

Melrose Public Schools

Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview



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Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

- Why should you choose Melrose Public Schools to educate your children?
- Kindergarten/1st Grade Overview/Information
- Schools Overview
- Registering for Kindergarten/1st Grade



Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

- Classroom sizes down (average teacher/student ratio)*
 - a) Kindergarten -1 teacher & 1 paraprofessional to 22 children
 - b) 1st grade – 1 teacher to 21 children
- Increased Communication between Public & Private Preschools and district**
- State's Adequate Yearly Progress Data:-In 2008, Melrose Public School District achieved the performance rating of Very High in the area of English Language Arts and High in the area of mathematics.
- 57 Adams scholars- MCAS advance/proficient scores
- Flexible grouping within classrooms-based on ongoing assessments***

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*This is the District's average not a guarantee of class size. **All pre-schools are invited to collaborate with the MPS, we are continuing to work on District wide preschool to elementary communication. ***Developing capacity to create flexible grouping of children within grade levels to ensure interest, challenge and motivation.



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***Going from good to great, we want
you along for the ride.***

- 2008 college acceptance rate of 90%
 - 13% of those going onto a 2 year college
 - 77 % of those going onto a 4 year college
- Sample of colleges MHS graduates are attending - Over 150 including, but not limited to - Harvard, MIT, Bentley, Suffolk, Colby-Sawyer, Loyola, Syracuse, Roger Williams, Tufts, WPI, UMASS, RPI.
- Teacher certifications/degrees
 - 97% highly qualified*
 - 75% of teachers across the District have Masters degrees and above
- NAEYC certification for The Early Childhood Center and all Kindergartens.**
- AP classes – offered in 12 subjects
- 122 METCO Students in Melrose K-12***

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*There are many new educators/teachers in the District. Initial certification is provisional and requires admission into Masters program within 2 years, based on NCLB data.**Accreditation involves meeting high standards in regard to staffing, curriculum and the promotion of safe and healthy learning environments.***These students may not stay in MPS from kindergarten on, they may start at different grade levels



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The educators within the Melrose Public Schools are committed to a lifetime of learning and collaboration.

- Parents – citywide PTO, Curriculum Council, Bridge, Early Childhood and School Readiness Committees
- Colleges and Universities – Student teacher partnerships
- Harvard Roundtable
- Merrimack Education Collaborative – Elementary Principal Leadership Partnership
- SEEM Collaborative
- SHORE Collaborative
- IST/Child find
- Elementary grade level meetings
- Principal interschool monthly meeting (Principals and Curriculum Director)
- Mentors for all new educators in the system
- NECSD – Northeast Consortium for Staff Development
- Project Alliance
- Leadership team meetings at the H.S. level
- Curriculum and Department Chair meetings
- Secondary monthly department meetings (grade 6-12 staff)
- Administrative* and Superintendent meetings (twice monthly)

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*Administrative include Principals, Curriculum Director, Pupil Personnel Director, Superintendent, some meetings include Assistant Principals.



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Celebrating who we are includes not only cultural and ethnic differences, but learning profiles and styles. Our differentiated instruction allows all students to feel a sense of belonging while developing strengths and addressing differences in styles.

Type of Learner

Differentiation

Visual	Use of SmartBoards, posters/pictures, graphic organizers, drawings, models, props, color coding systems during instruction and for activities
Auditory/Musical	Use of listening centers/audiotapes, songs and jingles for instruction, use of background music in the classroom, use of choral reading and poetry, use of tapping, talking, rhythm during instruction
Kinesthetic	Use of movement, role playing, pantomime, dance Use of manipulatives (especially for Math) Use of centers to reinforce instruction Incorporating lab experiences into instruction Taking exercise/stretching breaks during instruction Incorporating opportunities to create and make things related to learning Use of sports, games, and cooperative learning
Verbal/Linguistic	Use of problem solving and prediction during lessons Use of Venn diagrams/ brainstorming maps Promotion of metacognitive skills (Students think about their thinking process.) Use of checklists, journals, essay writing, and storytelling
Interpersonal	Use of discussions, group activities, interviews, and service learning
Intrapersonal	Use of learning logs, goal statements, belief statements, and self-assessments
Logical/Mathematical	Use of diagrams, outlines, timelines, graphs, and charts for Instruction and activities
Naturalist	Use of investigations, observations, and simulations Provision of opportunities for students to identify, classify, collect and exhibit
English Language Learners	Sheltered English immersion

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*Based on the theories of Howard Gardner



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As we grow, so should the technology available to our children.

1. SMART Boards in all schools
2. Web-based homework assignments
3. Web-based assistance for all newly purchase curriculum
4. Web-based district-wide curriculum information – benchmarking*
5. 35% increase to internet speed based on new fiber optic network enhancements (FIOS)
6. Noblenet and database connections at secondary level**
7. Computer Lab access at all schools either via mobile lab or designated lab space

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*Look for Curriculum mapping, in fall of 2009, **Library/Media specialists have worked hard to ensure continued and complete access for the students to these resources. These resources include print and web-based databases.



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***Without an understanding of where we are,
how can we possibly move forward*?***

- Tri-annual benchmarking assessment in ELA and Math at the elementary level and in all subject areas at the secondary level.
- Grade level curriculum meetings to ensure equity across the board.
- MCAS – state mandated assessments
- Ongoing assessments in form of : teacher observations, quizzes, lesson, chapter and unit tests, portfolio work, student work samples, running records at the primary level
- K-1 students – DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills)
- All of Grade 1 and At-Risk Grade 2:DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment)

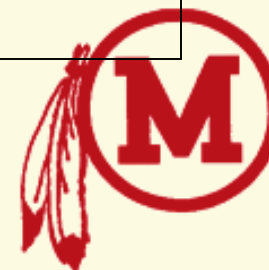


Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

Subject	Grades	Product
Handwriting	Preschool-1*	Handwriting without Tears
Reading**	Preschool K - 3	Houghton Mifflin StoryTown Harcourt Houghton Mifflin
	4-5 (pilot)***	Storytown Harcourt Houghton Mifflin
Math	K-5	Harcourt
Science	K-5	Scott Foresman Discover the Wonder
Social Studies	K-5	Harcourt
Art/P.E./Music/Information Fluency/Instructional Technology****	Preschool-5	District wide Benchmarks dictate instruction
Violence Prevention- Anti-bullying	Preschool-5	SecondStep Program
Health	Preschool-5	Great Body Shop*****

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*Rollout to grade 2 & 3 in 2009-2010**Three levels: core, strategic intervention and intensive intervention***Making Meaning Reading comprehension for schools not participating in pilot program****Type to learn program is taught in grades 3&4. *****Program will be changing 2009-2010.



Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

Volunteers make all the difference in the world – We have benefited from the Melrose Bridge for over 10 years.

- The Melrose Bridge provides all public schools with volunteers. CORI checks are required.
- Bridge creates a directory of their volunteers' special skills. This list is distributed to principals and allows them to enhance their learning environments.
- In-school volunteer opportunities vary by school, but can include tutoring, reading to classes during library sessions, helping students select books, Implementing the Regarding Art program, Junior Achievement* and helping out in the cafeteria.
- Other school related opportunities include: school site council posts, PTO positions, library coordinator and volunteer positions, city-wide task forces, city-wide committees (e.g., city-wide PTO, Curriculum Council)



Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

Currently assessing the district's needs and identifying learning strategies to address the needs of the gifted and talented children.

- Assessments have been initiated to identify our gifted and academically advanced students. More than 400 children from kindergarten through grade 8 were screened in 2008.
- District is currently working with consultants who have expertise in the area of gifted education. We are in the very beginning phase of implementation and teacher training.



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Half Day

- Allows families ability to explore outside extra curricular activities during the school day
- Free
- 8:30-11:00 (AM), 11:55-2:30(PM)
- Located at the Roosevelt School

Full Day

- Students have opportunity to, “dig deeper” into subject matter
- \$2500 per student for the year*
- Longer school day
- Located at all 5 elementary schools



Both

- Academic learning opportunities
- Social and emotional development opportunities
- Special education services available to those who qualify
- Parent volunteer opportunities within the classroom and school
- Opportunity to become an integral part of the Melrose Public School Community



Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

What are the schools like and how do I choose which one best meets the needs and interests of my family?

- Attend the “open houses” at each school
 - A. Dates & times – Tours start promptly at 5:00pm, 5:45pm & 6:30pm
 - Jan 27th, Hoover & Winthrop
 - Jan 28th, Lincoln & Roosevelt
 - Jan 29th, Horace Mann
- Talk to other parents in the community
- Visit the schools’ webpages
- Drive by the school at various times of the day
- Talk to teachers
- Let me introduce the principals now....



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<u>Schools</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u># Student</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Hoover	Dr. Dennet Sidell	275	37 Glendower Rd	979-2180
Horace Mann	Jeffrey Strasnick	272	40 Damon St.	979-2190
Lincoln	Brent Conway	366	80 W. Wyoming St.	979-2250
Roosevelt	Kerry Clery	355	253 Vinton St.	979-2270
Winthrop	Bryna Lakin-Davis	405	162 First St.	979-2280



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- **Registration dates for Kindergarten and Grade 1**
 - Feb 9, 4pm-8pm –Melrose Memorial Middle School**
 - Feb 11, 8:30am-12:00pm – Central Administration Parent Information Ctr.
 - Feb 12, 8:30am-3:00pm – Central Administration Parent Information Ctr.

- **Kindergarten (Don't forget to include siblings in upper grades on registration form)**
 - Costs
 - Kindergarten - \$2500*
 - Requirements-
 - Child must reside in Melrose
 - Be 5 years of age by Sept 1, 2009
 - Completed registration packet
 - \$25 non-refundable registration fee (full day K only)
 - Copy of immunizations and most current physical exam

- **First Grade (Don't forget to include siblings in upper grades on registration form)**
 - Requirements:
 - Child must reside in Melrose
 - Be 6 years of age by Sept 1, 2009
 - Grade 1 school preference form or if new to MPS, completed registration packet

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*Sliding scale based on household annual income, **Families of students who are English Language Learners are encouraged to attend the February 9th session, ***Registrations received after Feb 12, 2009 will result in assignments being made on a space available basis.



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<u>District</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Melrose	\$2,500
Stoneham	\$3,500
Reading	\$4,000
North Reading	\$4,000
Wakefield	\$4,000



Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

- This process shouldn't be stressful. Our success rate of placing K-students in their 1st school of choice is 98%
- You will need to pick your 1st choice, 2nd choice and 3rd choice* schools
- The school department looks at: 1)timeliness of registration, 2) need for program or facility, 3)presence of siblings in the school as of September of the child's first grade year, 4)promixity of the school to your residence
- You will be notified of the school departments decision via letter by March 30th.

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*You must include three different school choices, your application won't be processed without them, **Registrations received after Feb 12, 2009 will result in assignments being made on a space available basis.



Kindergarten/First Grade Registration Overview

- **What if I miss the registration deadline?** *Registrations received after Feb 12, 2009 will result in assignments being made on a space available basis.*
- **What if I can't afford the \$2500 or the payment plan set forth?** *The fee is not meant to exclude anyone. Your child may be eligible for free or reduced tuition based on your 2008 tax return. Please see one of the school administrators who will be present at registration.*
- **What if I don't get my first choice for school location?** *All parents will be contacted personally before students are placed in their 2nd or 3^d choice schools. If your child is not assigned to a first choice school your name will be placed on a waiting list.*
- **What if I can't attend a school visitation night?** *School visitations have been staggered to allow parents to visit two schools in one night !*
- **What if I attend a school visitation night but feel I need more information?** *Call the Parent Information Center at 781-662-2000 or contact the school principal.*



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- **Beebe-**
 - *After school program 2:20pm-6:00pm run by the Melrose YMCA*
- **Hoover-**
 - *Early-bird drop-off 7:10am-8:10am*
 - *Enrichment program - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 2:20pm-4:00pm*
 - *Early release Day – Daycare until regular release time*
- **Horace Mann-**
 - *Early-bird drop-off 7:10am-8:10am*
 - *Full After school program 2:20pm-6:00pm*
 - *Early release Day – Enrichment program until regular release time*
 - *School vacation programs*
- **Lincoln-**
 - *Breakfast program 7:30am each morning*
- **Roosevelt-**
 - *Early-bird drop-off 7:15am-8:10am*
 - *After school clubs 2:20pm-3:20pm (three days per week)*
- **Winthrop-**
 - *Early-bird drop-off 7:15am-8:10am*



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Thoughts to take with you... courtesy of Robert Fulgham

- All I really need to know... I learned in kindergarten.
- And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world it is best to hold hands and stick together.
- Be aware of wonder. Live a balanced life - learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.



Thank you for giving us an opportunity to invite you and your children to be part of the Melrose School Community.

Together We Can Make a Difference!

