Kindergarten Family Information Night

February 2019
Agenda

- **Welcome**
  - *David Fleishman, Superintendent of Schools*

- **Newton Elementary Schools and Registration Packet**
  - *Eva Thompson, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education*

- **The Kindergarten Program**
  - *Elementary Principals*

- **The Registration/Screening Process**
  - *Elementary Principals*

- **Next Steps**
Why a Full Day K Program?

- More time allows flexibility with scheduling and learning experiences.
- More relaxed pace to the day.
- Deeper exploration of existing strong curriculum.
- Full implementation of the new math program called *Investigations3*. 
Goals of the Newton Public Schools

■ GOAL 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Newton Public Schools are actively cultivating a culture of equity and excellence by creating and sustaining curriculum and instructional practices that lead to high-quality learning for each and every student. We will build the capacity of our educators to meet challenges and opportunities of teaching and learning in a dynamic and evolving environment.

■ GOAL 2: EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Narrow achievement gaps with respect to race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status and increase the achievement of students with special needs.

■ GOAL 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING, INCLUDING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Ensure all students become knowledgeable, responsible, caring and contributing members of society through evidence-based social and emotional learning from preschool through high school.
Packet of Materials

- **Forms and Information:**
  - Registration Checklist
  - Registration Form
  - Parent Interview Form
  - Medical Forms/Information
    - Immunization Requirements
    - Medical Registration Form
    - School Health Record/Physical Information from Health Care Provider
  - CORI/SORI Forms

- **Brochures and Other Information:**
  - Calendars (School and Kindergarten Registration Dates)
  - Dismissal Schedule
  - School Contact List
  - After School Program Directory
  - Kindergarten Book List, NAEYC Article
  - Frequently Asked Questions
Our Student Population

- Neighborhood schools where partnering with families and home-school connections are vital to the success of students
- Over 50 languages are spoken among our families
- Fully inclusive schools with diverse populations of students
Newton METCO Program

METCO is a state-funded, seat-availability, voluntary integration program with over 3100 Boston school-age children receiving education in 33 suburban districts.

- Increase diversity and reduce racial isolation
- Students from different backgrounds learn from each other in meaningful ways
- Provide a closer understanding and cooperation between urban and suburban parents
- 434 METCO students, 3.4% of student population
  - 209 elementary
  - 82 middle school
  - 143 high school
- 10 buses transport students between Boston & Newton
Elementary School by the Numbers 2018-2019 School Year

- 15 elementary schools serving over 5800 students in grades kindergarten through 5
- 276 elementary classrooms
- 850 kindergarten students in 43 classrooms
- Average elementary class size is 21
- Average kindergarten class size is 19.7
**BUFFER ZONES**

A buffer zone is a defined area for which individual addresses may be assigned to one of two elementary schools. Parents/guardians of students residing in a buffer zone must request either one of the two designated elementary schools in the zone. The requests will be granted based on space availability. Students in these zones do not have a designated home school until such time as they are assigned a school.

**Current Buffer Zones**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angier</th>
<th>Bowen</th>
<th>*Burr</th>
<th>*Cabot expanded</th>
<th>Countryside</th>
<th>Franklin</th>
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## Current Buffer Zones continued

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Kindergarten Registration Timeline
Kindergarten Program

- Designed to foster and support development of each child; *we meet your child at his/her level*
- Nurtures children’s 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
Typical Kindergarten Day

**Morning**
- Arrival & Morning Activity
- Morning Meeting
- Literacy Block
- Snack & Recess
- Math Workshop
- Specialist

**Afternoon**
- Lunch and Recess
- Science/Social Studies
- Writer’s Workshop
- Choice Time
- Clean-up & Pack-up
Specialists

- Physical Education (P.E.)
- Art
- Music
- Library
Kindergarten Dismissal Schedule

- **September - June**
  - All students, K-5, attend school 1st day at 8:20 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 3
  - All students dismissed at 12:30 p.m.
    - There are also 6 additional Early Release Afternoons

- **Dismissal Schedule, K-5**
  - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 3:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday: 12:30 p.m.
School Community

- K-5 Classroom Teachers
- K Assistant in each Class
- Specialists – Art, Physical Education, Library, Music
- Literacy Specialist, Math Coach
- Literacy Assistant and Math Intervention assistants
- English Language Learning (ELL) Teachers
- Social Worker, School Psychologist
- Special Education Teachers, Inclusion Facilitators, Team Specialist
- Occupational Therapists, Speech/Language Therapists
- Instructional Support Staff (ISS), Interns, Assistants, Lunch Staff
- Principal, Administrative Assistant, School Nurse, Custodian
- Crossing Guards, Bus Drivers
Special Education Services

“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

Team Specialist
Each school has a contact person who supports both the school-based Team and families with the special education process.

If your child is already on an IEP, a transition meeting will be scheduled this spring so you can meet the Team Specialist and some of the other providers at your school.
English Language Learner Program

- There are over 50 languages represented within NPS families
- We support students with different levels of English skills
  - speaking and understanding
  - literacy (reading and writing)
- If a student qualifies, he/she will be enrolled in the ELL program
- Students receive services in the classroom and or in the ELL room
- Focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing
Health Department

- Role of school nurse

- Forms
  - Health History
  - Health Report
  - Immunization Record

- Allergies/Medication Forms
How Will My Child Get to School?

- Walk whenever possible
- Bike with an adult
- Bus, if an option
- Drive - though may be convenient, contributes to congestion around schools
The Kindergarten Registration and Screening Process

- You and your child sign-in and present completed forms

- We may take a photo of your child

- Your child will go with a teacher to do some activities (20 min.)

- People you may meet with:
  - Administrative Assistant
  - School Nurse
  - Staff Member to review paperwork
  - After-School Program Director
Registration Day

The process involves:

→ **Parent Interview**
  Developmental history, anticipated learning needs, special issues/concerns, medical documentation

→ **Student Screening**
  Cognitive tasks, language acquisition, motor skills assessment
What can you do to help your child be “ready” for Kindergarten?

- Encourage your child’s independence
  - Self-help skills such as dressing, bathroom, opening snacks
- Encourage your child to advocate for his/her own needs
- Read with your child
- Engage in real world math activities
- Visit your school’s playground
Next Steps

- Schedule time for registration/screening
- Attend kindergarten visits and social events at your school
- Sign up for your school’s PTO newsletter
- Placement notifications:
  - Late August for class assignments
Thank you for joining us!

We are excited to welcome your child and you to the kindergarten class of 2032!