective Families](#)

[Current Compass Yellow Bus Stops](#)

[Compass Website](#)

School Mission	Compass Charter School is a safe and nurturing educational environment that honors the individuality of each learner. By engaging in a process of inquiry, our graduates will be equipped with the necessary skills to lead fulfilling personal and professional lives, including a developed sense of self, the ability to think in innovative and flexible ways, and the inspiration to make a positive impact on their community.
Philosophy	<p>Compass Charter School is an inquiry-based, progressive elementary school that opened in the fall of 2014 in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. We are committed to providing an experiential and democratic elementary experience to all children, with intentional access for children who typically do not get access to progressive education (children with special needs, children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and English language learners).</p> <p>The Compass integrated curriculum that focuses on sustainability and the arts. We know children learn best when they engage in hands-on and playful experiences that are developmentally appropriate and centered on their interests. Our students also learn explicit reading, writing, and math skills that are applied in real-world contexts throughout the integrated units of study. School model centers sustainability in all forms: environmental, racial, and economic justice.</p> <p>We are an intentionally diverse school and we reserve 40% of our open seats</p>

	<p>for children in New York City who qualify as economically disadvantaged. We also have a lottery weighting for children who are English language learners.</p> <p>Compass is an inclusive school and we provide services for children with a range of learning needs, including children who are academically advanced as well as those who need short and/or long-term academic and/or social-emotional support. We also offer a range of related services for children with identified special needs, including Integrated Co-Teaching, SETSS, Speech, OT, PT, Counseling, Paraprofessionals, Special Education Busing, Parent Training, and Hearing Education Services</p> <p>Compass enrolls approximately 350 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.</p> <p>The Compass staff works interdependently in collaborative teams and engages in professional inquiry (instructional coaching, reflection, restorative and trauma-informed practices).</p>
School Hours	<p>Grades K-5: 8:00AM-4:00PM: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</p> <p>Pre-K 8:00AM-2:40PM: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday *Optional extended day program available from 2:40-4:00.</p> <p>Pre-K -5: 8:00AM-1:00PM: Wednesday (Staff Professional Development from 1:15PM-5:15PM)</p> <p>*Children can be dropped off as early as 7:55 each school day and can stay at school as late as 6:00 PM if participating in our after school program.</p>
School Calendar	<p>We use the DOE calendar as a guide and have some differences to our calendar (additional professional development days, half days for family conferences, etc).</p> <p>Link to the 24-25 Compass School Calendar HERE.</p>
School Leadership	<p>Distributed leadership team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Leader/Co-Founder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brooke ● Co-Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elizabeth, Curriculum & Instruction, Special Education ○ Nazneen, Curriculum & Instruction, Middle School Placement ● Director of Finance, HR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Haleema ● Director of Data & Development, Afterschool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eric
Food Service	<p>We use the cafeteria in the building (DOE food service) for all meals. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are free to all children.</p>

	<p>Children may bring food from home as long as it does not contain peanuts, tree nuts, or sesame seeds. Water bottles are provided for all Compass students.</p> <p>Breakfast: In the classroom</p> <p>Morning Snack: In the classroom</p> <p>Lunch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K students eat lunch in their classrooms • Grades K-5 eat lunch in the cafeteria <p>Afternoon Snack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who stay for Afterschool are offered another snack after dismissal.
<p>Student-to-Teacher Ratio</p> <p>Integrated Co-Teaching</p>	<p>Two <u>lead</u> teachers who work together to deliver all instruction in all of our K-5 classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One general education teacher • One special education teacher <p>Our Pre-Kindergarten classrooms have one lead teacher and one assistant teacher, which is the UPK model in NYC</p>
Inclusive Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Co-Teaching: Two teachers in every K-5 classroom (one general education teacher and one special education teacher) • On-site related services for students with special needs (speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, hearing education, paraprofessionals) • On-site school social workers, school counselor, student support specialist • On-site learning specialists to provide academic intervention and Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS) • On-site English language learning (ELL) specialist to provide services to students who qualify as ELLs/MLLs • On-site Learning Support Coordinator to oversee all special education services, including evaluations, IEPs, and ongoing services
<p>Studio Program</p> <p><i>Often Referred to as Special Classes or Enrichment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We currently offer the following studio classes to students in K-5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sustainability Studio (Science-based studio) ◦ Music ◦ Visual Art • In non-pandemic times, we offered dance (residency with Mark Morris Dance group) and theater/drama (residency with Leaders by Choice). We are in the process of creating a process for piloting an Artist-in-Residence program. • We are also in the process of launching our own Physical Education program. We are currently interviewing a part time PE teacher for this school year with the intention of shifting to a full time PE teacher for the 25-26 school year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K students have integrated arts and science experiences in their classroom and have music instruction through a collaboration with Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. • Students in the Pre-K Extended Day Program also have additional arts, Spanish, and Gross Motor Play embedded in their days. • Students who attend our Compass Afterschool Program have additional arts, movement, sports, gymnastics, drama, free play, music, culture studies, and more!
Recess/Outdoor Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of our classes have at least 60 minutes of recess per school day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 60 minute morning morning recess ■ Additional recess time during Extended Day Program ○ K-5 Classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Morning recess with classroom co-teachers ■ Afternoon recess with Kids in the Game • Classes also use local green spaces throughout the school day for varying purposes. • Compass Outdoor Learning Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-Kindergarten Forest School Program (Fort Greene Park) ○ Kindergarten Forest School Program (Prospect Park) ○ First Grade Shore Shore Program (Varying beaches/lakes in Brooklyn - Marine Park, Gerritson Beach, Coney Island, etc)
Bus Service	<p>Free yellow bus service provided by the NYC Dept. of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To qualify, families need to live between a half a mile and five miles from school and live near a bus stop • We work carefully to provide access for children to get to school. • Some students with special needs qualify for door to door bussing. This eligibility is determined at an IEP meeting.
After School Program	<p>After many years of working with outside partners, last year, we launched the Compass Afterschool Program. We currently have nearly half of our students staying for afterschool at least one day a week and participating in our programming.</p> <p>After school is available from 4:00PM-6:00PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and from 1:00-6:00PM on Wednesdays.</p> <p>The Afterschool Program is a fee-based program. Scholarships are available and funded through our ongoing fundraising model. All paid After School enrollments support our ability to offer scholarships to students who need them.</p> <p>*Pre-Kindergarten students may stay for extended day programming with our pre-K staff from 2:40-4:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Pre-K</p>

	<p>students are also eligible to attend the Compass Afterschool Program until 6PM each day.</p>
Family Involvement	<p>There is a great deal of <u>family involvement</u> at Compass. However, it is not required.</p> <p>Our version of a PTA is called the Family School Collaborative. This group is led by three family members and the School Leader. The primary purpose of the FSC is to build community.</p> <p>We collaborate to plan engaging community events, workshops for families, fundraising for supplemental programming for our school (arts partnerships, field trips, materials), and mutual aid for families throughout the entire building (after school scholarships, community closet).</p> <p>Families are also invited to participate in Affinity Groups and SEED. We currently have the following Affinity Groups for families: Black Families Affinity Group, Latinx Affinity Group, Asian & Asian American Affinity Group, LGBTQIA+ Families Affinity Group and Parents of Children with Special Needs Affinity Group. We invite community members to propose new affinity groups.</p> <p>Families are also invited to participate in SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Seminars that are facilitated by trained Compass staff members and workshops with Raising Race Conscious Children, which are funded by the FSC.</p>
Uniform Policy	<p>Our school uniform includes a Compass shirt and any bottoms that are appropriate to allow for movement and messy activities.</p> <p>All students are required to wear closed-toe shoes such as sneakers.</p> <p>Families can access Compass shirts through our ongoing Compass shirt swap, through Ideal Uniform, or through our pop up shop on Bonfire.com. We also do in person screen printing and stenciling at community events throughout the year.</p>
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are <u>two</u> other district schools in the DoE building where Compass is located. • Compass is the only school on the fourth floor and we also have three rooms on the third floor. • Compass has access to all shared spaces in the building including the nurse's office, gym, auditorium, cafeteria, and play yard.

What is a charter school?

- A publicly funded independent school established by teachers, parents, or community groups under the terms of a charter with a local or national authority.
 - **Charter schools are public schools.**

- Our charter was authorized by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).
 - There are two other authorizers: State University of New York (SUNY) and New York City Department of Education (DoE). The latter no longer accepts new applications.
- Charter schools typically need their charter renewed every three to five years in order to be approved.
 - **Compass was awarded a full, five year renewal in June of 2024.**
- Charter schools are allowed to, but are not required, to sign a union contract with the local teachers' union.
 - **Compass is a unionized charter school and the majority of our staff is part of the UFT.**
- Charters have significantly more freedom than traditional, "district" public schools.
 - They have the freedom to utilize whatever curriculum they wish, to hire and fire whomever they like, and create a budget that aligns to the mission and vision of the school.

How to learn more:

Website	brooklyncompass.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/BrooklynCompass/
Instagram	@brooklyn_compass

Curriculum Overview

Integrated Units of Study	<p>Kindergarten has four Integrated Units of Study throughout the school year. These units are designed using State Standards, Education for Sustainability Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and NY State Social Studies Standards. Teachers integrate social emotional learning, literacy, and math into these units of study throughout the school day. Children also have many opportunities for play in connection with these ideas.</p> <p>Essential Questions for Kindergarten:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who am I? Who are we? • What is research? How do we do it? • What is family? • Why garden?
Social Emotional Learning	<p>Our students experience a range of social emotional learning experiences.</p> <p>Elements of our social emotional curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class meetings to proactively teach social skills • Cross-age buddies for all children • School-wide community building events • Classroom libraries with specific books to teach social skills <p>We are a Responsive Classroom school and all of our teachers receive training in Responsive Classroom.</p> <p>This framework includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily morning meetings in each classroom, including a morning message, greeting, activity, and share • Student participation in the creation of classroom rules, norms, and jobs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive and positive language in the classrooms and logical consequences as needed • Academic choice throughout the day • Fun, engaging energizers, community building activities, and special events <p>Weekly Community Gathering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our school community gathers in the gym every Wednesday morning to sing together and build relationships with one another.
<p>Gender and Sexuality Curriculum</p> <p>Compass GSA</p>	<p>Our Gender & Sexuality Working Group and a consultant co-created our schoolwide Gender & Sexuality Curriculum. Students engage in developmentally appropriate learning experiences focused on gender, body parts, consent, and LGBTQ+ history and advocacy. All classes have a Gender & Sexuality library and curricular resources to support this instruction.</p> <p>Gender & Sexuality Alliance</p> <p>At Compass Charter School, we seek to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students. The Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) will provide a safe environment for students of all genders and orientations to foster community connections. Having an intentional affinity space for students of all gender identities and expressions will allow for safe discussions about identity where students can share stories about their experiences in Compass classrooms and other community settings. As we re-establish a GSA at Compass, queer and gender expansive students across grades and developmental levels will have the opportunity to connect. Having a GSA will expand upon the Gender and Sexuality Curriculum embedded in grades K-5.</p>
Literacy	<p>We use a Balanced Literacy Approach that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading workshop • Writing workshop • Read Aloud • Small Group Guided Reading Sessions • Word Study/Phonics Instruction • Handwriting Instruction <p>Our reading and writing units of study are adapted from the <u>revised</u> Units of Study published by Heinemann. We use these units alongside phonics/word study instruction as our core curriculum and adapt them as needed to provide literacy instruction in an integrated context.</p> <p>We use Wilson Foundations and Just Words for Phonics and Word Study Instruction across grades K-5.</p> <p>For supplementary instruction in literacy, we also use Handwriting Without Tears for handwriting instruction, Heggerty phonemic awareness, and i-Ready.</p> <p>We also implement decodable readers into reading instruction for our emergent readers, including Jump Rope Readers.</p>
Math	<p>We use a Constructivist Approach to teaching mathematics, which means we</p>

have a focus on problem solving, building knowledge, and engaging in ongoing math routines rather than a primary focus on memorization.

Our primary curriculum is TERC Investigations and we supplement with Engage NY, Contexts for Learning, Number Talks, and i-Ready. Math is also integrated within our Integrated Units of study and Kid Run Farm Stand to provide authentic and purposeful experiences throughout the school day.

Sample K-2 Schedule

8:00-8:20	Soft Start (Classroom Jobs, Choices, Worktime) Breakfast
8:20-8:50	Morning Meeting
8:50-12:00	<p>Morning Instructional Time</p> <p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Workshop• Writing Workshop• Small Groups <p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math Workshop• Math Choice• Math Games• Math Routines <p>Integrated Work Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated Projects• Garden• Small Groups• Art• Block Building• Projects• Dramatic Play• Sensory <p>*Morning snack is embedded within this time along with a morning recess.</p>
12:30-1:00	Word Study/Phonics/Handwriting
12:55-2:00	Lunch & Recess
2:05-2:55	<p>Studio Class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual Art• Music• Sustainability
3:00-3:40	<p>WIN (What I Need)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small group intervention or enrichment• Worktime Choices
3:40-3:50	Closing Circle
3:50-4:00	Dismissal