



<p>School Mission</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Philosophy</p>	<p>Compass is an inquiry-based, progressive school with an integrated curriculum that focuses on sustainability and the arts. We know that 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.</p> <p>We are an intentionally diverse school and we reserve 40% of our open seats for children in New York City who qualify for free or reduced price lunch. 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 intervention. We also offer a range of related services for children with identified special needs and Integrated Co-Teaching.</p>
<p>School Hours</p>	<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>
<p>School Calendar</p>	<p>We use the DOE calendar as a guide and have some differences to our</p>

	<p>calendar (additional professional development days, half days for family conferences, etc). Our school calendar is available on our website (brooklyncompass.org)</p>
Administration	<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"> ○ Suzanne, Staff & Student Development ○ Elizabeth, Curriculum & Instruction, Special Education ○ Nazneen, Curriculum & Instruction, Middle School Placement ● Director of Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Haleema ● Director of Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eric
Food Service	<p>Typically, we use the cafeteria in the building (DOE food service) for breakfast and lunch each day and Red Rabbit for a nutritious morning snack. This school year, all meals are eaten in the classrooms.</p> <p>Breakfast: Eaten in the classroom and free to all children</p> <p>Morning Snack: Eaten in the classroom</p> <p>Lunch: Lunch is free to all students. Currently, all students eat all meals and snacks in their classrooms.</p> <p>We do not offer snack service on half days. Families contribute to our Healthy School Fund to help offset the cost of the snack program.</p>
Student-to-Teacher Ratio	<p>Two <u>head</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 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 worker, school counselor, student support specialist

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On-site learning specialists to provide academic intervention and Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS) ● On-site English language learning (ELL) specialist ● On-site Learning Support Coordinator to oversee all special education services, including evaluations, IEPs, and ongoing services
Special Classes/Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We currently offer the following studio classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainability Studio (Science-based studio) ○ Music ○ Visual Arts ● 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. ● Pre-K students have integrated arts and science experiences in their classroom.
Recess/Outdoor Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All of our classes have at least 60 minutes of recess per school day. ● Classes also use local green spaces throughout the school day for varying purposes. ● 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)
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 ● We work carefully to provide access for children to get to school.
After School Program	<p>This year, we launched an after school language class for 1st-5th grade students. This is a partnership with ABC Languages. We plan to expand this program next school year, and also offer additional after school classes based on student and family interests.</p> <p>We also have an on-site after school program provided by Kids Orbit at a cost to families. Scholarships are available and funded through our Family School Collaborative.</p> <p>After school is available from 4:00PM-6:00PM on regular school days and from 1:00-6:00PM on half days</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. Kids Orbit accepts pre-Kindergarten students.</p>
<p>Family Involvement</p>	<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 two family members and two members of the Compass staff. 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 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, 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.</p>
<p>Uniform Policy</p>	<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 screenprinting at community events throughout the year.</p>
<p>Co-location</p>	<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.
- 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 and are free to hire and fire whomever they like.

How to learn more:

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

Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

<p>Integrated Units of Study</p>	<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?
<p>Social Emotional Learning</p>	<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● 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>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 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 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>
<p>Literacy</p>	<p>We use a Balanced Literacy Approach that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading workshop ● Writing workshop ● Reading Aloud ● Small Group Guided Reading Sessions ● Word Study/Phonics Instruction ● Handwriting Instruction <p>Our reading and writing units of study are adapted from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project units. We use these units as our core curriculum and adapt them as needed to provide literacy instruction in an integrated context.</p> <p>We use Handwriting Without Tears for handwriting instruction and the Teachers College Phonics Units of Study, Foundations, and Just Words for word study instruction.</p>
<p>Math</p>	<p>We use a Constructivist Approach to teaching mathematics, which means we have a focus on problem solving, building knowledge, and engaging in ongoing math routines rather than a primary focus on memorization. Our Math Inquiry group revised our math curriculum.</p> <p>Our primary curriculum is TERC Investigations and we supplement with Engage NY, Contexts for Learning, and Number Talks. Math is also integrated within our Integrated Units of study and Kid Run Farm Stand of to provide authentic and purposeful experiences throughout the school day.</p>

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	Morning Instructional Time Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reading Workshop● Writing Workshop● Small Groups Math <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Math Workshop● Math Choice● Math Games● Math Routines Integrated Work Time <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Garden● Small Groups● Art● Block Building● Projects● Dramatic Play● Sensory *Morning snack is embedded within this time along with a morning recess.
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Word Study/Phonics/Handwriting
1:00-2:00	Recess
2:05-2:55	Studio Class <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Visual Art● Music● Sustainability
3:00-3:40	WIN (What I Need) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Small group intervention or enrichment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worktime Choices
3:40-3:50	Closing Circle
3:50-4:00	Dismissal