



**Edith C. Baker School
205 Beverly Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
617-879-4500**

***Dr. Mary L. Brown
Principal***

***Linda Rodriguez/ Joshua Howe
Vice Principals***

Mary Ellen Dunn
Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance
Public Schools of Brookline
333 Washington Street
Brookline, MA 02445

April 3, 2018

Dear Mary Ellen,

I'm writing to request approval from the Brookline Public Schools School Committee for the installation of a Buddy Bench at Baker School. The Baker School PTO has generously agreed to fund this initiative. This project has the support of Baker School Principal, Dr. Mary Brown.

The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the school playground. A buddy Bench is a colorful, clearly marked bench designed for students who may have difficulty navigating the process of finding playmates, or finding the confidence to join in, at recess. The way it works is that if a student feels lonely or has no one to play with at recess, they can go sit on the buddy bench. All students are taught that if they see a student at the buddy bench, they must go over and invite them into their play. This will give students the opportunity to both reach out for help and help other students by offering to be a friend. The goal of the bench is to teach students to reach out to one another, to eliminate loneliness and to foster friendships on the playground. Buddy Benches have been added at schools across the country and met with great success.

In addition to approval from Dr. Brown, I have also met with Erin Gallentine from Brookline Parks and Recreation and identified a spot on the Baker School Playground for the Buddy Bench. I'm happy to meet with whomever necessary to point out the proposed location.

Here is a link to the proposed bench. The bench can be purchased in one of the standard patterns or customized: <https://outdoorschoolfurniture.com/product/buddy-bench-diamond-pattern-bench-2/>

The Buddy Bench project was proposed to Baker School staff and received unanimously positive feedback. This is what Baker staff members have to say about a Buddy Bench:

Haillie Shinohara, Special Educator Grades 6-8: "My son's school has a buddy bench. Not only does it help students who need help with being asked to join in on play, it also helps all students be more mindful and caring as a community. It's important to teach students how to build a community up from early years. For my son, he usually was one of the kids who invited kids to play when he noticed them sitting on the bench at his school. As a kindergartener that year, the buddy bench was one of the memories he treasures and helped him see himself as a good friend and part of a community. Hope we get one at Baker!"

Kaitlin Doherty, Grade 1: "I have wanted to have a buddy bench for years! There are many students I see every time I am on duty walking around with "nothing to do" and "no one to play with". It is hard to track down peer role models who would include them in the chaos of recess. If we had a place students could look and see children who need a friend to include them, it would be easier to get these students involved in an activity right away. I am in full support of this idea!"

Sue Peligian, Enrichment Support Specialist: "The most and least we can do for a human being is to provide different ways and opportunities to feel part of community. The buddy bench may be just the right thing for certain students -- a way for them to feel they are included if there is a place for them to be. No one wants to feel left out. No one should feel left out."

Summer Cosgrove, Grade 6 ELA Teacher: "A buddy bench is a nice way for students who may struggle to verbalize their loneliness find someone to play with. It's also a great opportunity for students to be kind to others, which is one of our core values here at Baker."

Alyssa Rose, Spanish Teacher: "A buddy bench will give the students a chance to practice two of our core values at Baker School--Be kind and help others. We need to offer our students more ways to practice these two core values in order for them to embrace them as part of their own values when they leave Baker School. A buddy bench educates our students about the importance of these values while it also welcomes those who are new into the Baker community and lends a hand to those who may need some help from others."

Whitney Fairley, Grade 3 Teacher: "I think it is important to note that children want to help, but they don't always know how. If they knew a student needed something from them, they'd offer help. The Buddy Bench is a concrete way for children to offer and accept help from each other. With a Buddy Bench, teachers can then practice language with students."

Thank you so much for considering this proposal. If there is any additional information you need, please do not hesitate to contact me at heather_otero@psbma.org or (617) 879-4531.

Kind Regards,

Heather Otero, LCSW
School Counselor K-8
Edith C. Baker School

Dr. Rachel B. Rubin
208 South St.
Brookline, MA 02467
Rachel_rubin@post.harvard.edu

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Baker PTO Grants Committee, I am writing to verify that we have awarded Heather Otero \$842 to fund a buddy bench which will be located in the Baker School play ground.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Dr. Rachel B. Rubin
Baker PTO Grants Committee Chairperson



888-719-3330

MY CART(0)

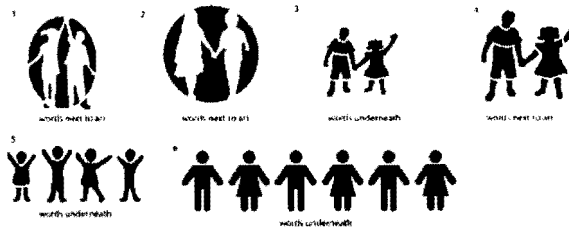
SHOP PRODUCTS ▾ ABOUT US PURCHASE ORDERS PRODUCTS GUIDE CONTACT US 🔍

Search ... 🔍

Buddy Bench from OutdoorSchoolFurniture.com

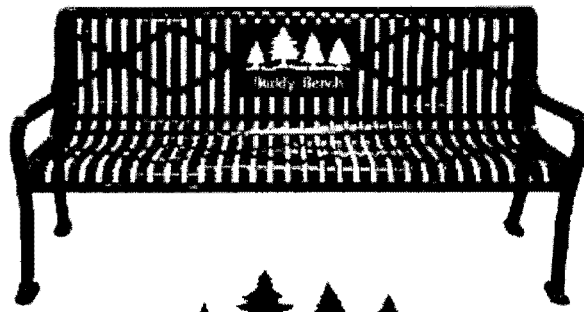
OUTDOOR FURNITURE

- **Uncategorized**
(0)
- **Outdoor School Tables**
(34)
- **Outdoor School Benches**
(31)
- **Outdoor Chairs**
(6)
- **Personalized Benches**
(12)
- **Buddy Bench For Sale**
(4)
- **Umbrella Picnic Tables**
(17)
- **Outdoor Cafe Tables**
(4)
- **Memorial Benches**
(3)
- **Outdoor Trash Cans / Receptacles**
(26)
- **Picnic Tables**
(12)
- **Umbrellas / Bases**
(2)
- **Bike Racks** (5)

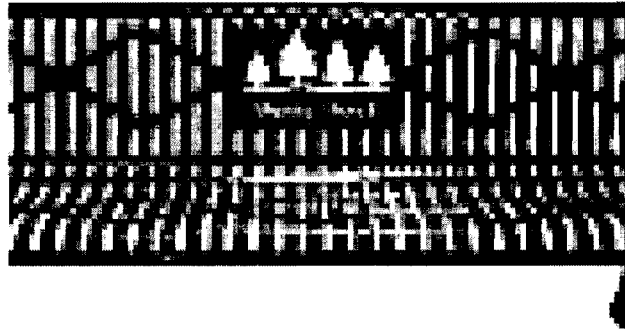


Stock Buddy Bench Art For Benches

Wood Picnic
Table
(1)



Buddy Bench



Buddy Bench

Buddy Bench from
OutdoorSchoolFurniture.com
PRICE: \$618.23 –
\$998.50

Product ID: RFP6
Manufacturer: Leisure Craft
Weight: 250

Buddy Bench
– endorsed by
Christians
Buddy Bench
Project

Custom designs available at
no additional cost.
Customized logo or words
manufactured into / cut out of

the bench back.

Add your design on the checkout page in the box titled "Personalization" You will receive a drawing about 2 days after placing your order.

11 Gauge steel
Cast iron legs- 1 1/2" wide by 1 1/2" thick
Thermoplastic finish
Pre-drilled mounting holes

Color Options

Color

Choose an option



Length

Choose an option



1

ADD TO CART



Welcome to Outdoor School Furniture! The best place for outdoor benches, outdoor tables, and furniture. We offer great prices and superior customer service. We have over 20 years

experience servicing the outdoor furniture industry. Feel free to call our trained staff at 1-888-719-3330 for any help or questions about our products. Online supplier for outdoor benches, outdoor tables, picnic tables, bike racks and more!

> Home

> Site Map

> About Us

> Terms & Conditions

> Products Guide

Christian Buddy Bench
Project

Personalized Buddy Bench
Standard Buddy Bench

SUBSCRIBE TO
NEWSLETTER

Email

Subscribe

PURCHASE ORDERS
ACCEPTED





MaryEllen Dunn <maryellen_dunn@psbma.org>

School Committee Proposal: Buddy Bench for Baker School

Erin Gallentine <egallentine@brooklinema.gov>

Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 6:04 PM

To: Mary Ellen Dunn <MaryEllen_Dunn@psbma.org>, Heather Otero <heather_otero@psbma.org>

Cc: Mary Brown <Mary_Brown@psbma.org>, Matt Gillis <Matt_Gillis@psbma.org>

MaryEllen,

The Parks and Open Space Division has no objection to this proposal.

Thank you!

Erin

Erin Gallentine

Parks and Open Space Director



Brookline Town Hall
333 Washington Street, 4th Floor
Brookline, MA 02445-6853
617 730 2088 | www.brooklinema.gov

From: MaryEllen Dunn [mailto:maryellen_dunn@psbma.org]

Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 5:58 PM

To: Heather Otero

Cc: Mary Brown; Erin Gallentine; Matt Gillis

Subject: Re: School Committee Proposal: Buddy Bench for Baker School

[Quoted text hidden]