



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SAU #12, LONDONDERRY, NH
School Information Sheet

Matthew Thornton School

Sending Schools: Moose Hill Kindergarten, Private Kindergartens

Location: 275 Mammoth Road

Web Address: www.londonderry.org/mt

Hours: 8:50 AM – 3:05 PM

Enrollment: 583

Motto: "Giving Wings to Children's Dreams"

Phone: 603-432-6937

Grades: 1-5

Average Class Size: 21.2

Mascot: "Paws" the Tiger

Colors: Black and Orange

Building Personnel: 134 (Administrators, teachers, support staff, health professionals, custodial and food services)

Administrators: Principal: Carol Mack; **Assistant Principal:** Alfred C. Thompson

Facilities Profile: Matthew Thornton School is a school of 74,250 sq. ft. (including a second floor in the back of the building) consisting of 28 classrooms and two district special education classrooms, a gymnasium with stage, art room, music room, a cafeteria and a library media center. The school has a playground area, a baseball/softball field and an all-purpose field.

Learning Environment: Matthew Thornton School offers a variety of instructional programs designed to meet individual student needs. We also provide remedial reading and math support as well as enrichment programs at all grade levels. Instructional assistance is provided on a daily basis to teachers for reading and as needed in other curricular areas. This assistance helps us to create smaller "learning communities" in the classroom. It also enables the use of flexible grouping practices in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Mission Statement: Matthew Thornton School's mission is to provide all students with the vision, skills, and knowledge necessary to maximize their individual potential. Central to this accomplishment is the collaboration among all shareholders and disciplines so that students can become contributing members of society and appreciate that learning is a life-long process.

Special Programs: We provide many opportunities for students to grow and develop their varied talents including: Enrichment Programs, Before/After School Programs, Nationally Recognized School Library Program, Blue Ribbon Volunteer Program, Science and Math Backpack Program, Books and Beyond Reading Program, Boys and Girls Respect Program and Celebrity Reading Program.

Music: General Music classes are held for all students on a weekly basis. There is an Instrumental Band Program for Grade 5, an Orchestra Program and a Choral Program for students in Grades 4-5, and a String Ensemble Program. Performance members participate in a variety of programs including winter and spring concerts, Memorial Day Parade Program and other special activities.

Special Education: Programming for students with educational disabilities is highly individualized with the idea that all students are included in the regular curriculum as much as possible. The regular classroom teacher, special education teachers and paraprofessionals provide services through the use of small group and/or individual instruction. Other services include speech language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and counseling. Students identified under IDEA are provided support and/or therapy through many resources. Students with more significant disabilities may also be serviced by one of our district wide programs if deemed appropriate.

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Guidance/Counseling: Counselors are available for our student population at Matthew Thornton School when developmental challenges occur, as well as being a support system in dealing with issues from divorce, alcohol and or drug dependency, death of a loved one, or difficult peer relationships. Their goal is to help children grow academically while giving support and education related to these issues. Referrals to the guidance department may come from students, parents and teachers.

Library Media Program: The Library Media Center provides a comprehensive collection of resources to support the curriculum, to promote an appreciation of reading, and to develop information literacy skills. Additionally, the Library Media Specialist works collaboratively with teachers to develop projects that reinforce these skills. As of 9/1/11, the collection includes: 23,086 circulating items; 475 reference volumes; six electronic data base subscription services and 38 periodical subscriptions. Presently, there are nine library computers available to support teaching and learning as well as a variety of other audio-visual and technology resources.

Technology Resources: Computers with internet access for instructional use are located in the classrooms and in the Library Media Center. Additionally, two mobile labs of 25 computers each are available for classroom use. Technology skills and benchmarks are integrated into the curriculum. Fourth and fifth grade classes have access to interactive white boards that support instruction in all areas.

PE/Athletics: All of our students receive weekly PE instruction focusing on fitness, safety, and good sportsmanship. Fifth grade students participate in a district wide Cross Country Program, which culminates in a Londonderry Cross Country Race attended by fifth grade students from the three elementary schools. We also have an extensive intramural program for all grade levels.

Parent Involvement: Matthew Thornton School has a very active Parent/Teacher Association. The PTA helps to facilitate our mission statement by providing a variety of learning experiences through extra-curricular and curriculum programming. Volunteers are welcome and necessary to support our instructional programs. The PTA meets on the second Thursday of each month.

Activities: Matthew Thornton School students are able to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities, including:

- Destination Imagination
- Walking Club
- Peer Mediators
- Math Olympiad
- Science Club
- Wellness Club
- Drama Club
- Health Fair
- Cross Country Team
- Wellness Wednesdays
- Images of Greatness
- Reflections
- Orchestra
- Chorus
- Band

History: Matthew Thornton School opened as Central School in 1949. Additions were made in 1952, 1960, 1965 and 1985. In 1975 the name of Central School was changed to Matthew Thornton School.