

School Community

We believe in an environment that is stimulating, interesting, and dynamic; a place where students feel physically and emotionally safe. We believe in cooperation, friendliness, and respectful relationships among staff, students, and parents. Our goal is to create an environment which encourages collaborative efforts between families and school.

Student and Parent Involvement

The Gates School believes that parent and student interest, participation, and involvement are essential to the quality of education. Therefore, parents and community members are regularly invited to participate in and act as resources in learning activities. We seek opportunities for frequent and open communication between school and home. This helps maintain an open decision making process and cooperation with parents in reaching decisions that are in the best interest of the children.

Community Service Learning

At the Gates School, we reach out to members of the community to offer help and support. Teachers and parents organize events in which the students give to the outside community. Some examples include a towel drive for the Acton Home Goods Ministry, Gates Giving Tree Project, Gates School Chorus performing in the community.

Student Council

Gates has an elected (every fall) student council with representatives from Grades 3-6. Meetings are held before or after school under the direction of parent volunteers. The Student council will periodically conduct school-wide events. Any school issue may be submitted for discussion. Some recent events have been Pajama Day, Spirit Day, Coin Drive for Sterling Animal Shelter.

Gates School Traditions

Annual school-wide events are organized by teachers, the PTO, and the Student Council.

- Carnival
- Spirit Days
- Book Buddies
- Ice Cream Social
- Holiday Singalong
- Talent Show
- Activity Day
- Auction
- Visiting Authors
- Sixth Grade Graduation Ceremony
- Natures Classroom
- Nature Walks
- Sixth Grade Play

Gates Extended Day

The Gates School offers a before and after school extended day program that is run by Community Ed.



Paul P. Gates Elementary School

We Reach for the Stars!



Lynne Newman, Principal

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Acton, MA 01720

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<http://gates.ab.mec.edu>

Dr. Paul P. Gates

The Gates School was built in 1968 and is named after Dr. Paul P. Gates, a native of Acton who served as the school system's physician from 1948 to 1968.



Core Values

Generosity

- Random Acts of Kindness
- Community Service Projects

Acceptance

- Everyone is entitled to be treated with respect, warmth, and sensitivity.
- We respect and appreciate others and value differences among people.

Trust & Respect

- Everyone has the right to a good day
- All members of the Gates Community will treat each other with respect

Enthusiasm

- School spirit days
- All school monthly meetings

Scholarship

- All children can learn.
- High standards with the expectation that all students will work to their potential

Curriculum

Kindergarten Language Arts

- Reading with Telion-Cas Learning Concepts
- Phonemic Awareness

Language Arts/Reading Grades 1-6

A multifaceted approach using a variety of resources including Bradley Reading and Language Arts Program, Scott Foresman, and trade books. Empowering Writers and the Six Traits models are applied in teaching writing skills.

Kindergarten Math Curriculum

- Thinking, writing, talking and doing math through developmentally appropriate hands-on activities.

Math, Grades 1-6

- "Math" by Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley
- Kids using math in everyday activities.

Science and Social Studies

- System-wide topics are covered at each grade level.
- Learning is enhanced through related field trips and special in-school presentations.
- Integrated learning through a variety of media such as music, art, movement, and technology.



Art

Students are taught visual art from a cart in their classrooms once a week.

- Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, clay and collage.

Music

General music classes, once a week, are taught on a cart in the classrooms.

- Singing, playing instruments, movement, composition, listening, and music history.
- Chorus, grades 4-6
- Band, grades 5-6

Physical Education

Weekly classes in the gym or outside

- Locomotor skills, spatial awareness, balance, coordination, non-competitive games, modified team sports.

Library

Classes attend a library class weekly.

- Storytelling, reading, research.

Computer Lab

- Basic technology skills, word processing, beginning keyboarding.
- Multimedia curriculum projects

Pupil Services

- School Nurse
- Speech and Language
- Learning Center
- Guidance Counselor
- Reading Support
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy