



**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](http://www.londonderry.org/mt)

**Hours:** 8:50 AM – 3:05 PM

**Enrollment:** 541

**Motto:** "Giving Wings to Children's Dreams"

**Phone:** 603-432-6937

**Grades:** 1-5

**Mascot:** "Paws" the Tiger

**Colors:** Black and Orange

**Average Class Size:** 20

**Building Personnel:** 114 (Administrators, teachers, support staff, health professionals, custodial and food services)

**Administrators: Principal:** Sharon Putney; **Assistant Principal:** Alfred C. Thompson

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**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 27 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, Books and Beyond Reading Program, Student Council and Community 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:** The Special Education Department offers an array of services designed to meet the specific needs of individual students with disabilities. Referrals to Special Education can be made through the RTI (Response to Interventions) process and by teachers, parent(s), guidance counselors and/or others working with the student. Eligibility for Special Education is determined through a team process with a review of measurements of academic and functional achievement and cognitive profile, classroom performance, teacher and parent input and a determination of the need for specialized instruction. If eligibility criteria are met, a case manager is assigned, an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) is developed and the supports and services needed by the student are implemented and monitored to ensure successful access to the general curriculum. Placement is determined by the IEP team to ensure programming in the least restrictive environment.

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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. The 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 6/30/14, the collection includes: 22,894 circulating items; 449 reference volumes; 5 electronic data base subscription services and 32 periodical subscriptions. There are ten 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, four mobile labs of 25 computers each are available for classroom use. Technology skills and benchmarks are integrated into the curriculum. Interactive white boards are also available to support classroom and information literacy instruction which serves to enrich shared learning experiences. The first grade and second grade classrooms are currently participating in an iPad pilot to access their efficacy and appropriateness in the elementary grade levels.

**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 curricular 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
- Student Council
- Math Olympiad
- Science Club
- Wellness Club
- Drama Club
- Health Fair
- Cross Country Team
- Band
- Images of Greatness
- Reflections
- Orchestra
- Chorus

**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.