**Wilder Memorial Nursery School**

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| School/Center:  | **Wilder Memorial Nursery School**  |
| Contact Information  | Address: 666 Main Street, Hingham Phone: 781-749-3518Contact: Cissy McCulloughEmail: wildernurseryschool@gmail.com Website: http://wilderschool.org  |
| Please provide a description of your program  | Wilder School is rich in history and unique in its traditions and has served generations of families since 1924. Wilder Memorial Nursery School is a COOPERATIVE school. The staff and parents work together to ensure a quality program for the children. At Wilder children will play in a warm and safe environment all while learning the skills and fundamentals for grade school readiness. We want children to feel safe and secure and to discover that learning is fun. Children should love coming to school! Our program is planned with a structure that is open and flexible. We incorporate themes into our curriculum and we find that each theme brings its own language, books, props, foods, songs and dramatic play. Themes become the basis for learning with many questions, projects and activities. The Wilder students each have a “home base” classroom and two teachers to call their own, but they will be encouraged to interact with the children and staff in all three classrooms. We call this our GLOBAL approach. Our hope is that they will interact and spend time with as many of the children and staff as possible. Encouraging the different age groups to mix has proven beneficial to preschool children and we support this approach. The children will know everyone and that adds to their since of security, enhances their comfort level and forms a very special community and bond. We celebrate childhood at Wilder and therefore we celebrate special days. This includes Birthdays, Halloween, Special Guy Saturday, Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, St.Patrick’s Day, The Wilder Rodeo, Wilder Graduation and many more. Childhood is a magical time for children and we love to embrace the pure joy that these special days bring. Finally, the Wilder Staff consist of very dedicated, loving and experienced early childhood professionals. Some of our staff have many years of experience at Wilder. Many teachers on staff were once Wilder parents. This consistency has enabled Wilder to provide a warm and welcoming environment like no other, with a tradition of fun, family and excellence. |
| Please provide a description of your facilities  |  Wilder Memorial Hall, the building that houses our school, is a testament to the generosity and compassion of Martin Wilder. Born in Hingham in 1790, he made a fortune building and designing carriages. Upon Wilder’s death he left his wealth in a trust that was dedicated to promoting education, charity and the arts. To fulfill Martin Wilder’s mission Wilder Hall was built in 1879 and in 1924 Wilder Nursery School moved in and officially became the first cooperative nursery school in the United States. Located on Main Street in Hingham, Wilder School resides in a neighborhood of beautiful historical homes. Inside Wilder School there are three light and airy classrooms filled with the appropriate supplies and equipment to meet the many needs of the preschool children. Our fenced in playground, located in Wilder’s beautiful tree filled backyard, is large and inviting. We have a variety of play equipment for the children to explore and enjoy with their friends. |
| Please provide a schedule of your offered classes.  | Our morning sessions run from 8:30 am - 11:30am. We offer a 3(MWF) and 5(M-F) morning PreK program and a 2(T/TH) and 3(MWF) day Preschool program. Our afternoon sessions run from 12:30pm - 3:30pm. We offer a 4(M-TH) and 5(M-F) day afternoon PreK program, a 3(MWF) afternoon Preschool program and a 2(T/TH) day Preschool Primary program (2.9). |
| Do you have an extended day option?  | Yes  |
| If yes, please provide details of your options.  | The Enrichment program is offered to our Pre-Kindergarten classes on Friday afternoon from 11:30-1:30. During Enrichment the children will have an opportunity to enhance their learning that is taking place in their regular classroom. This can be achieved through books, board games, dramatic play, critical thinking, listening skills, music, art, science and movement. This is a hands on program where children are engaged in one on one activities with the teacher and the other children in the program. The children will also bring their own lunch and eat with their friends and teacher. |
| Do you offer a Kindergarten option?  | No  |
| Anticipated Tuition for 2018/2019  | Please see this information online at our website www.wilderschool.org.  |
| Is there financial aid available?  | Yes  |

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| page64image2883319312Does your facility offer a summer program/camp? If yes, please provide a brief summary of your program. page64image2883331408 | We do not offer a summer program per se but for the last two weeks of the school year Wilder School becomes "Camp Wilder" with camp tees, water play outdoors, popsicles, bubble fun, Arts and Crafts, a camp song all our own, and all the fun and activities of a summer "camp." "Camp Wilder" is a theme and the children and the staff have a great time with it! Camp is offered only to enrolled Wilder students.  |

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| Class Size  | Our smaller classes have no more than eleven children. Our one large class has no more eighteen. All have two teachers.  |
| # of Teachers  | Wilder has 12 teachers on staff. Each classroom has a one Lead Teacher and one Teacher.  |
| Minimum Age by Sept 1  | For our youngest class (2.9) children must turn three between Sept. 1st - Nov. 30th. For our Preschool Program children must turn three on or before August 30th and for our PreK program they must turn 4 on or before August 30th. |
| What is your toilet training policy?  | We encourage parents to toilet train their children prior to enrollment. However, we do not reject a child if this skill has not been acquired. We ask our parents to be phone accessible in the event of a toileting "accident."  |
| What is your food allergy policy?  | Wilder is a nut free school. We constantly remind our parents of this rule. We are trained every year in administering an Epi-Pen and are alert to all our "allergy" children and their needs. We aim to protect all our students.  |
| Are you licensed and/or accredited? Please provide details.  | We are licensed by the State Department of Early Education and Care and are monitored by them on a routine basis.  |
| Please describe the application process for your school.  | Parents should go to the Wilder website in order to enroll. They would download the application and send it to the school at 666 Main Street along with a $50.00 enrollment fee. This fee is refunded if a child is not accepted into the program. A lottery in late February to determine acceptance into Wilder. **We are also holding 2 Open Houses~Sunday, Dec. 2nd and Jan. 27th from 10:30-12:30. This is a great opportunity to come and learn about our special little school and to pick up enrollment packets and information.** |
| What are the dates that applications are due for your program?  | Applications are due on January 31st for the 2019-2020 school year.  |
| What is the application fee?  | $50.00 registration fee which is refundable if a child does not get in to the program.  |
| How do you encourage/discourage certain behaviors in the classroom?  | The Wilder staff provides a caring and supportive environment. At the beginning of each school year the classes set up their own set of rules and are reminded of these throughout the year. Being a GOOD FRIEND is always the first rule! Children are encouraged to "use your words, not your hands" with their school friends and they are given time to think about the consequences of their actions. In place of physical or negative behavior our students are taught proper ways to communicate with their peers. We set reasonable limits for children and help them to reach for their self-control. Recognizing and praising POSITIVE behaviors and actions may influence a child to behave in a more acceptable manner. Respect and an acceptance of others is all part of our curriculum. As children grow and mature they learn to express their needs and feelings in more appropriate ways.  |

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| Do specialists visit the classroom? Do students go on field trips?  | We invite a Policeman, Fireman, Dental Hygienist, Bike rider, Physician, and a Nurse to come to the classes to discuss safety issues of all types with the children. We also have musician, animal trainers, wildlife experts, special readers, puppeteers and magicians for the children to enjoy. The children go to Weir River Farm, Hornstra Farm, the Hingham Library, the Hingham Playground and the Hingham Recreation Center. The younger children celebrate all our summer birthdays at a variety of special, fun places with parents joining them.  |
| Please give a sample schedule for a typical day in your program.  | Every day the children experience the following: circle time/ sharing time where the "meteorologist" of-the-day will help his/her classmates with discussing that day's weather and the calendar. The day's theme and activities are discussed at circle time as is Show and Tell (one child per day.) Free choice allows the children to choose their own activities in our different classroom centers. Every day there is a story followed by a washing of the hands and a simple snack; this is usually a very social time! If someone is celebrating a birthday then the parent attends and brings the special (nut free) snack and of course we sing Happy Birthday! A project and other fun activities such as art, play-dough or a cooking project are offered. Our students learn the alphabet by using the “Lively Letters” program; it is the same program used by the Hingham public schools. The Wilder children are so ready for their Kindergarten year! The Wilder schedule remains the same every day, as children do not like surprises, but within the schedule the activities are changed. The children spend time on the playground every day unless it is raining or extremely cold. There is a great deal of learning happening at Wilder School. It is is a great place for children to learn, grow, and feel safe.  |