



Know Your Schools!

for incoming Kindergarten Parents/Guardians

Superintendent Dan Gutekanst and Principal Karen Bourn

February 9, 2023

Welcome!

Imagine the future our children will be facing in 2036...

- PORTRAIT OF A NEEDHAM GRADUATE:
Shared vision of the future
- Framework of equity in education and consensus on district priorities



Kindergarten Student
at Newman Elementary School

Agenda

- Needham Public Schools Values, Vision, Priorities
- About Kindergarten
- Introducing Key Staff and Community Organizations
- Questions



Our Core Values

- Scholarship
- Citizenship
- Community
- Personal Growth



Our Vision & Priorities

**PRIORITY #1
ALL STUDENTS
ARE DRIVERS
OF THEIR OWN
LEARNING**

**PRIORITY #2
ALL STUDENTS
EXPERIENCE
INTEGRATIVE
TEACHING AND
LEARNING**

PORTRAIT OF A NEEDHAM GRADUATE SHARED VISION OF THE FUTURE FOR OUR PRE-K TO 12 STUDENTS



PREPARING ALL NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS TO BE...

CREATIVE THINKERS AND PROBLEM SOLVERS

Raise questions driven by curiosity; Analyze relevant information;
Express creativity; Design and innovate solutions

COMMUNICATORS AND COLLABORATORS

Listen effectively; Articulate ideas using a variety of communication
strategies and skills; Interact with others respectfully and productively;
Contribute to teamwork

SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE CONTRIBUTORS

Understand and respect diversity; Act with empathy and courage to
ensure equity, access, and an anti-racist culture; Address local and
global issues through civic and community engagement

RESPONSIBLE AND RESILIENT INDIVIDUALS

Take responsibility for actions; Make healthy choices to achieve
physical and emotional well-being; Self advocate;
Persist to overcome personal challenges; Adapt to change

EMPOWERED LEARNERS

Discover and integrate content from multiple disciplines;
Engage in self-directed learning; Use technology to support
learning and navigate a digital world



**PRIORITY #3
ALL STUDENTS
LEARN & GROW
WITHIN
ADAPTABLE
ENVIRONMENTS**

**PRIORITY #4
INFRASTRUCTURE
SUPPORTS
NEEDS OF
ALL STUDENTS**

Equity in the Needham Public Schools

- REAL COALITION (Race, Equity, Access, Leadership) provides leadership and guidance on eliminating barriers to racial equity and supporting the advancement of all learners.
- The District is committed to engaging Staff, Students, Families, and Community Members in conversations and actions that promote equitable practices for all in our community.



Your METCO District

- Since 1969, this program brings two communities together to educate all our children.
- Provides the opportunity for children from racially imbalanced schools in Boston and Needham to learn together in an integrated public school setting.
- Increases diversity and reduces racial isolation so that students from different backgrounds can learn from each other in meaningful ways.
- Provides closer understanding and cooperation between our Boston-resident and Needham-resident parents.
- On average, 180 Boston-resident students in the school year

Needham Schools Profile

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Matthew Spengler, Chair

Andrea Longo Carter, Vice Chair

Connie Barr

Michael Greis

Elizabeth Lee

Michael O'Brien

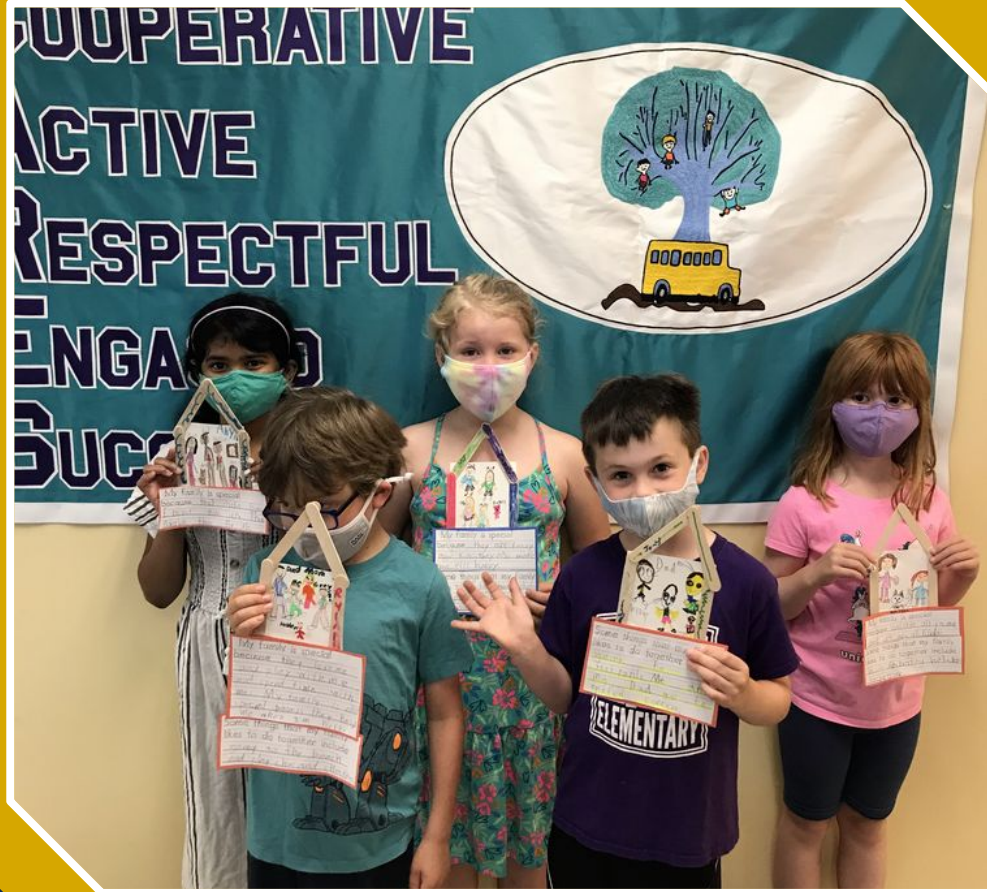
Alisa Skatrud

Dilin Meloni, Student rep

*Responsible for budget, policies,
hiring Superintendent*



School Committee members welcome feedback and encourage the community to communicate with them at schoolcommittee@needham.k12.ma.us



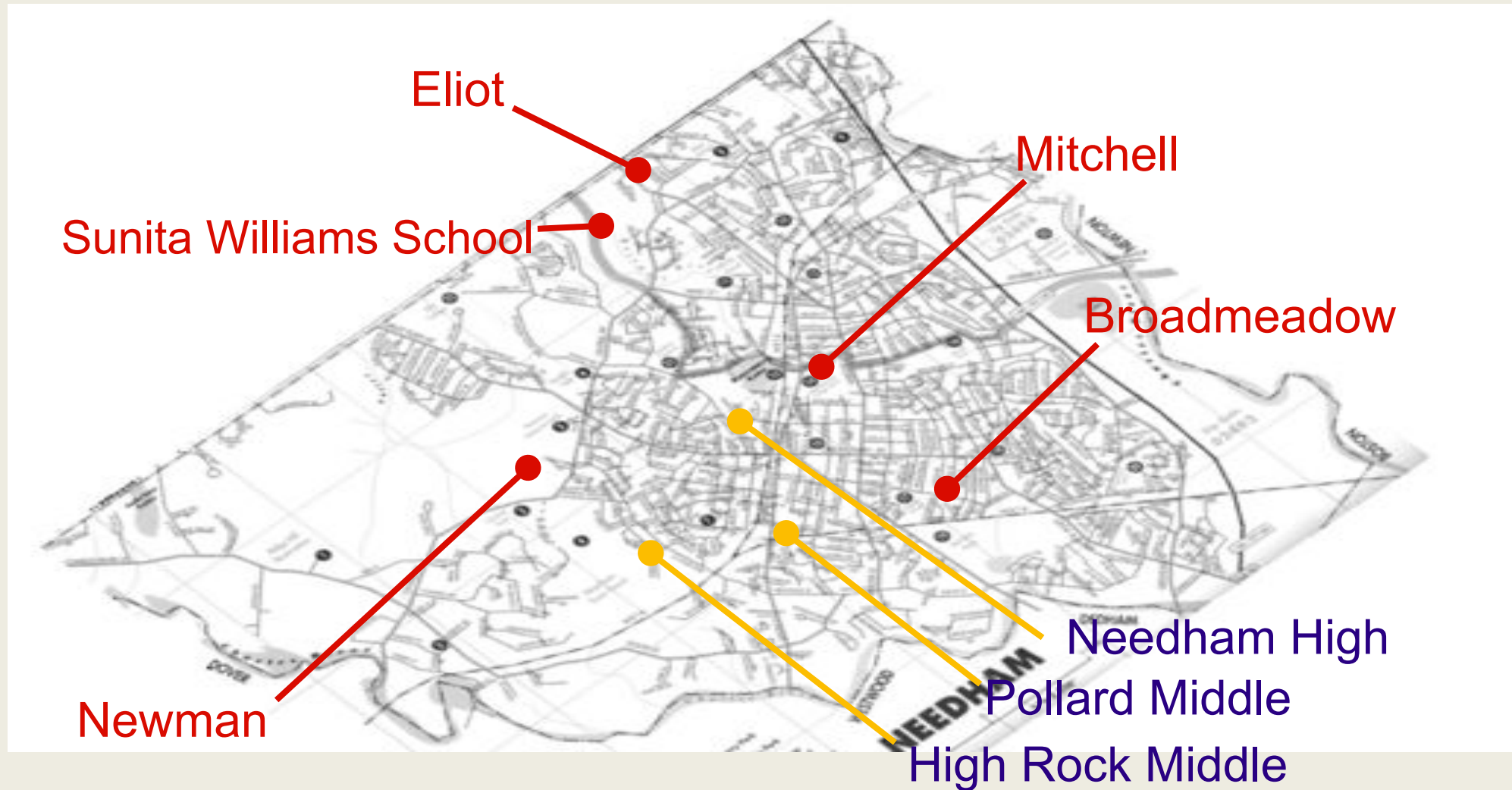
Students share what makes their families special

Needham Schools Profile 2021-2022

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

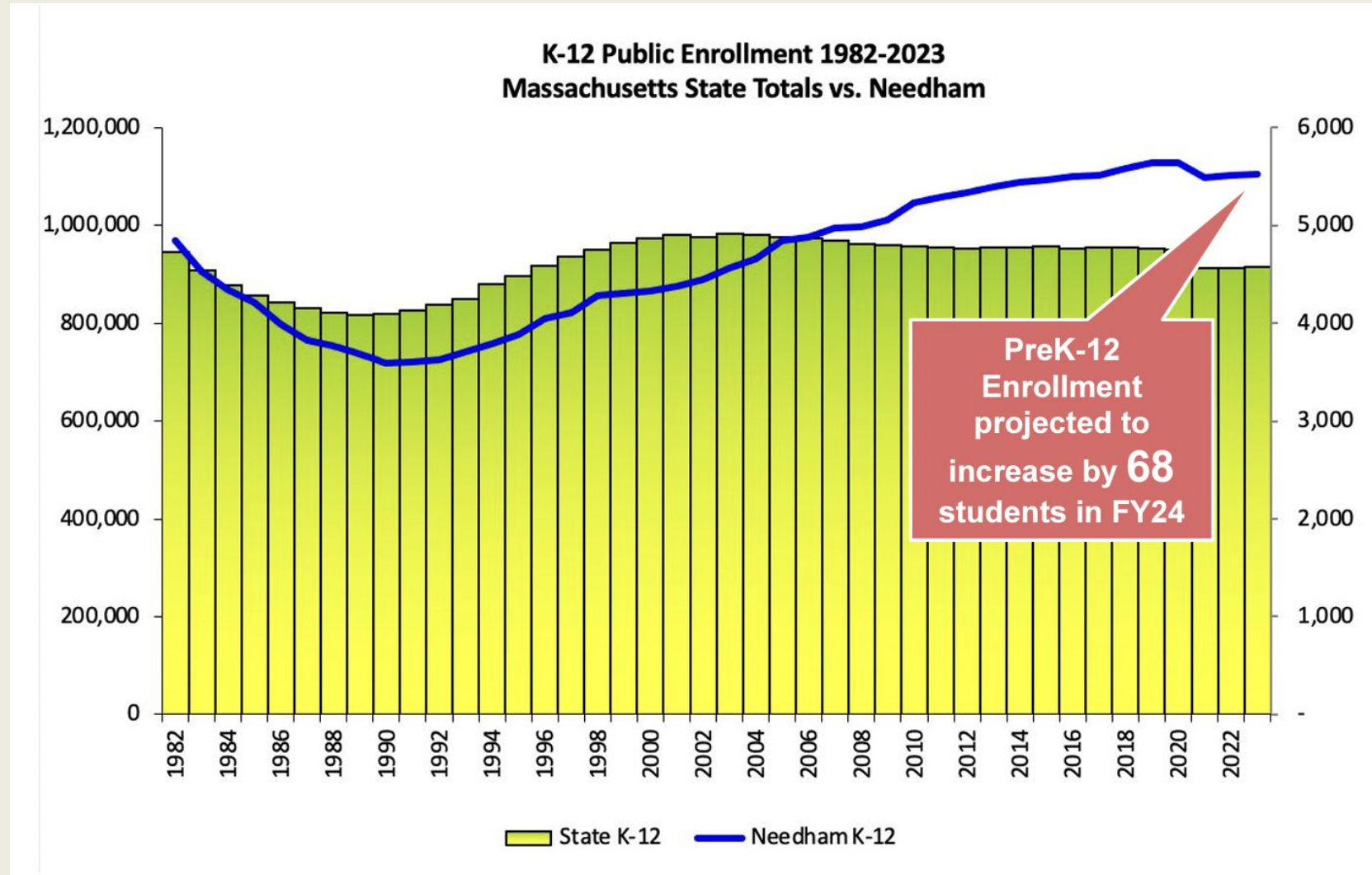
- **5,515 Students**
- **26.4% Students of Color (1,456)**
- **11.1% First Language not English (612)**
- **8.4% Economically Disadvantaged (463)**

Your Schools



Overall Enrollment NPS and State

growth trend and impact of COVID



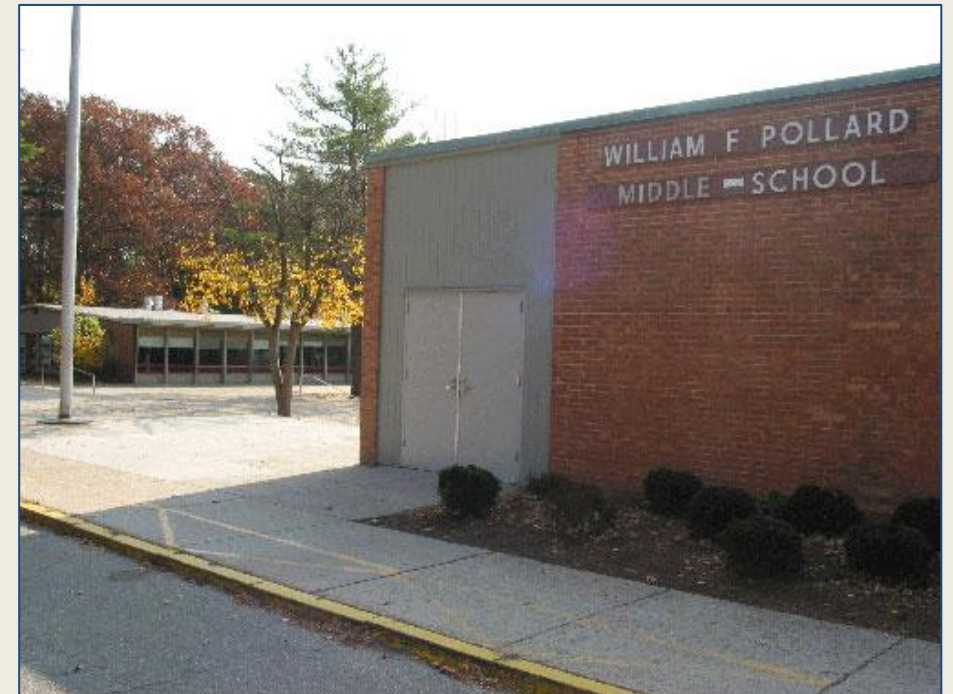
Facilities Master Plan



- It will take between 12 to 16 years to complete both projects at an estimated cost of \$350 million.
- It is critical parents of young children learn about and advocate for these crucial school building projects!

Two major building projects remain:

- Mitchell needs to be replaced
- Pollard MS needs a complete renovation & addition



Performance Report 2022

- Annual report on progress toward district's strategic priorities
- Census data from 2021-2022
- Opportunities/Challenges
- How Needham compares
- Mailed to all Needham households and businesses at the start of the school year



www.needham.k12.ma.us

Staying Informed:

- Website
- Blog
- Tweets
- 10 Minutes...
- List Serv
- Links to Schools



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Needham Public Schools website. The header is dark blue with the Needham Public Schools logo on the left, which includes a stylized 'N' inside a building icon. To the right of the logo, the text 'Needham Public Schools' is displayed. Further right, the tagline 'Scholarship - Citizenship - Community - Personal Growth' is visible. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, District Info, Schools, Departments, Equity, Community Ed, Calendars, Careers, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large video player showing five diverse young children smiling; the child in the center is holding a jar labeled 'Mrs V's Warm & P...'. To the right of the video player is a calendar widget showing dates for February and March, with specific dates highlighted for 'PreK-12 Early Release', 'February Recess', and 'PreK-8 Early Release'. Below the calendar are four links with right-pointing arrows: 'COVID HEALTH & SAFETY', 'FOR STUDENTS', 'FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS', and 'FOR STAFF'.

Needham Public Schools
Scholarship - Citizenship - Community - Personal Growth

Home District Info Schools Departments Equity Community Ed Calendars Careers Contact Us

Calendar:
FEB 08 PreK-12 Early Release All Day
FEB 20 February Recess All Day - Feb 24
MAR 08 PreK-8 Early Release All Day

[COVID HEALTH & SAFETY](#)
[FOR STUDENTS](#)
[FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS](#)
[FOR STAFF](#)

Introductions: Staff & Community Groups

Carmen Williams	Ass't Superintendent, Learning & Innovation (781-455-0400 x11240)
Karen Bourn	Principal, Eliot Elementary School (781-455-0452 x52000)
Sean Early	Kindergarten Teacher, Eliot
Shane Marchand	Director, Transportation (781-455-0400 x11234)
Danielle Collins	Director, Nutrition Services (781-455-0400 x11216)
Susannah Hann	Director, Health Services (781-455-0416 x55382)
Joanne Allen-Willoughby	Director, METCO Program (781-455-0800 x22522)
Jamie Singelais	Director, English Language Learner Program (781-455-0461 x53331)
Daniel Cohen	Director, Preschool (781-455-0416 x55133)
Diane Simmons	Director, Strategic Planning (781-455-0400 x11211)

COMMUNITY GROUPS / SUPPORT:

Citizens for Needham Schools ([CNS](#)): Joanie Daly and Abigail Hays (co-chairs);
Special Education Parent Advisory Council ([SEPAC](#)): Pam Greenfield, chair;
Needham Education Foundation ([NEF](#)): Jessica Clayson & Maggie Shapiro (co-presidents)

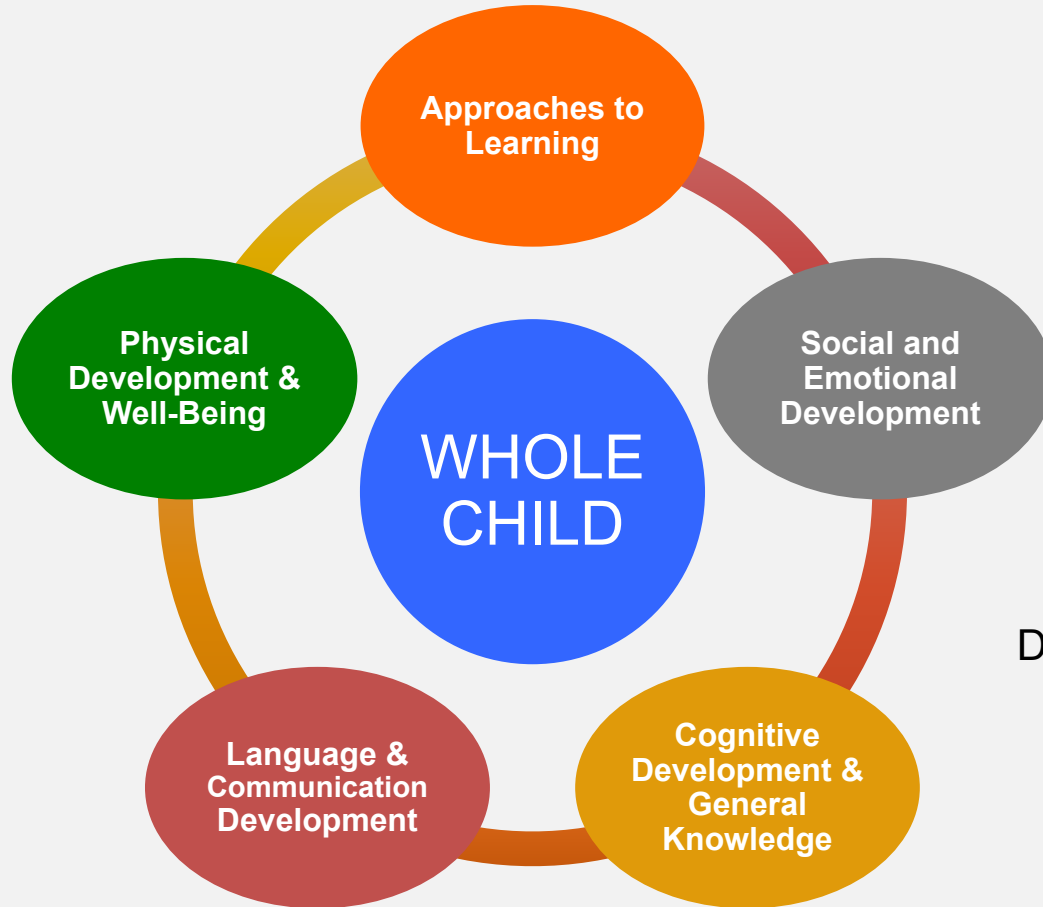
Kindergarten - Logistics

- Open to students who turn 5 years old on or before 8/31/23
- Neighborhood schools
- Full Day Program
- School Hours:
8:20 am to 2:45pm except
Newman 8:45am to 3:10pm



Kindergarten students
reviewing their September 11th
Heroes project

FDK Vision & Core Principles



Principle 1:

Learning encompasses the whole child

Principle 2:

Kindergarten children construct their own knowledge and skills

Principle 3:

Relationships and play are key ingredients

Principle 4:

Families play an essential role in their children's learning

Principle 5:

Diversity in backgrounds, experiences and learning styles enriches learning

Principle 6:

Teachers and school leaders commit to continuous learning

NPS Kindergarten Themes

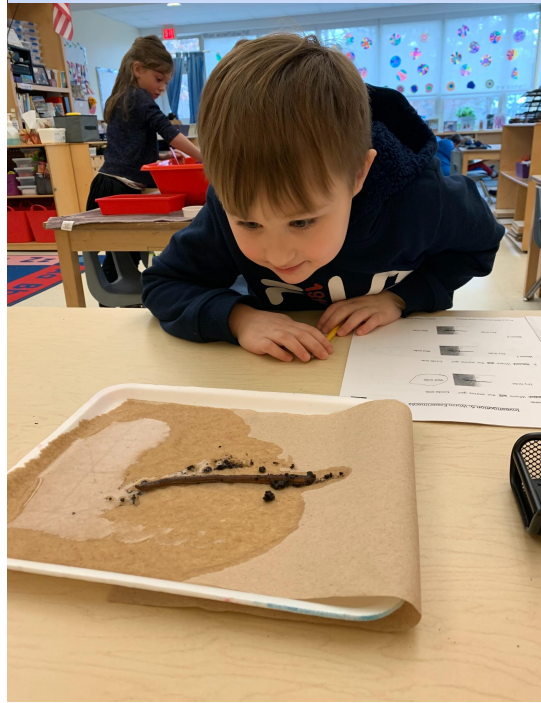
Our Community

September-October



Animals

October-December



Construction

January-March



Plants/Our Earth

April-June



Centers



Art Studio



STEM & Discovery



Library & Listening



Dramatization



Writing & Drawing



Blocks

Our Kindergarten Day



Specials

Seven Specials
40 minutes each

Music
Physical Education x2
Library/Media
Art
Spanish
Technology

Literacy

- Phonics: **Fundations**
 - letter/sound knowledge,
- Phonemic Awareness: **Heggerty**
- Reading/Writing
 - workshop model (I do, We do, You do)

Math

Illustrative Math (IM)

New 2022-23

- Children work collaboratively, engaged in sharing their solutions and strategies for solving hands-on problems.

Key Concepts:

- representing and comparing numbers
- understanding and applying addition and subtraction
- describing 2D and 3D shapes

Kindergarten Registration

Student [Registration](#)

See homepage on district website for link; paperwork and process to be completed no later than April 3

Questions? Contact **Student Registrar** Penny Belezos at 781-455-0400 x11213 or penny_belezos@needham.k12.ma.us



Parent Orientation to be held in the spring

- *For parents/guardians at your neighborhood school*

Dates for Orientation
at your child's school
6:30 to 7:30 pm

Broadmeadow - May 15
Eliot - April 27
Mitchell – May 16
Newman - May 11
Sunita Williams - May 16

Elementary Program

Mathematics Curriculum

- Illustrative Math
- ST Math - Spatial Temporal Math

Literacy

- Foundations K-3
- Reading and Writing Workshop
- Structured Literacy

Social Studies

- Racial Literacy Lessons embedded Grades 3-5

Social Emotional Learning

- Responsive Classroom
- Second Step Curriculum

Science

- Hands on, Inquiry based lessons



Special Area Curriculum

Specials Classes

- **Art (K-5)**
- **Music (K-5)**
- **PE/Wellness (K-5)**
- **Library/Media (K-2)**
- **Spanish**
 - *K, 1 1X week*
 - *2-5 2x week*
- **Technology (K, 1)**



Eliot third grader participates in the annual bike rodeo

Enrichment Options



- **Needham Public Schools**
NCE-Elementary

Needham Community Education offers
After School Enrichment classes
and **Summer Explorations**

(Carolyn Colonna, Program Director)



- **Before & After School Care**

Needham Extended Day Program (NEDP)

(Genevieve Jolley & Katie Ficcardi, Directors)

Transportation

- **Services provided for Needham-resident students in grades K-6 *who live more than 2 miles from their assigned school***
- Services provided for our Boston-resident students
- *Fee-based services* for Needham resident students in grades K-6 who live *2 miles or less* from their assigned school
- Fee-based services for all Needham resident students in grades 7-12 regardless of distance
- Also provide transportation for students based on their IEP for Special Education
- [Transportation Department](#) on district website
- Transportation [Listserv](#)





QUESTIONS?