

Welcome To **KINDERGARTEN**



Newton Public Schools Family Information Night

February 28, 2023

Webinar

Interpretation available in: Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian

1. Go to Lexikeet



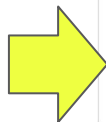
2. Click “K Intro”



Welcome to the livestream schedule for **Newton Public Schools!**

Please click/tap the livestream you'd like to attend:

02/28/2023 6:00 PM
Eighth Grade Night at NNHS



02/28/2023 7:00 PM
K Intro

3. Click “Join”

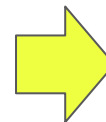


Welcome to the live broadcast of **K Intro**, scheduled for **02/28/2023 7:00 PM!**

To participate in this live broadcast, please click "Join" from the device you would like to use to participate, then choose the language you would like to hear the presentation in from the drop down menu in the bottom left of the screen. If the livestream does not start automatically, you may have to press the "Play" icon.

Google Chrome is our preferred browser; however, if you have trouble joining on Chrome, please try Mozilla Firefox or Safari.

If you have any difficulty hearing, please ensure your volume is turned up.



Join

Welcome, Agenda, & District Goals





Agenda

- **Welcome, Introductions and District Goals**

Kathy Smith, Interim Superintendent of Schools

- **Newton Elementary Schools and Registration**

Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Maura Tynes, Director of Elementary Special Education

- **The Kindergarten Program**

Elementary Principals

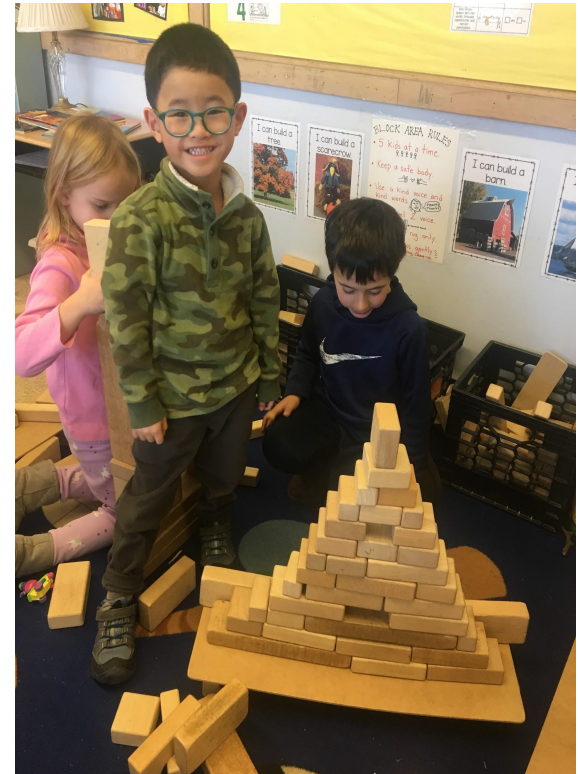
- **Registration/Screening Process**

Elementary Principals

- **Next Steps**

Goals of the Newton Public Schools

- **GOAL 1: Academic Excellence**
- **GOAL 2: Educational Equity**
- **GOAL 3: Social Emotional Learning, including Health and Wellness**





Orla Higgins Averill
Angier



Mindy Johal
Burr



Mark Nardelli
Horace Mann



Andrea Vargas
Peirce



Diana Beck
Zervas



Elementary Education Team 2022-23



Eric Sprung
Cabot



Maura Morse
Lincoln-Eliot



Suzie Talukdar
Underwood



Maureen McAdams
Elementary Ed Office



Beth Herlihy
Countryside



Jake Bultema
Mason-Rice



Becca Brogadir
Ward



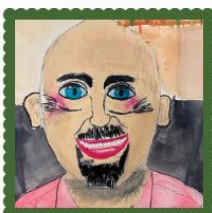
Ayesha Farag
Elementary Ed Office



Diana Guzzi
Bowen



Mark Chitty
Franklin



Tom Morris
Memorial Spaulding



Tony Byers
Williams

Introductions

With us here tonight:

- Kathy Smith, Interim Superintendent
- Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
- Elementary School Principals (names at left)
- Maura Tynes, Director of Elementary Special Education

We work in close collaboration with our colleagues from Student Services, the English Language Learning Department, and the METCO program.

Elementary Overview



Elementary School by the Numbers

School Year - Typical (10/1/22 Enrollment Information)

- **15 elementary schools serving approximately 5000 students from Newton and Boston**
- **Students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 5**
- **257 elementary classrooms**
- **718 kindergarten students in 39 classrooms**
- **Average elementary class size is 19.6**
- **Average kindergarten class size is 18.4**

Newton METCO Program



METCO is a state-funded, seat-availability, voluntary integration program

Goal: Increase diversity and reduce racial imbalance

- **412 METCO students K-12, 3% of student population**
- **Approximately 3000 students statewide participating in 33 suburban school districts serving from Boston and parts of Springfield**

Student Services: Student Supports

***We understand that all students need extra help or support at one time or another.**

***In our elementary school we have social workers, psychologist and Social Emotional Team members available to all students.**

***Our goal is to support student learning**



Student Services: Special Education

Inclusion is a belief that everyone belongs and everyone benefits. This educational model challenges schools to meet the needs of all students by educating learners with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers.

~NPS Guide to Special Education Programs

- **If a child is already on an IEP, then NECP will support the transition to elementary school.**
- **Each elementary school has a Team Specialist who is the contact person for school based questions.**



Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The Newton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Newton SEPAC) is an all-volunteer group of parents of children with special needs in Newton, MA. As mandated by Massachusetts law, SEPAC provides feedback to the School Committee and school district on special education programs and policies, and participate in their planning and development.

Find out more at: www.newtonsepac.org

Link to our brochure and translations:

<https://newtonpac.org/brochure-and-fliers/>

[List of SEPAC Liaisons by school](#)

Email: NewtonSEPACLiaisons@gmail.com



English Language Learner Program

- 809 students K-12
- Over 50 languages represented within NPS
- Students who qualify will be enrolled
- Services delivered in classroom and/or in ELL room
- NPS values bilingualism! A strong foundation in the home language supports all students in learning English



<https://www.stusd.edu/school/abraham-lincoln-high-school/facultydepts/world-languages>

Newton English Learner Advisory Council

The mission of the [Newton ELPAC](#) is to work to promote multilingual and multicultural values for all students and to aid in the integration process of new English language learners into the Newton community.

For more information:

Phone: 617-559-6043 (ask to leave a message for the ELPAC)

Email: npselpac@gmail.com

Newton Parent Teacher Council

The [Newton Parent Teacher Organization \(PTO\) Council](#) is an umbrella organization composed of all 22 PTOs in the city of Newton, Massachusetts. Its members are the current and past presidents of each PTO. The Council's ultimate purpose is to support all Newton parents in the quest for the highest quality of education in the city.

Angier PTO	Bowen PTO	<u>Burr PTO</u>	Cabot PTO	Countryside PTO
Franklin PTO	Horace Mann PTO	Lincoln-Eliot PTO	Mason-Rice PTO	<u>Memorial Spaulding PTO</u>
Peirce PTO	Underwood PTO	Ward PTO	Williams PTO	Zervas PTO

Email:
co-presidents@newtonptocouncil.org



The Kindergarten Program



Kindergarten Program

- **K teachers and teaching assistants support the development of each child**
- **Nurtures curiosity and love of learning**
- **Focuses on developmentally appropriate academics as well as social and emotional development of child**
- **Structure of full day program allows time for playful learning throughout the day**

K-5 School Year Arrival and Dismissal 2022-23

Day of the Week	Arrival	Dismissal
Wednesday	8:10 AM	12:20 PM
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	8:10 AM	2:50 PM

Kindergarten Registration & Screening



On-Line Registration Materials

Registration:

- ☐ [Registration Checklist](#)
- ☐ Online Registration
[Registration Gateway](#)

Medical Forms/Information:

- ☐ [Immunization Requirements](#)
- ☐ [Medical Registration Form](#)
- ☐ [Physical Exam Form](#)

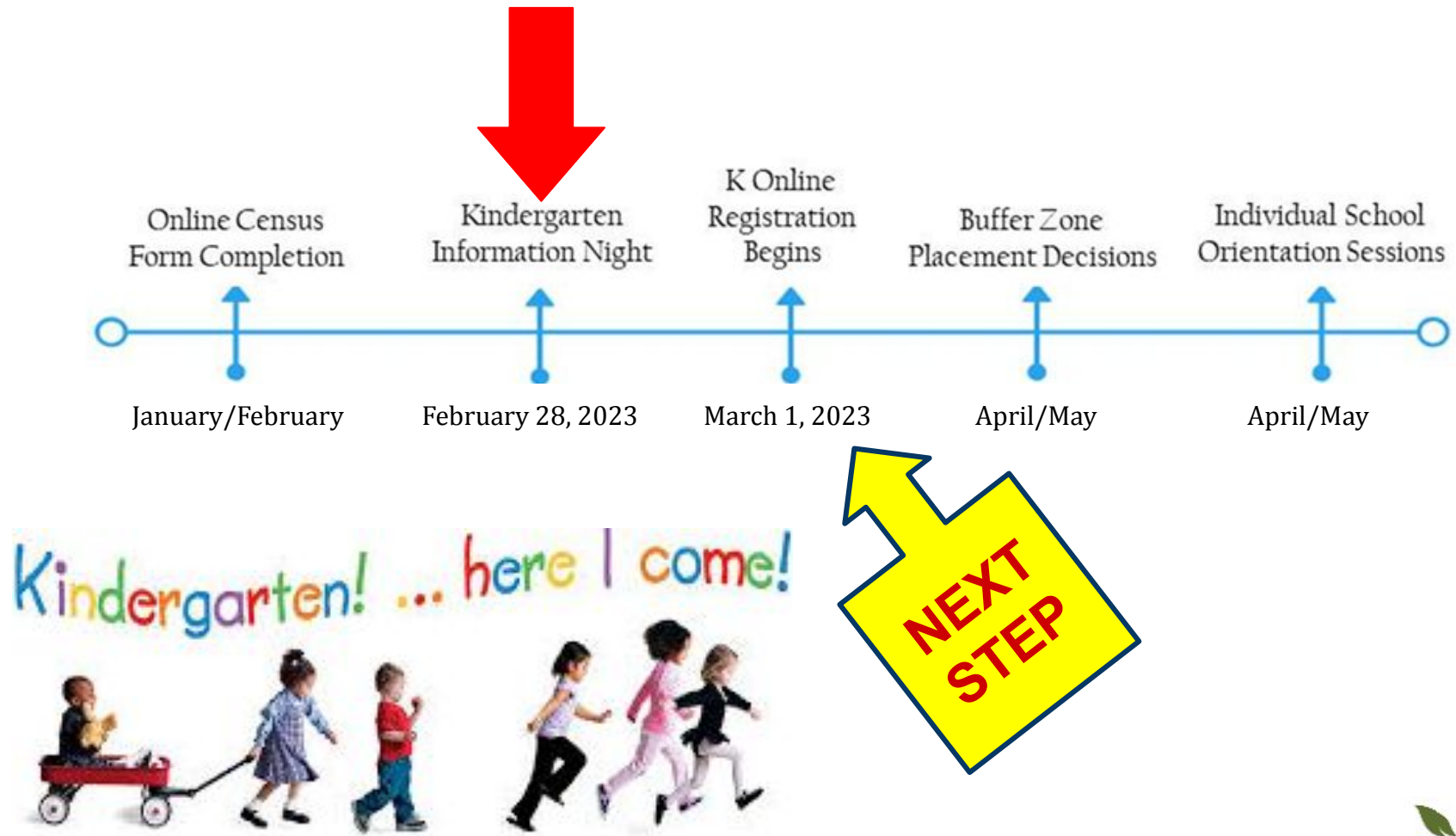
For Screening:

- ☐ [Parent Interview Form](#)

Residency and Occupancy:

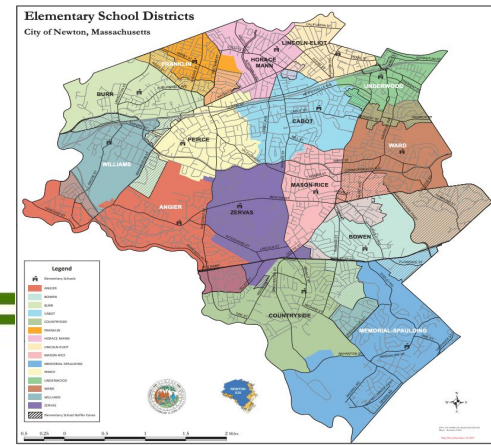
- ☐ [Proof of Residency and Occupancy Information](#)

Kindergarten Registration Timelines



BUFFER ZONES

A defined area for which individual addresses may be assigned to one of two elementary schools.



- Your online registration will automatically note if you are in a buffer zone
- Through the online registration process, parents/guardians may request a preferred school from one of the two designated elementary schools in the zone.
- Requests will be granted based on space availability.
- Students in these zones do not have a designated home school until the district assigns them one.

Health Department

Role of school nurse

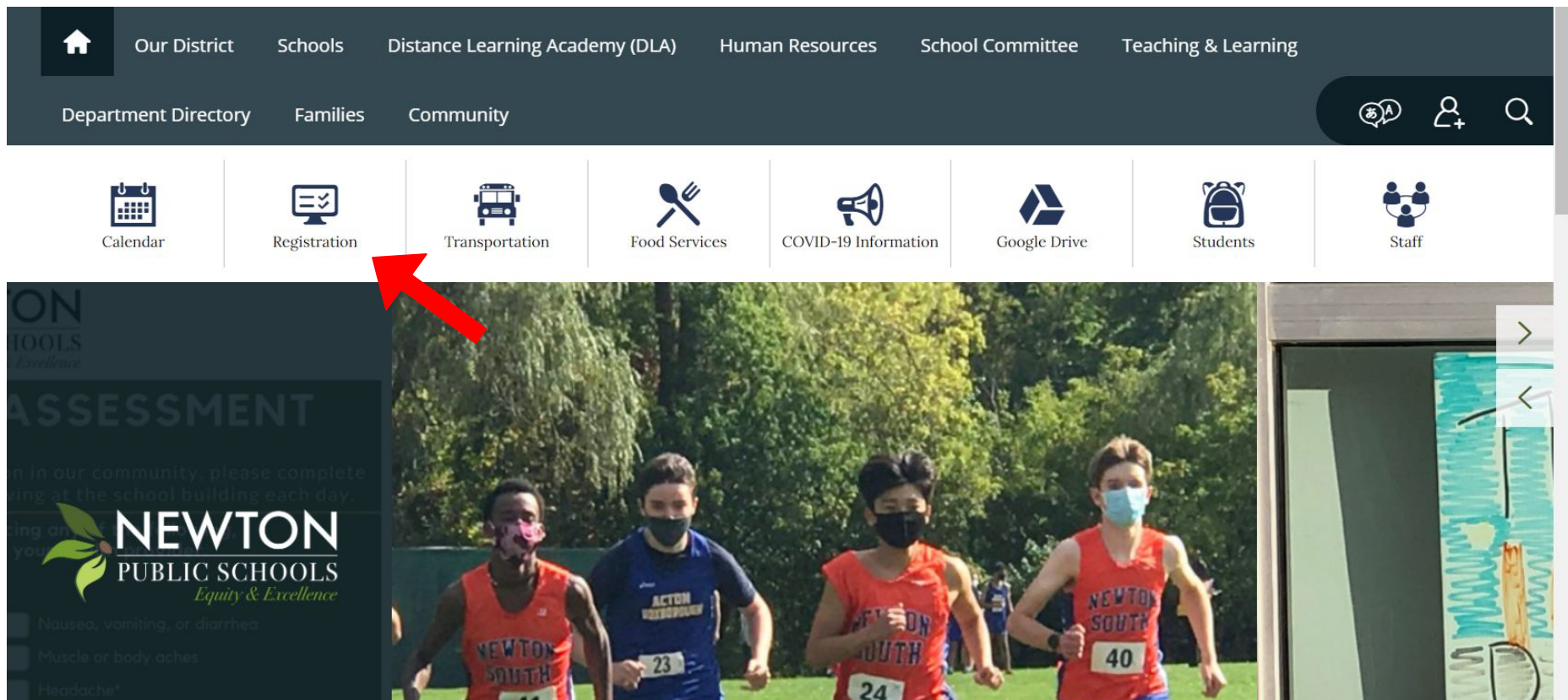
■ Forms:

- **Health History**
- **Health Report**
- **Immunization Record**
- **Allergies/Medication**



Registration - For More Information

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/>



Bus Registration

- **School transportation and sign-up information can be found on the Transportation webpage at: www.newton.k12.ma.us/transportation**
- **Elementary students ride the bus free of charge**
- **Information will be sent out to families**

Kindergarten Screening

School based visits, orientations and screenings will be scheduled by individual schools between April 25 and May 26, 2022

Screening Process

- **Sign in with your child**
- **School may take a photo of your child**
- **Your child will go with a teacher to do some activities (20 minutes)**
- **School staff you may meet with include:**
 - **Administrative Assistant**
 - **School Nurse**
 - **Staff Member to review paperwork**
 - **After-School Program Director**

Screening Day

The process involves:

Parent Interview:

- ❑ Developmental history, anticipated learning needs, special issues/concerns, medical documentation



https://pubs.asha.org/doi/abs/10.1044/2019_AJSLP-19-00045

Student Screening:

- ❑ Cognitive tasks, language acquisition, motor skills assessment

Next Steps



Parent/Guardian “To Do” List

- Visit our webpage at <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/domain/67> to register your child using our online system
- Sign up for your school’s PTO newsletter
- Be on the lookout for an invitation to your assigned elementary school visit.
- Be in touch with your assigned school with questions.



<https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/Page/9303>

School Visits

- **Kindergarteners gather with classroom teachers for games, story and play in late spring**
- **Parents/guardians visit with principal**



What can you do to help your child be “ready” for Kindergarten?

- **Encourage your child’s independence**
 - **Self-help skills such as dressing, bathroom, and opening snacks**
- **Encourage your child to advocate for their own needs**
- **Read with your child**
- **Count with your child**
- **Visit your school’s playground**
- **Continue using the languages you feel comfortable with at home**
- **Remember: Transitions can be HARD for children and adults!**

Parent Resources - Kindergarten Readiness

- ❑ [School Calendar SY22-23](#)
- ❑ [Bus Transportation](#) and [School Meals](#)
- ❑ [Kindergarten Book List](#)
- ❑ Kindergarten Readiness Articles from NAEYC:
 - ❑ [Ready or Not Kindergarten, Here We Come](#)
 - ❑ [Readiness: Not a State of Knowledge, but a State of Mind](#)
 - ❑ [Knights and Princesses: *Anti-Bias Work in PreK Classrooms*](#)

After School Care Options

NASA Website (links to all ASP's): newtonafterschool.org

Newton After School Association (NASA) is a formal association, made up of Newton's after school program directors, that meets regularly, collaborates as education professionals, and works united in our goal of intentional social & emotional education and quality childcare.

Newton's after school programs are individual non-profits, each governed by a board of directors made up of parents and members from their individual programs to best serve the unique situations within each school community. While we are individual programs, we are a collective under NASA.

NASA programs are not part of Newton Public Schools, but maintain a collaborative professional relationship with the system and rent space in many Newton Public School buildings. Our goal as a partnership is to best serve our collective students and families.



Thank you for joining us!

