



Kindergarten Parent Information Night

February 2018

+ Agenda

- Welcome
 - *Dr. David Fleishman, Superintendent of Schools*
- About Newton Elementary Schools and Registration Packet
 - *Cynthia Paris, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education*
- The Kindergarten Program
 - *Elementary Principals*
- The Registration/Screening Process
 - *Elementary Principals*
- Next Steps



+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.

+ 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



- 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

- 429 METCO students, 3.4% of student population
 - 190 elementary
 - 124 middle school
 - 115 high school
- 10 buses transport students between Boston & Newton

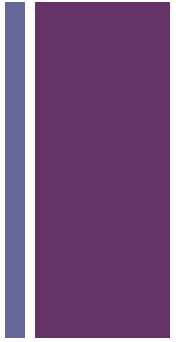
+ Elementary School By the Numbers 2017-2018 School Year

- 15 elementary schools serving over 5800 students in grades kindergarten through 5
- 277 elementary classrooms
- 850 kindergarten students in 42 classrooms
- Average elementary class size is 21
- Average kindergarten class size is 20.2

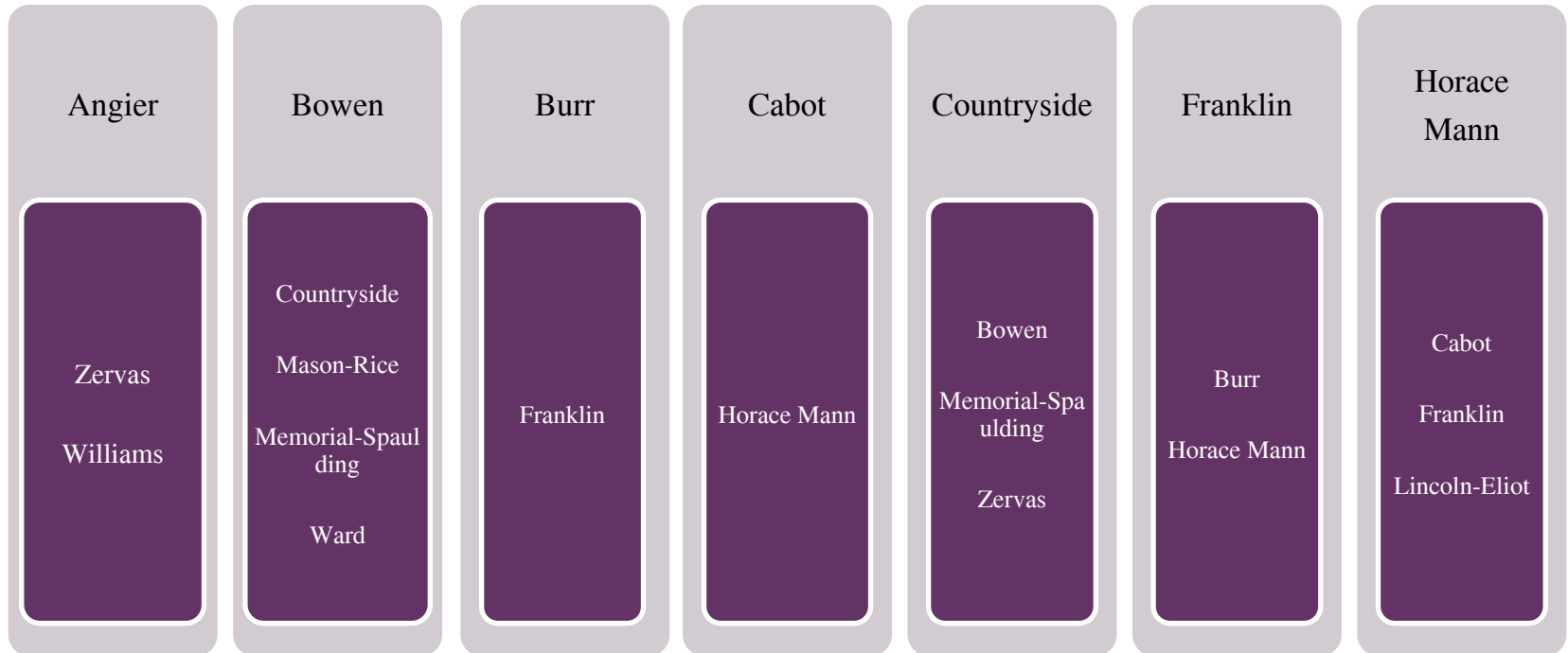


+ BUFFER ZONES

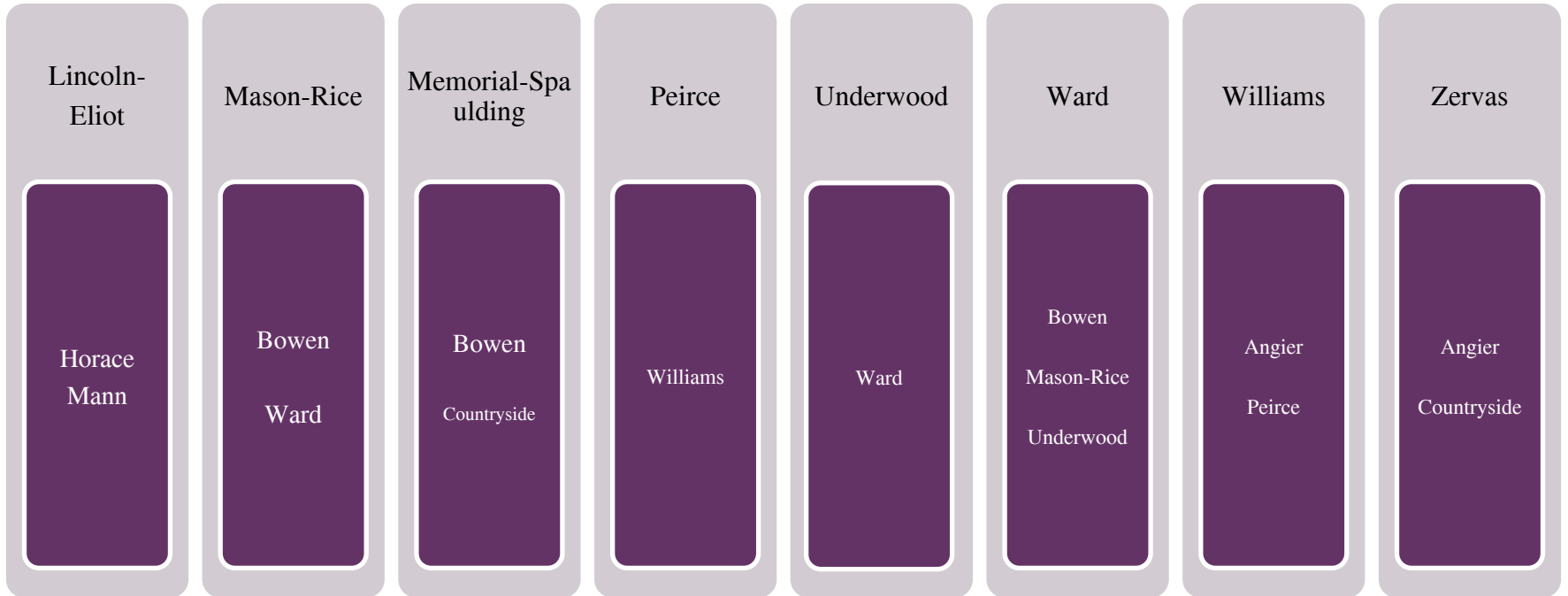
A buffer zone is a defined area for which individual addresses may be assigned to one of two elementary schools. Parents/guardians of students residing in a buffer zone must request either one of the two designated elementary schools in the zone. The requests will be granted based on space availability.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



Current Buffer Zones

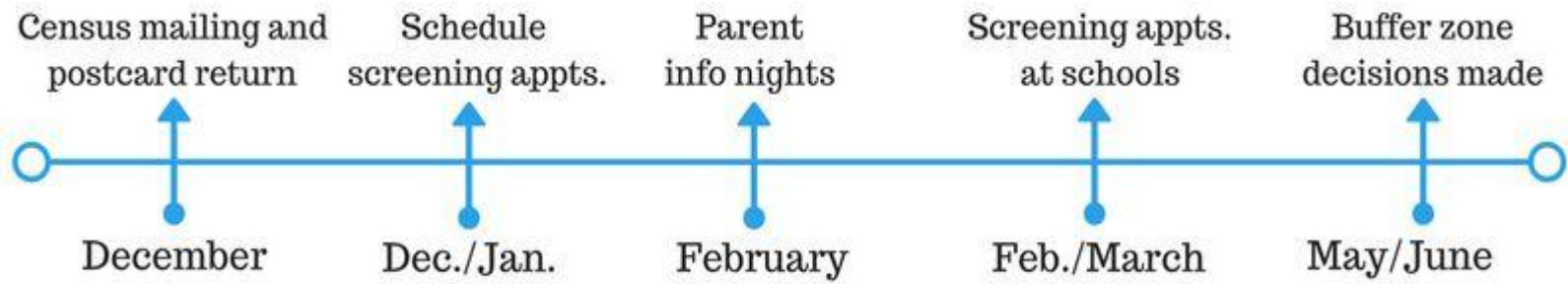


+ Current Buffer Zones continued





Kindergarten Registration Timeline



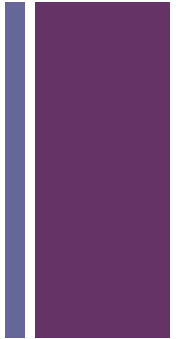
+ Packet of Materials

■ 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
- Feedback Survey



+ Kindergarten Program

- Designed to foster and support development of each child
- Nurtures children's curiosity and love of learning
- Focuses on academics as well as social and emotional development of child
- Structure of program
 - Full class 8:20 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
 - Half class 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



+ Typical Kindergarten Day

Morning

- Arrival and Morning Activity
- Morning Meeting
- Literacy Block
- Snack and Recess
- Math Workshop
- Specialist
- Writer's Workshop

Afternoon

- Lunch and Recess
- Science/Social Studies
- Text Talk
- Choice
- Clean-up and Pack-up



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Specialists

- Physical Education



- Art



- Music



- Library



+ Kindergarten Dismissal Schedule

- September:
 - Group A attends school 1st day
 - Group B attends school 2nd day
 - All students dismissed at 12:30 p.m.
- Starting late September/early October:
 - Students attend for 2-long days, 3-short days
 - Group A:
 - Monday/Wednesday: 3:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday/Thursday/Friday: 12:30 p.m.
 - Group B:
 - Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday: 12:30 p.m.
 - Thursday/Friday: 3:00 p.m.





ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

Newton Public Schools

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460

Kindergarten Group A/B Arrival and Dismissal Schedule

Note: For the month of September, all kindergarten students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Group A/B dismissal schedule below is tentatively set to begin with the first Monday in October, but may be adjusted based on the early release dates which have not been finalized. Your neighborhood school will update you on the final date when 3:00 p.m. dismissal begins for Groups A and B.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students Arrive at 8:20 a.m.	Students Arrive at 8:20 a.m.	Students Arrive at 8:20 a.m.	Students Arrive at 8:20 a.m.	Students Arrive at 8:20 a.m.
Group B Dismissed at 12:30 p.m.	All Students Dismissed at 12:30 p.m.	Group B Dismissed at 12:30 p.m.	Group A Dismissed at 12:30 p.m.	Group A Dismissed at 12:30 p.m.
Group A Dismissed at 3:00 p.m.		Group A Dismissed at 3:00 p.m.	Group B Dismissed at 3:00 p.m.	Group B Dismissed at 3:00 p.m.

+ School Staff

- K-5 Classroom Teachers
- Specialists – Art, Physical Education, Library, Music
- Literacy Specialist, Math Coach
- 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, Aides, 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 of the 15 elementary schools 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 Records
- Allergies/Medication Forms



+ The Kindergarten Registration and Screening Process

- Registration Day at Schools
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Next Steps



+ Registration Day at Elementary Schools

- 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 minutes)
- 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
- Placement notifications:
 - Early June for A/B grouping
 - Late August for class placement





**Thank you for coming.
We are excited to welcome you and
your child to kindergarten!**