

Milton Public Schools Preschool Programs

School Committee Presentation
11/20/2019



Presenting This Evening:

- Jayme Szymczak- Preschool Team Chairperson
- Nicole Davis– Tucker School Integrated Preschool Teacher
- Marissa Stancato- Cunningham Sub-Separate Preschool Teacher
- Eric Huang and Krystal Lu- Parents
- Osayi Erhabor- Parent
- Susan Maselli- Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services



Mission (in development, 2019):



Our Milton Public Schools Preschool Team believes that each child has individual needs. We believe that children need varied and rich learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate, built upon success, and are provided in a nurturing and safe environment.



Vision (in development, 2019)

- Milton Public Schools Preschool is a dynamic and respectful inclusive learning community that values diversity, fosters critical and creative thinking, challenges students to reach their learning potential, and prepares them to succeed in and contribute to a changing world.
- We believe in the:
 - Provision of rich opportunities to increase children's language, social skills, play, motor, and academic readiness.
 - Maintenance of close communication and collaboration with families/guardians and the greater community.



Things Our Staff Love About Our Programs:



- “Everyday is a new day...”
- “Sharing first time experiences with my students is so exciting!”
- “Seeing first time friendships develop and blossom is priceless.”
- “Our diverse students share experiences during large group, which allows each student a peek into different cultures.”
- “A child's first teacher is special; you have strong relationships with families so that they are comfortable leaving their young child with you. Having these relationships with families and watching the development of the children during these early years is very rewarding!”



Things Our Parents Love About Their Child's Program:

- “We very much appreciate the supportive environment, open communication, and flexibility that the school provides to us and our children.”
- “We like knowing that our children’s well-being and progress is entrusted to people who genuinely care for them and use the best tools and strategies in order to get our boys to succeed. We feel like the school is more than just a school; it is an extended part of our family.”
- “My daughter Sara is a sweet 4 year old who has a communication disorder. I had some apprehension coming in to her first year of preschool as her primary way to communicate was through sign language. I get teary thinking about how much time and kindness the preschool team dedicated to my Sara during the transition to school. They gave her the space and time she needed to bond with and feel connected with her aides and teachers. The experience exceeded my expectations. To watch my Sara light up with smiles as she heads off to school each morning is a true gift.”



“When our son initially transitioned to the integrated preschool program at Cunningham, we were hesitant about sending him into a new environment with providers and teachers we did not know. The educators and staff far exceeded any expectation we had. The teachers are warm, but firm and just seem to understand who my child is and how to help manage his developmental needs.”

“I am not going to lie. It was truly hard leaving my precious "cargo" in the care of their pre-school teachers for the first time. I had this magical time bonding and getting to know them.”



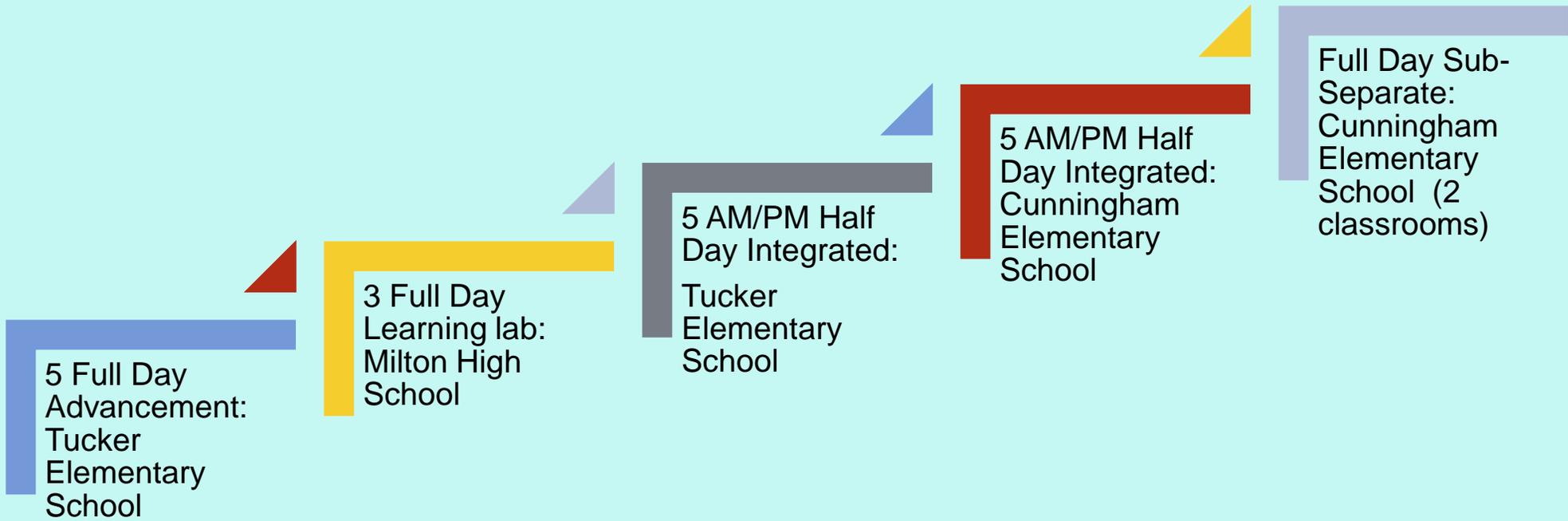
Thank you to:



- Partnership with Historic New England for a monthly program using artifacts as it ties to curriculum units
- Partnership with Boston University to Provide Cultural Competency Professional Development to Pre-school Teachers
- Milton Foundation for Education- for printing ink for students who require visuals
- STEM Grant – for consumables and math materials



Current Program Options



Preschool Current Enrollment

MHS Learning Lab	Tucker Full Day-Advancement	Tucker Half Day – Integrated	Cunningham Half Day-Integrated	Cunningham Sub-Separate
15	18	AM 11	AM 40 (3 classes)	6 class 1 8 class 2
-	-	PM 10	PM 31 (3 classes)	-



Evaluations and Enrollment Data

Our enrollment changes as the needs of students with special education supports are implemented.

Walk Ins : 8

Eligibility Evaluations in Process: 20 (8 not scheduled for meeting yet)

Eligibility Evaluations completed : 15

Anticipated Early Intervention referrals remaining through June 2020: approx. 25

Students who qualified so far this year: 10

- program 7
- walk in 2
- parental withdrew request 1
- 1 no special needs



Screenings and Student Find

- Student (Child) Find
- Screening Numbers last year
 - Qualified: 30
 - Didn't qualify: 9
- Screening Numbers this year to date
 - Qualified: 2 referred to full evaluation
 - Didn't qualify: 4

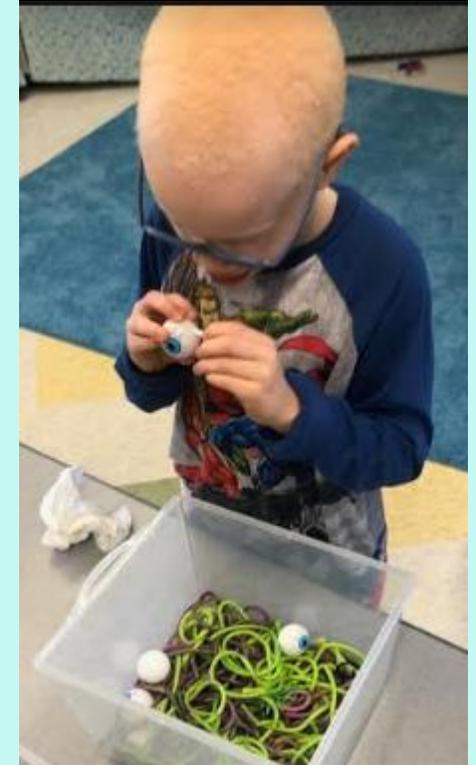


Cultural Competency:



Through in person and online modules designed and facilitated by Boston University faculty, we are increasing our cultural competence by...

- Learning the tenets of culturally responsive pedagogy
- Creating community and support across the preschool team from 3 campus locations
- Ensuring practices are inclusive and thus increasing academic outcomes for all students
- Reflecting on our work with a cultural lens and refining it to ensure inclusive practices and to welcome engagement of all families



Current Initiatives:

- Continue to develop program model by updating:
 - Current entrance and exit criteria
 - Program placement
 - Walk in services
 - Program model- aligned with Least Restrictive Setting
- Examine practices related to assessment and provision of IEP services
- Continue to build stronger coherent preschool experience.
- Continue community partnerships with outside agencies
- Enhance experiences for students with dual language
- Revisit and enhance report card





Next Steps:

- Update district web site with preschool supports
- Continue to refine classroom curriculum models to support needs of increasingly more complex students
 - Screening and identification
 - Early literacy and math development
 - Building independence and school routines
 - Social emotional growth
 - Competency related to health complexities



District Preschool Information Night

- January 9, 2020 6:30 PM
- Location: Milton High School
- Learn about program options, dates for registration, and fee (if applicable).



Questions?



**Thank you for your support of the Milton Public
Schools Preschool Programs**