

# Welcome to Kindergarten



# Welcome Class of 2033

Dear Families,

It is a great day when your child enters Kindergarten. It is an important milestone in the life of your child, and represents an important step toward independence. With this step, he or she enters a big and broader world. The school now becomes a partner with you in the education of your child. Kindergarten is an important period in the life of any child. It should be a happy adventure in living, working, and learning with a group. Kindergarten sets the foundation for skills and attitudes needed for success later in life. We take this responsibility seriously. Through the combined efforts of home and school, we will make it a period of great educational, personal, and social growth for your child.

Our instructional program is designed to develop the whole child, with emphasis on his or her unique strengths and needs. Our curriculum is designed to provide a developmental program for each child based on a sequence of skills. Our top priority is building self-esteem and a joy of learning. We encourage and promote positive self-esteem and confidence by building on each child's strength.

We strongly believe that the education is a partnership between home and school. Parent involvement is crucial to the academic and social development of students. Parents are encouraged to participate in the educational process. They need to read to their children every night to help them learn to read. Being read to is an important step in building and enriching vocabulary that will enable children to decode familiar words as they learn to read.

We want every child to have a successful educational experience. Commitment to excellence in education is accomplished when families and schools work together purposefully, with mutual respect and trust. This goal becomes reality for a child when parents and school staff work together in an atmosphere of shared concern and cooperation.

On behalf of the entire school community, we welcome you and your child to our school family. We look forward to learning and growing with you as your child begins his or her elementary school journey.

Julie McKillop  
Hatherly School





**Dear Parent(s):**

**Our new Kindergartners will be taken on a school tour and shown where the Nurses' Office is the first week at school. We look forward to greeting them at that time. Until then, here are some "Words of Wisdom: regarding your child's health and the policies of Scituate Public Schools.**

- Please alert me of any medical conditions your child may have such as asthma, allergies, or seizures, even if your child is in good control. I will be happy to schedule a meeting with you to discuss your child's health needs.
- Your child will have hearing and vision screenings completed at school. If you have any special concerns about this or any other aspect of your child's health, please feel free to contact me.
- I am here to administer first aid as well as take care of ill students. You will be notified if your child becomes ill at school or needs to be dismissed due to health reasons. Therefore, it is necessary that we have the names and telephone numbers of two designated relative(s) or friend(s) in case the parents cannot be reached.
- On occasion, a child needs to receive prescription medication at school. In this case, the nurse will administer the medication only if it brought to school by the parent in the original prescription container. For the safety of all our students, children are not allowed to transport medication to school.
- **Please do not send your child to school with a fever or a persistent cough, as this will help prevent the spread of colds and flus to other children.** Your child should be "fever free" for 24 hours, without taking fever reducing medications, before returning to school. If your child has been **vomiting**, the **return to school should not be for at least 24 hours** and until he/she is able to eat a regular diet again.
- Please notify my office if your child has chicken pox, fifth disease, strep throat, head lice or any other communicable disease. These childhood illnesses can be a serious health threat to other members of the school population; therefore, it is important that the school be notified.
- Finally, if your child is going to be absent, please call the school by 8:45am so we know that your child is home with you. Please send a note with the child upon return stating the reason for the absence for our files.

**We look forward to meeting you and your child in the fall! Kindergarten is a wonderful experience!**

**Jessica Jones, R.N.  
Hatherly School**

## SCITUATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

### Health Requirements

In order for your child to be enrolled in Kindergarten, we are mandated by Massachusetts State Law to have documentation of the following requirements:

#### Immunizations

- MMR: two (2) doses
- Hepatitis B: completed series of three (3) doses
- DTAaP/DTP: five (5) doses
- Polio: four (4) doses
- Varicella: two (2) doses of Varivax vaccine or documentation from the physician that your child has had Chicken Pox

#### Screenings

- Lead
- Vision (dated within the year prior to entrance or thirty (30) days after entrance)

#### Physical

- Dated within the year prior to entrance

An incomplete immunization record requires the school district to exclude any student until the requirements are met. Those students with documented medical contraindications or documents religion beliefs are the only ones exempt from the immunization requirements.



## Dear Future Kindergarten Parents,

Many of you have asked how to assist at home your young learner in developing their early literacy skills. The number one thing you can do is **READ, READ, and then READ** some more! Reading aloud helps to develop listening skills, comprehension skills, vocabulary, and it is also a fun and enjoyable time for you and your child. It can be amusing to read fairy tales, or patterned stories which can then begin to help your child learn to appreciate predictability and story structure. Reading familiar poems or Mother Goose nursery rhymes also can help to develop an appreciation of the rhythm and rhyme found in poetry and prose.

There are many other enjoyable ways to help your child develop early literacy skills. Engage in activities that make your child aware of words and the sounds of our language. Identify words on food boxes, signs, posters, etc. Sing songs, recite poems or chants, rap or engage your child in conversations about words and their sounds that letters make will help your child get ready to become a reader. In addition to reading aloud, here are some fun activities that you can do with your child to support the development of their literacy skills.

- Engage in a rhyming game with your child by saying words that rhyme with each other. For example: You say “fox”, your child may say “box”. This is referred to as the “I say, You say” game.

- Get your children up and moving with the Rhyming Word sit down game. During this game, the parent reads several words aloud. The child is to take a step forward each time the words rhyme.

If the words do not rhyme, the child is to sit down on the ground.

*You can alter the activity in this game to really engage your child’s interests. For example, if your child loves gymnastics, have your child do a handstand during rhyming words and a somersault when a word does not rhyme. Personalize the experience for your child to enjoy the game.*

- Rubber Band Stretch Game: Get a rubber band to help show your child how to stretch out words. As you say the parts of a word ex/ffffff/ /ooooooo/ /xxxxxxxxx/ stretch out the rubber band a little bit more each sound you say. After you’ve stretched it out let it go back to its natural size and say the word “fox”. When you are stretching the rubber band your child can stretch an imaginary rubber band and say the sounds as you say them. You could also change this activity to have you and your child stretch when saying the parts of the word, instead of using a rubber band.
- Play a variation of the “I Spy” game. Find an object in a book or around the room and state the sound that the object starts with (not the letter name). For example, you could say “I spy something with my little eye, something that starts with /sssss/.” Have your child try to guess what you spy. Next have your child spy something and say the sound of the letter the object starts with.

- As a variation and more challenge for the “I Spy” game, you could find an object in a picture book and say the name of the object you spy, without the initial sound of the word. For example, if you were to pick cat, you could say “I spy something with my little eye at.”

- Play “Say it and Push it”: Use tokens, pennies, or even M&Ms, to push as you count the number of words in a sentence. Progress to number of syllables in word, to number of sounds in a word.

- For those children who are ready, use commercially made tiles that you find in Scrabble or Bananagrams and have your child use the tiles to spell their name or their friends and family’s names. You could progress to color words of familiar vocabulary to your child.

Your job is to create a child willing and able to come to school ready to learn. Creating a child that loves learning and reading can best be done by exposing him or her to books. Read about often and regularly, take advantage of our wonderful public library, and model your own appreciation for literature and informational books. Show your child that they can learn new things through reading books. Your child will come to school eager to learn to read.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions about your child’s early literacy skills. In the fall, your child’s teacher and I will be happy to discuss any concerns you may have.