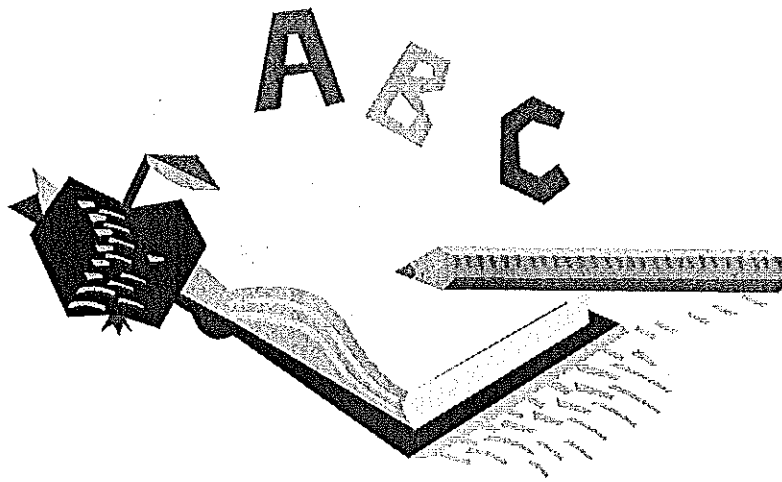


# MERIDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome to  
Full Day Kindergarten!!!



Meriden, Connecticut

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN FOR ALL!!!**

The Meriden Public Schools is excited about providing a full day kindergarten program beginning with the 2012-2013 school year! Full day kindergarten will be held at all district elementary schools with the exception of Casimir Pulaski School whose students will register at Casimir Pulaski School and attend Hanover School for their kindergarten program. All incoming kindergarten students must register in their district school.

**Kindergarten** is an exciting and challenging time for your young children, for you as a parent, and for kindergarten teachers. We want it to be the beginning of a partnership between you and your child's teacher. This partnership will support your child's exploration of the new world of school. You are your child's first and most important teacher. You have already helped him or her learn a great deal. You have guided your child's development into a competent youngster who is ready to learn.

### **HOME SCHOOL CONNECTIONS...**

Teachers enjoy having positive two-way communication with their students' families. They need and will want to gain some of the understanding parents have of their children. In turn, they are happy to share information with parents about a child's kindergarten life.

How can you get in touch with your child's teacher? Sometimes it is possible to have a word with a teacher at the start or finish of the school day. Conferences by telephone or in person can be arranged with a teacher at a convenient time; just send a note in with your child. Also, there are scheduled times for teachers and parents to get together. Parents' Night will be held in early September and conference days are planned for later in the year.

### **PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS...**

Each school has a parent teacher group. All parents are encouraged to join the group at their child's school. The parent teacher organizations promote activities that enhance the school program. Contact your organization's president or school principal for more information.

**Parent Volunteers:** Teachers and children love to have parents participate in kindergarten life.

Kindergartners are really proud when a parent comes into the classroom. Parents read stories, tell about their jobs, or sing a song from their own culture. It makes a child feel special to bring something in from home too. It can be an object whose name starts with a particular letter, a favorite book, or something a teacher needs for a project. Teachers like to know about big events in families, like a new baby or new job. They can use stories and other means of helping a child get used to a change.

### **HELPING YOUR KINDERGARTNER AT HOME...**

You can support your child's learning and development by reading stories to your youngster. Other good activities that promote language development include: telling stories from your own childhood, sharing your thoughts and feelings about daily events in your life, and asking what was learned in school each day.

Visit the library to get storybooks to read and the museums to see new things you can talk about. Talk about these experiences afterward.

When you are unloading groceries or setting the table, talk about comparative numbers. "Do we have more oranges than onions?" "Do we have enough forks for all of us? Let's count them."

Ask your child to write out a grocery list as you write out yours. Even though he may not be able to write whole words, getting the first letter written or a symbol for a letter can be a good start.

### **OUR KINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY...**

Meriden's kindergarten philosophy is based on a belief that each child is a special person with individual talents, strengths, and needs. Our program encourages each child to develop concepts through exploration and discovery in literacy and learning centers. We offer a variety of materials to address a wide range of children's needs and we strive to challenge children as their needs change.

Our program also enables children to build social skills. They learn to enjoy each other, to cooperate, to take turns, to follow directions, to effectively express feelings, and to respect the rights of others.

Children begin to learn basic reading and math skills in kindergarten. Through exposure and opportunity to participate in good literacy activities including listening to and sharing books, participating in choral reading, dictating and writing stories, and drawing and labeling pictures, children begin to recognize letters and words and learn concepts about print that will help them to meet success in early reading. Whole group and small group instruction focuses on phonemic awareness, high-frequency words, phonics, guided reading and basic writing skills. Children also begin to learn math concepts like sorting, classifying, and measuring through manipulating real objects and solving real life problems such as, "How many children are absent today?"

Meriden's kindergarten program sets the stage for this active learning process. It helps children to build positive attitudes about school by encouraging them to begin to try out new ideas, to make meaningful choices and to practice new skills. In Meriden's kindergartens, children become curious, active learners who love to come to school.

### **BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DAY...**

- Plan with your child the safest route to walk to the bus stop or to school.
- Show your child where his/her bus stop will be. Identify specific landmarks so your child will recognize the stop coming home.
- Discuss safety rules for walking to school or riding the school bus.
- Tell your child who will meet him/her after school.

- Teach your child his/her name, address, and telephone number when he/she is able to learn them.

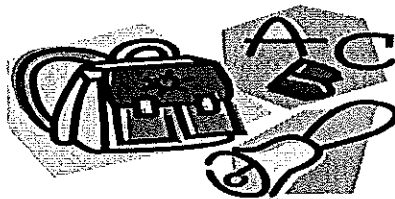
### **TO REGISTER...**

Your child must be registered at their district school by a parent or legal guardian. Bring your child's birth certificate, proof of residency and record of immunizations. Your child must be five years old on or before January 1 of the school year he or she enters kindergarten.

**Emergency Numbers:** Each child is expected to have an emergency card on file in the school office. This should list the name and telephone number of a person who can be contacted if a parent cannot be reached. Please call immediately with any changes.

Although the school attempts to provide a safe environment at all times, accidents and sudden illness can occur. First aid will be administered and the parent or the person named on the Emergency Card will be notified. No care beyond first aid can be given by the school. First aid is defined as the immediate, temporary care given in case of an accident or sudden illness. Health services in the schools are provided by the Meriden Health Department, directed by a School Medical Advisor and a staff of nurses.

**Health Exams:** Children also need to have a physical examination before the start of kindergarten. A nurse is available at school every day and will be happy to answer any questions about these or other health issues. State law requires a physician's written order and a parent or guardian's authorization before medication can be administered at school. Children are not allowed to transport or have medication in their possession. All medications must be delivered to the school by the parent, guardian or other responsible adult.



### **DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR...**

**Transportation:** The bus schedule is published in the local paper a few weeks before school begins. BUS PASSES ARE ISSUED ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND SHOULD BE WORN DAILY. Please send a written note if you do not want your child to take the bus home that day.

If you are picking up your child early, come to the school office and your child will be called to meet you there.

If your child walks to school, plan to have your child come to the school no more than 15 minutes before school begins; this is when supervision is available.

**Labels:** Please label your child's outdoor clothing and personal items to avoid confusion and loss. You can use an indelible marker to label most items with success.

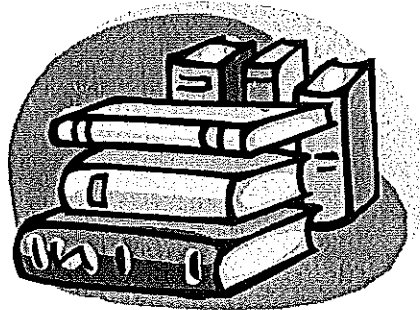
### **ILLNESS AND ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL...**

Please keep your child home from school when he or she is not feeling well. Even colds can be passed on to other children.

When your child has been absent, please send a note or call the school explaining the reason for the absence. Following certain diseases, the nurse must examine your child or a medical certificate is needed before your child can return to class.

### **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS...**

Parents are expected to use their judgment in deciding when a child should stay home from school for health or other reasons. When the weather is inclement or when road conditions are hazardous, school may be canceled, school opening delayed one hour or school closed early. The announcement will be made on WMMW and other Connecticut radio stations...WELI, WKCI, WTIC, WKSS, WDRC. Please do not call the school. This ties up the telephone lines and prevents emergency calls.



### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**John Barry School**  
124 Columbia Street  
Telephone-203-237-8831

**Benjamin Franklin School**  
426 West Main Street  
Telephone: 203-235-7997

**Nathan Hale School**  
277 Atkins Street Ext.  
Telephone-203-237-7486

**Hanover School**  
208 Main Street  
Telephone-203-235-6359

**Thomas Hooker School**  
70 Overlook Road  
Telephone-203-237-8839

**Casimir Pulaski School**  
100 Clearview Avenue  
Telephone-203-238-1273

**Israel Putnam School**  
133 Parker Avenue  
Telephone-203-237-8493

**Roger Sherman School**  
64 North Pearl Street  
Telephone-203-238-1286

## KEEP IN TOUCH...

We hope that you will continue to be involved in your child's education. Attend school events! Become a volunteer in your child's school! The more involved you are, the more your child will benefit from the school experience.

When you have a little time, continue to read to your child, tell stories about your childhood, and talk about daily experiences and ideas and events that are important to you and your family. Encourage your child to talk and ask questions. All this helps your child to develop language skills and to build a positive sense of him or herself.

We know you will enjoy seeing your child grow and learn during this first year in school. We look forward to sharing this important and exciting year with you and your child.

