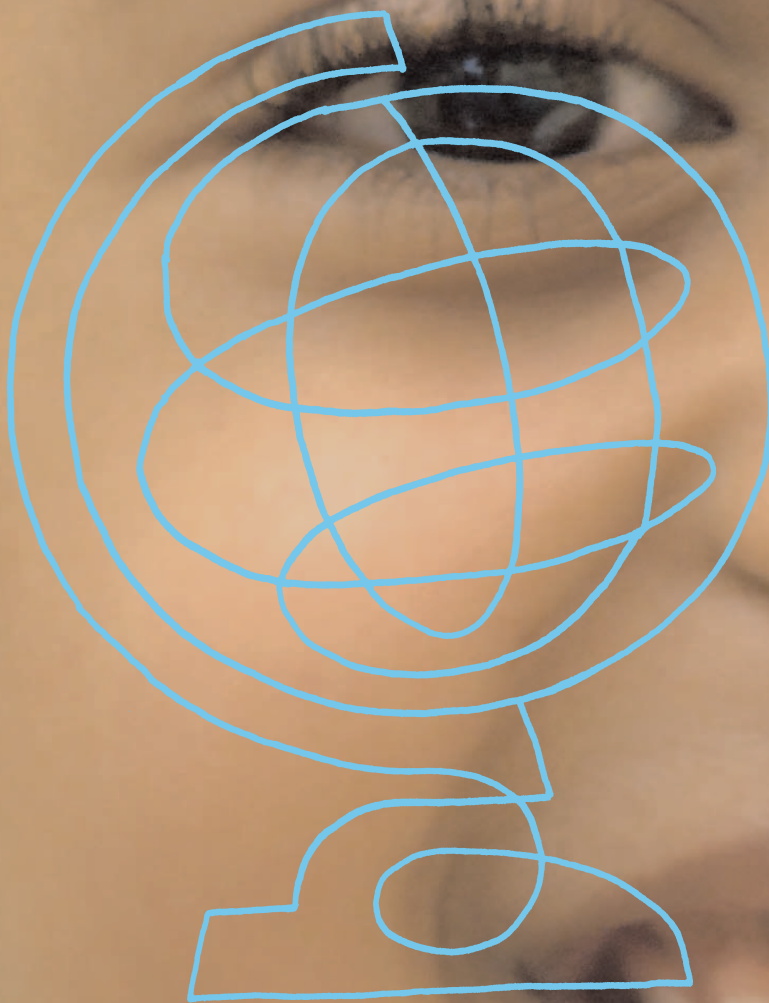


*The Advent School educates children from Early Childhood through Sixth Grade in a nurturing environment. We promote in-depth understanding and mastery of academic skills, challenging students to think critically and take multiple perspectives. The heart of The Advent School is its diverse, inclusive community. Our goal is to cultivate compassionate, responsible individuals who have the confidence to take action consistent with their beliefs, and to understand their part in a larger world.*



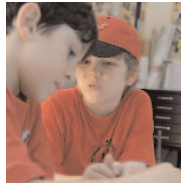


*Learn with passion  
Act with courage  
Change the world*

The Advent School  
BOSTON



**LEFT:** STUDENTS AT ADVENT  
CLIMBING THE STAIRS  
TO CLASSROOMS.



## Welcome to: The Advent School

Located in Boston's Beacon Hill, Advent is a nonreligious independent school for students from age four through Grade Six. When you walk through the doors of our historic brownstone, you'll notice right away that there's something different about Advent.

### Happy, passionate learners

The children are energized and excited about learning. The environment is warm and intimate. After all, we're a school of only 150 students.

### More teachers

We offer more teachers per student—a 7-to-1 student teacher ratio, including two highly skilled teachers in each classroom—so our students feel close to their teachers and receive a great deal of individual attention.

### Outstanding academics

With a thematic approach and inspiration from the Reggio Emilia model, our academic curriculum is outstanding and examples of students' work and artwork cover every wall. Our innovative program prepares students for success in life and for making a contribution to society, as well as admission to top secondary schools.

### A diverse community

We're a highly diverse community by design, and the values of respect and inclusion are palpable in the classroom, in our school gatherings and on the playground. Our guiding themes of social justice and sustainability pervade our students' work, conversations and dreams for the future.

### Confident and compassionate graduates

But perhaps, like most people, what will impress you most about Advent is the confidence and competence of our students. After a tour of the school with one of our sixth graders, parent after parent has remarked:

*"That's how I want my child to be eight years from now."*

And that's our goal. To transform your wide-eyed and eager four- or five-year-old into a thoughtful and informed twelve-year-old. To take your child's innate enthusiasm for exploring the world and help it to blossom. To nurture each and every student to become a critical thinker, a confident communicator and a compassionate citizen of the world.

Nancy Harris Frohlich  
Head of School



## Outstanding academics: Developing creative and critical thinkers

At Advent, our innovative academic program helps children develop the ability to think critically, work collaboratively and be self-directed.

Our unique approach is based on three simple but powerful ideas.

### Make connections

Our *thematic approach* is widely viewed as a cutting-edge educational model. Rather than teaching subjects separately, Advent students study all subjects under the umbrella of a theme.

A study of ancient Egypt, for example, helps students develop geometry skills when building pyramids, science skills when studying mummification, and research and writing skills when preparing reports on the history of the kings.

Each successive theme builds upon an understanding of previous themes. Collectively, themes provide our students with a comprehensive look at world cultures and civilizations, the natural world and our need to sustain it and important concepts like freedom and social justice that have transformed the human experience.

Not only does a thematic approach make learning more invigorating, but combining subjects and making connections between them help deepen understanding, stimulate critical thinking and intensify the academic experience.

### Promote understanding

Traditional education emphasizes *knowledge*. At Advent, we want students to *understand*. Understanding includes knowledge but places it in context so that it has more meaning.

It's the difference between knowing a multiplication table and understanding how to use it to make life simpler. Between knowing the dates of the Industrial Revolution and understanding how it impacted the world. Between knowing the history of India's struggle for independence and understanding how those same social forces are shaping the future of other peoples around the world today.

In academics as in life, students at times reach the limits of their knowledge. Teaching for understanding gives them the ability to realize what they don't know and the confidence to find a way to figure it out.

### Let the student lead

In traditional education, teachers work from a set curriculum. At Advent, *students* have a large hand in determining the course of study.

In the early grades, learning is often driven by students' interests. Teachers serve as facilitators, taking the interest the students show in a feather found in the park, for example, and turning it into a month-long study of bird species, the science of flight, bird habitats and more.

In later grades, as the need to master specific educational concepts and skills increases, teachers provide more direction in the curriculum while still offering students some choices in how they explore a topic.

### The results are phenomenal

When students can choose the lens through which they want to explore the world, school becomes exciting. Comprehension soars. Learning is highly tailored, as we encourage students to approach new challenges using their strengths. And students learn to be self-directed scholars, highly invested in the process of their own education.



**BELOW:** NATURAL OBJECTS ARE FREQUENTLY THE FOCUS OF STUDY IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER.





**An urban school: The entire city is our classroom.**

Located in the heart of Boston, we take full advantage of the city's historic, cultural and natural resources. From studying invertebrates at the Museum of Science to oceanography in Boston Harbor; from Chinese art at the M.F.A. to archaeology at Harvard's Peabody Museum; and from soccer on the Charles River Esplanade to ice skating on Boston Common, our students have full access to the enormous wealth of experiences and resources in this great city.

**LEFT:** ADVENT STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE GREATER BOSTON AREA.



## More teachers: A 7-to-1 student-teacher ratio intensifies learning

One of our greatest strengths at Advent is our faculty. Where many schools offer a head teacher and an assistant in each grade, at Advent you'll find two highly skilled teachers in each classroom. That translates to quality learning experiences for your child and greater attentiveness to the needs of each student.

### Specialists provide more in-depth learning

In addition to our classroom teachers, students study with specialists in Art, Music, PE, Science, Technology, Spanish and Library.

This combination of classroom teachers and specialists enables us to offer a 7-to-1 student-teacher ratio, ensuring individual attention for your child.

Classes are frequently divided into small groups of four to six students for Math study, book groups, project research, and more. This intimate class configuration ensures that each child's voice is heard and everyone's needs and learning styles are accommodated.

### Our teachers are students too

While many of our teachers have graduate degrees in education, they never stop learning and striving to become better educators. Our unique professional development program challenges our teachers to constantly improve their skills and fine tune their teaching. Each year we award travel grants for two teachers to pursue educational opportunities throughout the world. Recent recipients have traveled to India, Peru, South Africa and China.

Our focus on the quality of our educators is attracting national attention. Each summer, we host a workshop for teachers from across the country who come to learn more about our Reggio Emilia-inspired approach to learning.

RIGHT: ADVENT THIRD GRADERS COLLABORATE IN A BOOK GROUP.



## After Advent: Where our students go

More than 90 percent of our graduates gain admission to their first choice of secondary schools. In recent years, graduates of Advent have gone on to such schools as:

BEAVER COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL  
BELMONT DAY SCHOOL  
BELMONT HILL SCHOOL  
BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY  
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL  
BRIMMER & MAY SCHOOL  
THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
BROOKLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BUCKINGHAM BROWNE & NICHOLS SCHOOL  
CAMBRIDGE FRIENDS SCHOOL  
CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL  
DANA HALL SCHOOL  
DEXTER-SOUTHFIELD SCHOOL  
FAY SCHOOL  
MILTON ACADEMY  
NEWTON COUNTRY DAY  
NOBLE AND GREENOUGH SCHOOL  
PARK SCHOOL  
RIVERS SCHOOL  
ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL  
SHADY HILL SCHOOL  
ST. SEBASTIAN'S SCHOOL  
THAYER ACADEMY

Advent administrators and faculty excel at helping families find the right secondary school for each child. Each family receives individual attention and assistance in researching schools, preparing for the test and/or interview process and making the transition to seventh grade.



**Happy, passionate learners: Nurturing your child's innate joy of learning.** Our students come to us happy and curious, and we actively work to keep them that way. Because learning together is more powerful—not to mention more fun—collaborative study is the norm at Advent. By instilling in our students a lifelong passion for learning, we are able to graduate confident, competent scholars who are skilled at working with others to meet their own high standards.



**Diverse community: Living the values of respect and inclusion every day.** Our diverse community at Advent is by design. Through admissions and hiring, we actively strive to include a wide mix of cultures, ethnicities, incomes, religious affiliations, learning styles and family structures in our community. In our curriculum, students study countries and people from around the world, learning to understand and respect different civilizations and ways of life. In the classroom, our teachers are experts at helping students understand, respect and value the differences among their classmates.

**LEFT:** A KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WORKS WITH HIS TEACHER ON WRITING.



## Core values: Social justice and sustainability

Education involves more than knowledge and understanding. Values are also imparted and absorbed in the teaching environment. At Advent, our core values center around respect, inclusion and compassion for others near and far, and for the earth and all of its inhabitants.

### Cultivating world citizens

Advent was founded as a school devoted to teaching social justice, and that tradition is as strong as ever. Our students are exposed to the injustices and inequities of the world in a developmentally appropriate way, and helped to develop their own approach to working toward a better future. Studying the courage of leaders past and present who have helped to change our world, our students are trained and inspired to become active and compassionate citizens of the world.

In recent years, our curriculum has expanded from justice for all peoples to respect and care for the earth. Our focus on sustainability is now a central part of the classroom experience, as students work to understand the impact of their choices on the earth and what they can do to help preserve our environment for future generations.

This focus on social justice and sustainability is evidenced throughout our curriculum—from the study of leaders of the Underground Railroad (Grade 3) to the environmental effects of rapid development in China (Grade 2); from learning about the plight of immigrants on a trip to Ellis Island (Grade 5) to the critical need for clean drinking water for all people (Kindergarten); and from the way recycling helps protect the environment (ECC) to the history of the civil rights movement in the United States and South Africa (Grade 6).

**RIGHT:** FOURTH GRADER  
RESEARCHING INSECTS AT THE  
HARVARD PEABODY MUSEUM.



## Details: Things every parent wants to know

For working parents, the choice of an elementary school must include consideration of schedules, logistics and location. At Advent, we strive to provide as much flexibility and support for parents as possible.

### After-school programs

Advent's after-school program, ADVENTures, provides instruction for students in a variety of subjects such as music, dance, theatre, art, crafts, Spanish, book club and sports. Classes begin after the school day ends at 3:15 and run until 5:00 PM. Students may also participate in CORE or Arts Exploration, two supervised after-school groups, from 3:15 to 6 PM and from 12:30 to 6 PM on Friday.

### Facilities

The Advent School occupies two brownstone buildings in historic Beacon Hill. Our PE program takes place a short bus ride away at the YMCA in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

### Hours

The Advent School day runs from 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM ON Friday. Parents may drop students off as early as 8:15 AM.

### Location

The Advent School is located on the flat of Beacon Hill, one block from the Charles River, two blocks from the Charlestown/MGH stop on the Red Line, and three blocks from Boston Public Garden.

### Bus service

Students who are residents of Boston and who live more than two miles from Advent may elect to ride Boston Public School buses to and from school. For more information, please contact Advent at 617.742.0520, EXT. 10.

### Financial aid

The Financial Aid Committee awards grants annually based on need. To receive an application for financial aid, note your interest on the application for admission or contact the Director of Admission and Community Outreach for more information.

### Summer programs

LearningBOSTON is Advent's summer program. This all-day program uses the exploration of Boston's history, culture, neighborhoods and environment as the setting for educational outdoor adventures.



**A focus on science.** We believe that building scientific minds and teaching children to be caretakers of their environment will enable them to help create a more sustainable world. Through first-hand discovery, children learn to observe, hypothesize, collect and organize data. Our proximity to the Museum of Science means that students can make frequent visits, so that the museum's vast resources are an extension of our classrooms. Advent's focus on scientific thinking helps children feel comfortable with and actively engage in investigation and change.

**RIGHT:** STUDENTS DURING  
RECESS ON ADVENT'S BACKYARD  
PLAYGROUND.



## How to apply: Join the Advent School community

You'll find an application  
within this packet, or online  
at [www.adventschool.org](http://www.adventschool.org).

Completed forms and the nonrefundable application fee are due by January 15. Children applying for the Early Childhood Center (pre-K) must be four years old by September 1.

We encourage you to visit The Advent School as you consider an independent school for your child. You will tour the facilities, observe our outstanding academic program in action, and have an opportunity to ask questions of parents, students and faculty. To arrange an appointment, call the Admission office at 617.742.0520, EXT. 11.

### **The Advent School**

15 Brimmer Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
Telephone 617.742.0520  
Fax 617.742.2207  
[www.adventschool.org](http://www.adventschool.org)

*The Advent School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or national origin. Applicants with disabilities will be considered consistent with the child's ability to benefit from the educational program and the school's ability to provide reasonable accommodation.*

