

Kindergarten Options

The kindergarten program of the Canton Public Schools provides a balance of social, emotional and academic opportunities. It is based on the belief that meaningful learning experiences are fundamental to the way young children meet with success.

A kindergarten teacher has the responsibility for creating memories that will sustain a child through the remainder of his or her educational years. It is a monumental task. Our kindergarten educators are faced with the major challenge of trying to provide a developmentally and individually appropriate learning opportunity for our students within a short period of time. Clearly our kindergarten students must enter first grade with a solid development in literacy and mathematics.

Recognizing that children have different needs in Canton, there are two options for kindergarten. We continue to offer half day kindergarten programs to all of our students; additionally, a Full Day Kindergarten Program is available via a lottery selection process for some students. Tuition is charged for this additional ½ day of school with a sliding fee scale and tuition subsidies applicable as eligibility is determined.

To insure that we promote learning engagement, confidence and persistence, we need to keep in mind that not all children would benefit from participation in a full day program. Depending on the child's home-ties, attention span, level of interest and prior group experience, a half day program will continue to offer some children ample time in school. These children may not be socially and emotionally ready to be successful in a full day school experience.

For other children, the full day kindergarten option provides ample developmentally appropriate elements including hands on projects, mixed ability groupings, emphasis on language development, pre-literacy experience, balance of small, large and individual learning experiences and a stronger emphasis on the development of social skills including conflict resolution.

Acceptance into the full day program is done via a lottery so that students are enrolled in the most equitable and non-discriminating process possible. If you are interested in applying for your child to participate in this full day program you can obtain the necessary application and tuition information on line at www.cantonma.org or by contacting the Luce School at (781) 821-5075.