

Clifford M. Granger School

31 South Westfield Street

Feeding Hills, MA 01030

School Profile

"The Clifford M. Granger School – where children come first and excellence is the way of life. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of every child."



Welcome to the Clifford M. Granger School where we hold high expectations for the success and achievement of all our 331 children, Kindergarten – Grade 4. We are an enthusiastic school community dedicated to providing a quality instructional program for our students. The Granger staff works diligently to foster a positive school climate that ensures a child's opportunity to gain knowledge, develop self-esteem, and be motivated to attend and achieve. We strive to foster individual initiative and build a network of open communication and teamwork between students, parents and staff.

A highly skilled and educated faculty and staff combine time-tested methods and materials with the latest practices and programs to capitalize on the strengths and address the needs of all students.

Classroom teachers are supported by a comprehensive staff of specialists who provide a variety of services designed to give each child a complete education. As students work to expand their cognitive and affective domains, our counselor and nurse help to facilitate the growth process by attending to the social, emotional, and health needs of children and their families. Three custodians are responsible for maintaining a clean, safe, and physically functional environment while the cafeteria staff operates an excellent food service program for children and adults.

Essential to a full-fledged team effort are our volunteers, including the School Council and PTO, who give of themselves daily so that students and teachers

have that extra edge that only comes from involved parents and interested community members.

Finally, the Principal and secretary work directly with the Superintendent's Office and Special Services facilitating quality education for all children attending Granger School.

Students are here to learn and teachers are here to teach. We take our teaching responsibility very seriously and we expect our students to work hard to do what they come here every day to do, to learn. That is the culture we work very hard to establish at the Clifford M. Granger Elementary School. That is the school culture we want for your children.

Our Vision

A strong work ethic combined with individual attention in a collaborative setting will foster quality, cooperation, and pride as fundamental truths critical to happiness and success. All students and staff will have a safe, pleasant, and clean environment in which to teach, learn, play, and relax.

Granger School students will read independently by the end of third grade. Writing will be an everyday event. Quality academics and special subjects, meaningful community service, diverse cultural experiences, and interesting enrichment opportunities will result in the best total education for every child.

Curricula, programs, and other services will combine time-tested methods and materials with the most promising initiatives, innovations, and research. At our school, all students will be prepared to continue their education and enjoy life in a productive, responsible, and rewarding way.

The children and adults of Granger School will have a solid foundation in computers and other technology. Teaching and learning will be enhanced by using the latest technological systems across the curriculum, throughout the community, and around the world.

Students and staff will have the modern resources and current skills to do their work efficiently, effectively, and creatively. They will be prepared for the Information Age.

Throughout the Granger School community, all adults will support a common value for education and instill a love of learning in our children. In that spirit, we will work as partners sharing our knowledge and skills, resources and services in order to maximize the effect of our collective strengths.

Together, we plan to raise and educate our children to be kind, happy, and successful citizens.

Accomplishments

2008 - 2009

We try to focus on the educational goals in an environment that is nurturing, loving, and caring.

We use a balanced literacy language arts program to integrate instruction in reading and writing across the curriculum areas.

Enrichment activities are integrated throughout the course of study in every class at every grade level.

Our MCAS scores demonstrate significant improvements in ELA and Mathematics.

Granger School uses a standards based educational program. The classroom instruction makes it very clear what is expected of the children in their work.

Investigations 2009 from Pearson Education, is fully implemented K-4 with district-wide formative and summative assessments to assess student growth and guide daily instruction.

Good writers are almost always good readers. We spend a great deal of time on writing instruction (we call it Writers' Workshop) because it helps our students become better readers.

The school uses the Second Steps approach to building climate and discipline. Children are expected to follow the rules. Teachers are trained to respond quickly when children choose not to follow school rules.

Music, art, science, health and physical education programs are provided weekly to all students.

The Language Based Classroom model is being implemented to expand the school's capacity in regular education innovations. Language Based Instruction Model Classrooms have been established in grades 3 and 4.

A Gifted and Talented Program, Project S.E.E. is in place on the fourth grade level.

There is a continued effort to explore more and more opportunities for parent and community involvement in order to improve communication between school and home. Activities include:

Classroom/library volunteers

An active P.T.O.

Christmas Party and Caroling
Annual Family Picnic
Monthly Newsletter
Game Night
Literacy Back Packs
Book Fair

The Dad's Supper
Back-To-School Night
Agendas for grades 3 & 4
Art Show
Parent Discussion Group
Holiday Workshop

Granger School working towards continuous improvement in our MCAS scores in mathematics by using formative and summative assessments to inform our instruction and to pinpoint areas of remediation and/or extension. The Kindergarten through Second Grades are implementing the Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) in the fall, winter and spring in order to inform our literacy instruction. The DIBELS is a curriculum based measure or CBM. A CBM is a specific set of testing strategies with a series of important key features.

It is *Dynamic* in that they are sensitive to change over time and differences among individuals with basic skills.

Indicators in that they are "representatives" of a skill, but do not measure all aspects or applications of a particular skill domain.

Basic Skills in that measures correspond to the domains of reading, spelling, mathematics computation, and written expression.

CBMs are like thermometers. We want to be able to measure a child's growth and development in reading over their career here at the Clifford M. Granger School. They are designed to be cheaper and faster, short and accurate tests that are designed to produce reliable and valid information in the shortest period of time.

These screening are used to inform teachers of students' instructional needs as well as determine which students might need additional Reading help in our various supplemental programs.

The GRADE (The Group Reading Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation) is an in-depth and easy to use reading assessment. It accurately assesses core reading skills, plan focused instruction, and document students' progress. The GRADE provides detailed diagnostic information about individual skill levels, and the same test can be used to identify students who may need further testing and intervention.

These are untimed subtests allowing students to complete each section at their own pace, giving you an accurate picture of their skills. On site scoring provides immediate feedback on student results. Diagnostic score reports pinpoint student strengths and weaknesses.

The GRADE measures these critical areas:

Grades 1,2, and 3 -Word reading
 -Word meaning (1and 2 only)
 -Vocabulary (3 only)

- Sentence comprehension
- Passage comprehension
- Listening comprehension

- Grades 4
- Vocabulary
 - Sentence comprehension
 - Passage comprehension
 - Listening comprehension

The Granger School now implements the GRADE in late September and late May in grades 1-4.

The Granger School Instructional Support Team has continued to be a great resource to classroom teachers with regard to student concerns. The team is successful in brainstorming accommodations and modifications to the curriculum as well as determine supplemental or intervention strategies to support student learning.

Teachers continue to take advantage of many professional development opportunities to improve their repertoire of strategies especially in the area of Technology.

The school continues to work on its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports model (PBIS) in order to maximize opportunities for students to achieve social competence and increase academic achievement. The school has developed a common purpose and approach to discipline, has a clear set of positive expectations and behaviors, has developed procedures for teaching expected behaviors, has a continuum of procedures for encouraging expected behavior and discouraging inappropriate behavior as well as procedures for on-going monitoring and evaluation.

The Granger School Motto: At Granger School we-
Respect ourselves,
Respect others,
Respect learning and
Respect the environment.

Handwriting Without Tears implemented in grades K - 4 continues to improve student handwriting and reducing referrals to Occupational Therapy.

The Granger School P.T.O. deserves thanks for continued support for all activities and in-house enrichment programs and for supporting teachers by purchasing materials and always appreciating their hard work through Teacher Appreciation Activities.

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