

Want to learn more?
These people would love to talk with you!



Chris Gerber,
Principal

Ms. Gerber has been at the school for three years. She is a dedicated professional who has been instrumental in the success of the Technology Partnership

with Lesley University. Principal Gerber always strives toward the goal of developing the whole student working on all aspects - emotional, social, and academic. You will see her in the halls in the mornings and helping kids to the buses in the afternoon. She continually works to improve the school and school community including working closely with our School Council and K-LO Parent Group.

Nancy Wyse,
Parent Liaison



Nancy Wyse is the Parent Liaison at K-LO. Her job is to put up with all of us stressed out parents striving for the best for our children. Nancy has a unique connection with a student currently enrolled in K-LO. Her friendly nature and skillful use of her social work background makes her a true asset to the parents and to the school.

Nancy has had several positions throughout the School System in Cambridge and is ready to answer your many questions and provide guidance on not only K-LO but the Cambridge schools as a whole.



Interesting stuff our kids do after school...

K-LO students enjoy vibrant after school options, including:

- After-school, grades 2 and up are using the Scratch software designed at MIT. Scratch teaches programming concepts while students work on building their own video games.
- A school newspaper started by a group of fifth graders
- Community schools classes in sports, fine arts, communications and academics -- taught both by Community Schools staff and outside teachers from area museums, sports organizations, and other community resources.
- There are two special start and preschool classrooms and the kindergarten Sheltered English Immersion classroom (SEI).
- CitySprouts garden days, which offer engaging activities for students that go beyond the regular school day.
- Full-time after school childcare and youth development programs offered by nearby East End House.
- A school release time that is early enough for students to participate in city-wide choruses, teams, and instrumental ensembles; and to take private lessons in their own interest area.

Parents with special talents that they would like to share with K-LO students are always welcomed to work with our School Principal, Family Liaison and Community Schools Director to develop and implement new programs and classes.

Innovative Thinking

Parents' Perspective on Kennedy-Longfellow Elementary School



Kennedy-Longfellow Elementary School (K-LO) is located in the heart of East Cambridge, just steps away from the innovation hub of Kendall-Square. Our students include children

from all over the world and right down the street -- making K-LO a unique crossroads where children of Kendall Square technology specialists, first generation Americans and multi-generational East Cambridge residents come together to play, learn, and grow.



As parents who have all gone through the Cambridge Public School lottery process, we have developed a resource that focuses on the reasons our children love K-LO. We hope this brochure gives you some real, honest insight into what makes our school tick.

As engaged parents, we're committed to partnering with K-LO faculty to continue to build and improve our school. Every child is unique, and it's up to you to decide whether K-LO is a good fit for your family. If you're curious to learn more, we hope you'll contact our wonderful Family Liaison, Nancy Wyse, to connect with other parents and get your burning questions answered.





Technology

Our Technology Partnership with Lesley University sets K-LO apart from other schools in Cambridge. Through a grant from Merck Foundation, K-LO students are immersed in technology. Each classroom is equipped with smart boards, the school is wi-fi enabled, and there is a special technology “makerspace” with green-screen technology and audio/visual equipment.

These devices aren’t just flashy, cool things to have in the classroom—they are integrated into the curriculum at every level within the school. With support from Sue Cusak and her team from Lesley University, our teachers have received extensive training to learn how to utilize technology as another teaching tool in the classroom. As a result, K-LO students are learning skills that will be needed in our increasingly digital world.

For example, our upper grades routinely use computers to complete complex projects incorporating images, video, music, and more.

Students as young as first grade use video technology to create videos that promote concepts in math and reading. You can read many other examples on the K-LO website.

Learning Environment

As parents at K-LO we’ve witnessed the dedication of the school’s staff to improving educational opportunities for our kids. Our school is served by many experienced teachers who work hard to make sure that our students get the most out of their time at K-LO.

The culture at K-LO is humble, relaxed, and rewards creativity. Students enjoy teaching one another in Writers’ Workshop, Scratch class, Math Groups, and Science Labs -- facilitated by skilled teachers, who are committed to student collaboration. Our kids win contests and go on to success at the Upper School and to become CRLS “Super Seniors.” You won’t hear them bragging about it, they’re too busy supporting one another to become overly competitive. We think our kids are fantastic... but it’s possible we’re a little bit biased.

Lesley University’s work at K-LO has attracted national attention and has been featured in educational conferences and symposia. The K-LO library helps kids continue these explorations at home by loaning out not only books and magazines, but also E-Books and Raspberry Pi’s -- devices that transform any television into a web-book. In this way, K-LO bridges the “digital divide”, making technology accessible and teaching all students to become responsible digital citizens.

This year, the implementation of a new Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program has had a huge impact on school culture. PBIS provides teachers with tools for analyzing, teaching, and rewarding positive behavior. Students earn “Wildcat Tickets” for making generous and responsible choices. Formerly discouraged students are inspired to become peer leaders by demonstrating the school values of Active Learning, Respect, Responsibility, Safety, and Citizenship . Wildcat tickets can be redeemed at the school “store,” which features pencils, water bottles, healthy snacks, and other rewards that build pride and foster community.

Our Building & Facilities

K-LO has a really large campus with unique features that offer our kids special experiences.

- There is no longer a computer lab at Kennedy-Longfellow because computers are an integral part of each and every classroom. Additional digital technology is available in the K-Lo “makerspace” -- a playground for electronic exploration that includes cameras, editing software and green screen technology for use in videos and live streaming.
- The classrooms are large, well-lit, and developmentally appropriate. For instance, there are private bathrooms within each classroom for the younger grades.
- Our large auditorium with a full sized stage is currently being upgraded with newer sound and light equipment.
- Our gymnasium is in pristine condition, since receiving a complete face-lift through a gift from the Optum in partnership with the Celtics foundation.
- Our well-appointed art room is large enough for students to pursue a variety of projects, and benefits from all the important supplies and necessities including ample storage, water inside



- the classroom, and a kiln for ceramics.
- The expansive K-LO library welcomes K-5 students with an archway that, upon second look, is actually a giant-sized school-desk complete with books set on top and some “gum” underneath. Walking through its column-like table-legs, our kids can’t help but feel the spark of their own imaginations.
- Our large cafeteria also holds the office of the CPS food services and nutrition department, so our kids often get to try out new menu items and benefit from options like our student-friendly salad bar.
- Our music rooms and practice rooms provide a great environment for exploring music, whether as a Kindergartener singing with friends or a 5th grader choosing a musical instrument.
- K-LO’s expansive outdoor space includes two playgrounds for developmentally-leveled play, basketball courts, a street hockey rink and a large practice field.
- The CitySprouts garden offers a living classroom for lessons in science, math, fine arts, and more.

Although the architectural style of Kennedy-Longfellow is typical of its era (in other words, not beautiful), it has many features that work well to provide flexible learning environments. K-LO families and staff have worked together to install artwork, paint, and create warm and welcoming spaces for our students and families.