

# Welcome To **KINDERGARTEN**



## **Newton Public Schools Family Information Night**

February 27, 2025 – 6:30 pm

**Webinar**

Newton Public Schools  
Kindergarten Family Information Night  
February 27, 2025



**Interpretation available in:**

Spanish, Mandarin, Chinese, and Portuguese

Choose your language at bottom left of screen.

在屏幕左下角选择您的语言。

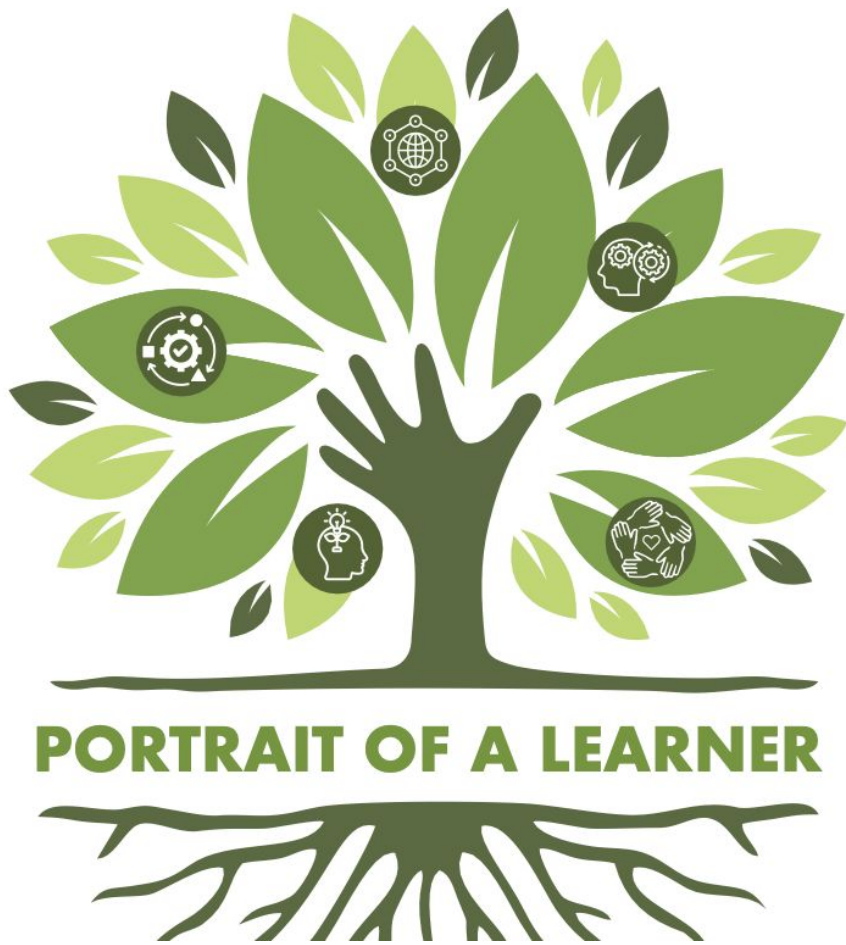
Elija su idioma en la parte inferior izquierda de la pantalla.

Escolha seu idioma no canto inferior esquerdo da tela.



# Welcome and Agenda





*Where every student can thrive*

**Growing minds, hearts and bonds for students to independently and safely navigate the world, and in doing so, change it for the better.**



# PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

## ADAPTABILITY

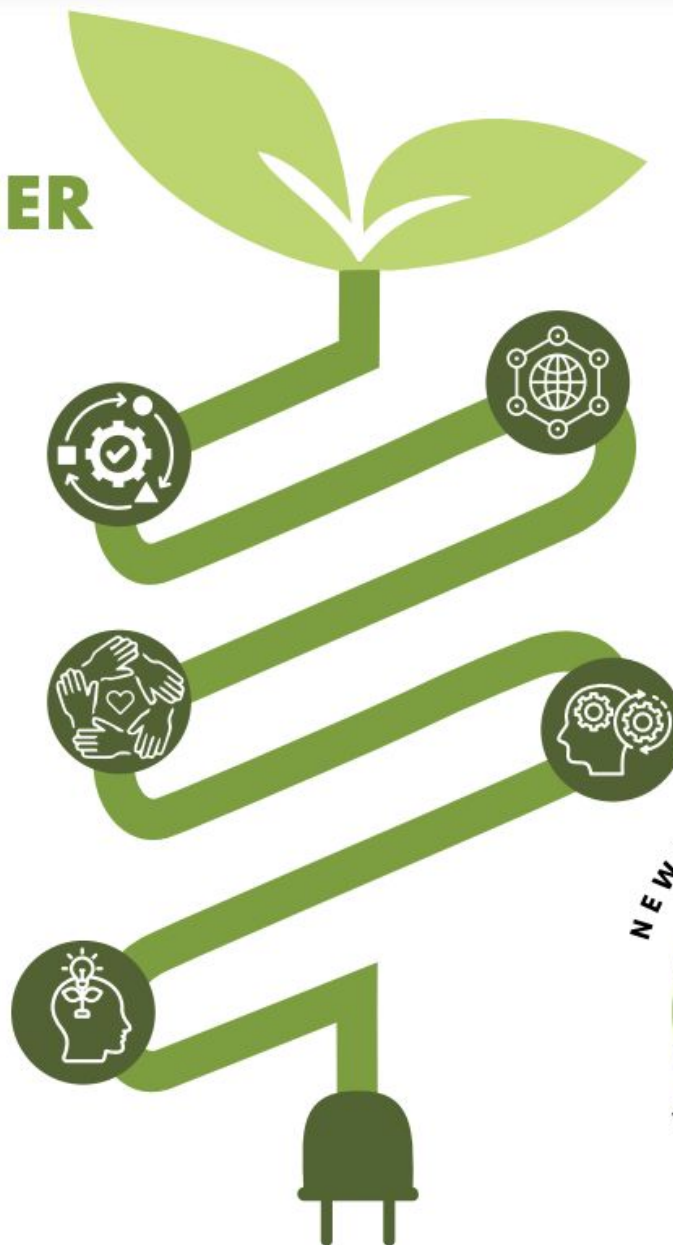
Demonstrate the ability to adjust their learning strategies, behaviors, and thinking to effectively navigate changing situations, new challenges, or different learning environments within the classroom.

## EMPATHY

Embracing diverse perspectives with flexible thinking, compassion, and cultural awareness to adapt, connect, and create meaningful growth.

## LEARNER'S MINDSET

Demonstrates the ability to stay curious, persevere through challenges, take risks, reflect on mistakes, and use feedback to grow. It involves asking thoughtful questions, taking risks, seeking opportunities to learn, supporting others, and approaching tasks with a focus on growth and understanding rather than outcomes.



## COMMUNICATION

Seeks to understand other perspectives, articulates thoughts and ideas, and communicates across multiple contexts.

## CRITICAL THINKING

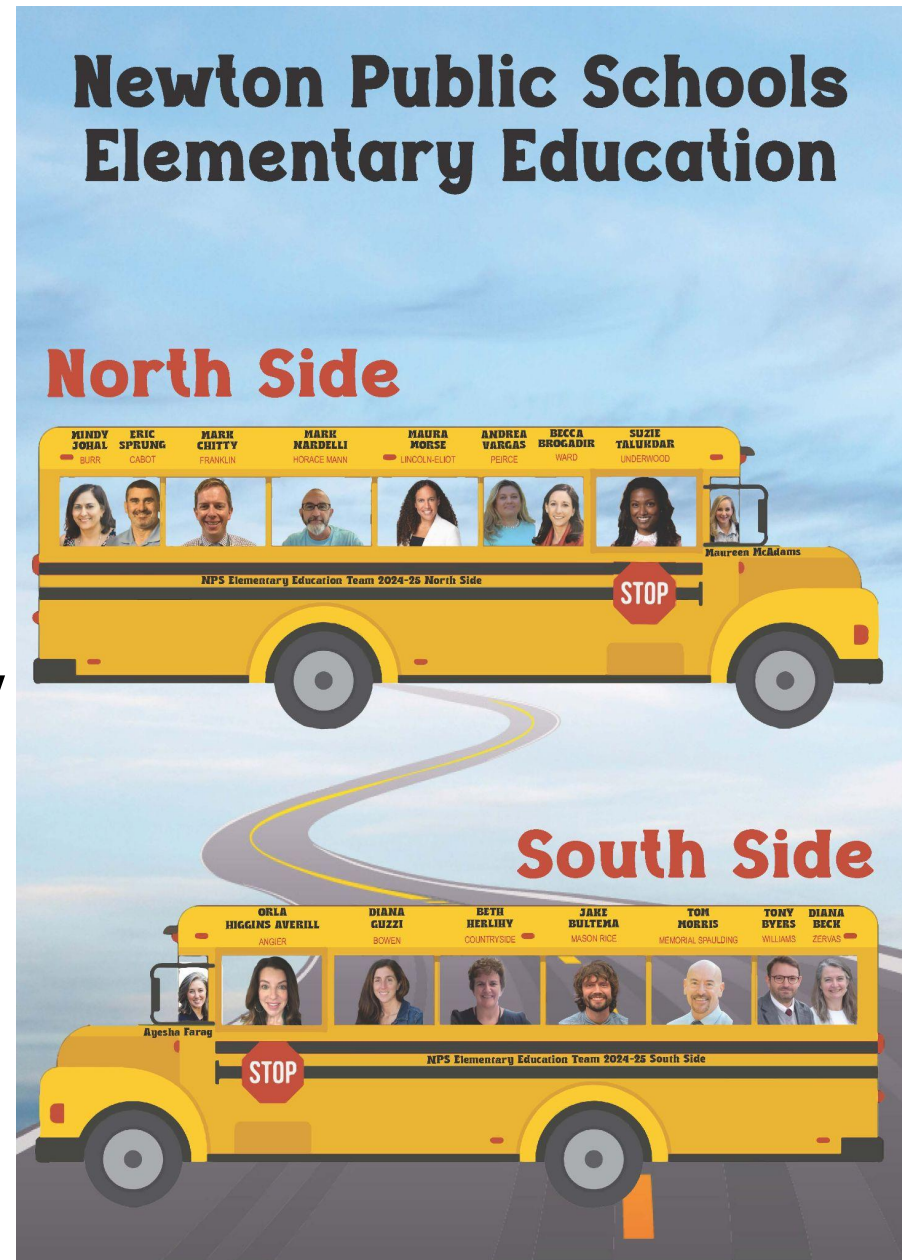
Questioning deeply, analyzing rigorously, and collaborating effectively to solve complex problems with clarity and reason.



# Introductions

With us here tonight:

- Anna Nolin, Superintendent
- Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
- Elementary School Principals
- Maura Tynes, Director of Elementary Special Education
- Lauren Harrison, Assistant Director of English Learner Programs



# Agenda

- **Welcome**

*Anna Nolin, Superintendent of Schools*

- **Introductions**

- **Newton Elementary Schools Overview**

*Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education*

*Maura Tynes, Director of Elementary Special Education*

*Lauren Harrison, Assistant Director of English Learner Programs*

- **The Kindergarten Program**

*Elementary Principals*

- **Registration/Screening Process**

*Elementary Principals*

- **Next Steps**

# Elementary Overview

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# **Elementary School by the Numbers**

## **School Year - Typical** (10/1/24 Enrollment Information)

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- **15 elementary schools serving approximately 5,000 students from Newton and Boston**
- **4,809 Students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 5**
- **256 elementary classrooms**
- **703 kindergarten students in 40 classrooms**
- **Average kindergarten class size is 17.6 students**

# Newton METCO Program



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

***Mission: Provide an opportunity for students from racially imbalanced schools in Boston and students from isolated suburban schools to learn together in an integrated setting.***

- **Original founding member (1966); METCO has been in NPS for over 58 years**
- **3000 students in 32 suburban school districts, NPS is the largest district enrolling over 400 students K-12, 3% of the NPS student population**
- **All students benefit from a district that includes and supports racially, culturally and linguistically diverse learners. In Newton, we learn together!**

# Student Services: Student Supports

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

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

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



# Student Services: Special Education

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*Inclusion is a belief that everyone belongs and everyone benefits.*

*~NPS Guide to Special Education Programs*

- **If your child is already on an Individual Education Program via NECP, then they will support the transition to the elementary team this spring.**
- **Each elementary school has a Team Specialist. This is the contact person for questions/concerns about special education.**





# Special Education Parent Advisory Council

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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](http://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](mailto:NewtonSEPACLiaisons@gmail.com)



# English Language Learner (ELL) Program

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- **Currently 807 students PreK-12**
- **ELL office staff screening**
  - **Gareth Lindwall Honig is our ELL Intake Specialist.**
- **Students who qualify for English language services will be enrolled in the ELL program**
- **ELL Services are generally delivered in the Kindergarten classroom**
- **Classroom teachers use “Sheltered English Immersion”**
- **NPS values multilingualism!**



# Newton English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)

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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](mailto:npselpac@gmail.com)

Facebook Group: [tinyurl.com/NPSELPACFB](https://tinyurl.com/NPSELPACFB)

Website: [tinyurl.com/NPSELPAC](https://tinyurl.com/NPSELPAC)



# Newton Parent Teacher Council

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*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.*

<a href="#"><u>Angier PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Bowen PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Burr PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cabot PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Countryside PTO</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Franklin PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Horace Mann PTO (Instagram)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lincoln-Eliot PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mason-Rice PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Memorial Spaulding PTO</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Peirce PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Underwood PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ward PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Williams PTO</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Zervas PTO</u></a>

Email:  
[co-presidents@newtonptocouncil.org](mailto:co-presidents@newtonptocouncil.org)





# The Kindergarten Program

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# Kindergarten Program

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- **A collaborative team of educators, including kindergarten teachers, assistants, specialists, and others 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 the full day program allows time for playful learning throughout the day**

# K-5 School Year Arrival and Dismissal 2024-25

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

[Newton Public Schools/Calendar](#)

[illegible]



# Registration - For More Information

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/school-registration/kindergarten-registration>



Newton Public Schools

For Staff ▾

For Students ▾

For Families ▾

CALENDAR

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Our  
District

Schools

Registration

Human  
Resources

School  
Committee

Teaching &  
Learning

Departments &  
Programs



LUNCH MENUS

TRANSPORTATION

REGISTRATION



# Online Registration Materials

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## Registration:

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

## Medical Forms/Information:

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

## For Screening:

- ☐ [Parent Interview Form](#)

## Residency and Occupancy:

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

# Health Department

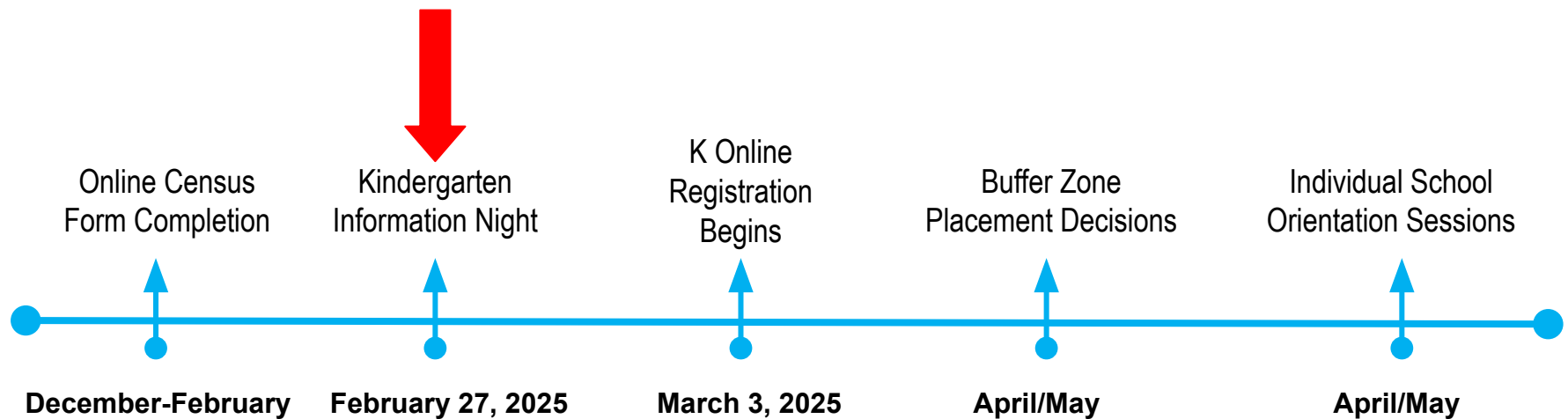
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## Role of school nurse

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



# Kindergarten Registration Timelines



<https://heaton-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/news/2015.html>

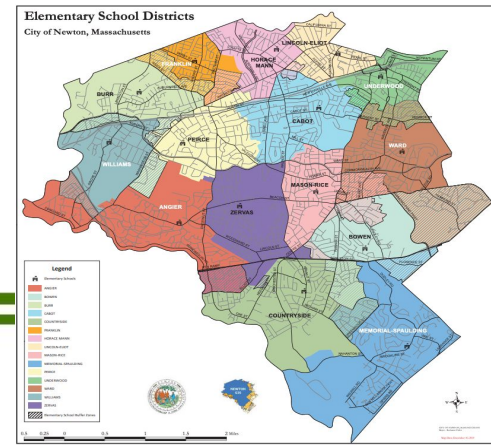
# Bus Registration

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- **School transportation and sign-up information can be found on the Transportation webpage at: [www.newton.k12.ma.us/transportation](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/transportation)**
- **K-5th grade students** – Students who reside **MORE than 2 miles** from their elementary school and wish to ride the bus may register for bus transportation **free of charge**.
- Students who reside **LESS than 2 miles** from their elementary school and wish to ride the bus may do so by registering and **paying the district bus fee if their school has a bus**.
- **Bus Fee [Financial Assistance Information](#)**
- **Information will be sent out to families**

# 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.



# Kindergarten Screening

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**School based visits, orientations and screenings will be scheduled by individual schools between April 28 and May 30, 2025**

# Kindergarten Screening Dates

School	Save the Date(s)
<a href="#">Angier Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9300	May 14, 2025, and May 15, 2025
<a href="#">Bowen Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9330	May 7, 2025
<a href="#">Burr Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9360	May 2, 2025, and May 9, 2025
<a href="#">Cabot Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9400	May 6, 2025
<a href="#">Countryside Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9450	May 14, 2025
<a href="#">Franklin Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9500	May 1, 2025, and May 8, 2025
<a href="#">Horace Mann Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9510	April 30, 2025, and May 5, 2025
<a href="#">Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9540	May 7, 2025
<a href="#">Mason-Rice Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9570	May 29, 2025, and May 30, 2025
<a href="#">Memorial Spaulding Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9600	May 6, 2025, and May 7, 2025
<a href="#">Peirce Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9630	May 1, 2025, and May 8, 2025
<a href="#">Underwood Elementary School</a> , 617-559-9660	May 7, 2025, May 8, 2025, May 14, 2025, and May 15, 2025
<a href="#">Ward Elementary School</a> , 617-559-6450	May 1, 2025, and May 8, 2025
<a href="#">Williams Elementary School</a> , 617-559-6480	May 5, 2025, and May 8, 2025
<a href="#">Zervas Elementary School</a> , 617-559-6750	May 22, 2025



# Screening Process

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- **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

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*The process involves:*

## School Teams Review:

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



## Student Screening:

- ❑ Cognitive tasks, language acquisition, motor skills assessment

# Next Steps

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# Parent/Guardian “To Do” List

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- Visit our webpage at <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/school-registration> 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.





# School Visits

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



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

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- **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

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- ❑ [Newton Public Schools/Calendar](#)
- ❑ [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 Program Options

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NASA Website (links to all ASPs): [newtonafterschool.org](http://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.

# What is Newton Community Education?

We are a self-sustaining arm of Newton Public Schools dedicated to offering **learning and enrichment opportunities for all afterschool and in summer.**

## Sample Summer Offerings for Kindergarteners

- ★ Soccer Skills & Drills
- ★ Gadgets & Contraptions
- ★ Swimming Lessons
- ★ Clay Creations
- ★ Hola! Spanish Summer
- ★ LEGO Junior Robotics
- ★ Wicked Cool Vet School

**...And Many More!**

[www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org)

Scholarships available!





# **Your Homework Assignment...**

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- **Review the Registration Checklist**
- **Gather the required registration documents**
- **Register your child using our online system**



# Thank you for joining us!

