

# THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS by Raphael



**Anaximander**  
611 BC - 546 BC

Anaximander was a Greek scholar who first proposed that the sun, moon and planets revolved around the earth. He invented the gnomon of a sundial.



**Pythagoras**  
569 BC - 475 BC

Pythagoras is shown surrounded by students (including a young Archimedes)



**Parmenides**  
about: - 500 BC

Parmenides was an ancient Greek philosopher born in Elea (now in Southern Italy).



**Zoroaster**  
about: - 500 BC

Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) was a Persian prophet who founded a religious movement that eventually became a staple religion in ancient Iran.



**Heraclitus**  
about: - 500 BC

Heraclitus was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher. Raphael based his portrait on Michelangelo, who was painting the Sistine chapel ceiling as Raphael was painting his fresco.



**Socrates**  
470 BC - 399 BC

Socrates is recognisable thanks to his distinct features. Raphael was able to use an ancient portrait bust as his guide.



**Democritus**  
460 BC - 370 BC

Democritus was a Greek scholar who is best known for his atomic theory although he was also an excellent geometer.



**Alcibiades**  
450 BC - 404 BC

Alcibiades was an Athenian politician and general who studied with Socrates.



**Plato**  
427 BC - 347 BC

Plato was the founder of the Academy in Athens. He is shown carrying his *Timaeus*. Raphael has shown him as Leonardo da Vinci.



**Diogenes**  
413 BC - 323 BC

Diogenes was a Greek philosopher and one of the founders of Cynicism.



**Aeschines**  
389 BC - 314 BC

Aeschines was a Greek statesman and one of the ten Attic orators.



**Aristotle**  
384 BC - 322 BC

Aristotle is shown carrying his *Nicomachean Ethics*.



**Euclid**  
325 BC - 265 BC

Euclid is shown surrounded by students. Raphael based his portrait on his friend Bramante who was the principal planner of St Peter's basilica.



**Archimedes**  
287 BC - 212 BC

Archimedes was the greatest mathematician of his age. His contributions in geometry revolutionised the subject and his methods anticipated the integral calculus. He was a practical man who invented a wide variety of machines including pulleys and the Archimedian screw pumping device.



**Carneades**  
214 BC - 129 BC

Carneades was a Greek philosopher and the most prominent head of the Skeptical Academy in ancient Greece.



**Ptolemy**  
85 - 165

Ptolemy (shown from behind) is wearing a crown and holding a globe. The crown is due to confusion with an Egyptian king of the same name.



**Averroes**  
1126 - 1198

Averroes (or Ibn Rashid) was an Andalusian polymath and jurist who wrote about many subjects. He is one of the few non Ancient Greeks in the picture.



**Raphael**  
1483 - 1520

Raphael included himself next to Ptolemy. Renaissance painters often sneaked their own portraits into their compositions.