



## Summit Street School

### General School Information

**About Our School** – As a member of the Chittenden Central Supervisory Union ([CCSU](#)), Summit Street School is one of four schools in the Essex Junction School District. Located in the [Champlain Valley](#) of [Vermont](#), this neighborhood school serves children in preschool through third grade. There are approximately 230 students in attendance, which includes preschoolers in our Essential Early Education Program. Each grade level is comprised of three classes. Along with one grade level classes, multi-age and looping options are available to provide more than one year with the same educator.

**Instructional Time** – Children spend seven hours per day at school with an 8:00 a.m. beginning and dismissal at 3:00 p.m. Academic instruction includes a literacy block of approximately two hours, a minimum of one hour for mathematics (45 minutes for kindergarten), plus science and social studies. Ninety minutes per week children are instructed in physical education and music; forty-five minutes of instruction is provided in art with additional opportunities for art integration at the second and third grade levels. Technology is integrated within classroom instruction as well as in the Learning Center where informational literacy is the focus. A mobile lab is available for whole class and small group instruction. You can review the curriculum and content on the district web page where the scope and sequence is posted: [www.ccsuvt.org](http://www.ccsuvt.org)

**Standards-Based Education** - Summit professional development and parent information sessions continue to focus on Standards-Based teaching and learning. Standards define the ultimate learning goals we have for each child. *Power Standards* outline the content, concepts and skills that are essential at each grade level for each academic discipline. Educators design instruction according to the essential skills and knowledge students should know. On-going assessments inform educators about the needs of each child so that instruction can be modified accordingly. Standards form the basis for instruction and assessment.

Once each trimester, parents receive a standards-based report card listing the standards. Teachers and students monitor progress toward the standards utilizing grade-level indicators. For example, in writing, a second-grade teacher monitors progress based on these skills:

- Writes in complete sentences
- Uses capital letters, periods, question marks and quotation marks correctly
- Uses the writing process (prewriting, first draft, revision, and final draft)
- Writes a friendly letter with a greeting, body and conclusion
- Knows the purpose and use of a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas

Report cards indicated how well a child progresses toward the standard. The marks might show whether the student is secure, developing or beginning. Students receive separate marks for effort and work habits.

Throughout the school year, we will continue to focus on the topic of Standards-Based Education. It will be necessary to communicate regularly to our parents about standards-based education as we utilize a standards-based report card in the upcoming school year.

**Special Thursday Schedule** – Each Thursday, on a six week rotation, children in kindergarten through third grade have special classes in:

- [Health Education](#)
- [World Language](#)
- [Guidance](#)
- [Information Literacy](#)

**Everyday Math** – A standards-based math program called [Everyday Math](#) is utilized throughout the K-5 grade levels to provide a rigorous spiral approach to math instruction. Developed by the University of Chicago this program provides students with ongoing instruction on concepts through multiple exposures to numeracy, skill acquisition, algebraic concepts, geometric shapes, etc. Building from year to year, children become familiar with systems that develop mathematical thinking and conceptual understanding.

**Student Achievement** – Review the [school report](#) posted on Summit's web page for current and past NECAP scores that report on how students are progressing toward the established standards. Summit faculty and staff review annual data and an [Action Plan](#) is designed to ensure continuous improvement. Student data and this action plan are posted on the web page for community review.

**Student Support System** – Essex Junction Schools have a comprehensive support system in place to meet the needs of each child. Three learning specialists work with four classes each to ensure the achievement of each child. A speech/language pathologist serves all children who require assistance with speech and or language. An English Language Learner is also available for students whose first language is not English. A school guidance counselor assists children and families. A health office has an RN or LPN on duty at all times. A social support coordinator is available to provide breaks for children and develop a plan with children who are experiencing difficulty with peers.

**School Traditions** – We strive to make Summit a welcoming school. International potluck suppers, guest artists, school assemblies, student talent shows, etc. all bring school and families together. An active Parent Teacher Organization sponsors many social events such as a Pancake Breakfast, Memorial Day Parade entry, Book Swap, etc.

**Responsive Classroom** – This [approach](#) is a practical way of teaching that integrates social and academic learning. The goal is to help children thrive academically socially and emotionally. Morning meetings, establishing hopes and dreams, logical consequences, in-class time outs, teacher buddy system, and academic choice are key components of this program. How children learn is as important as what they learn. Children need to learn cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control if they are to be successful socially and academically. This approach positively impacts the overall climate of Summit Street School.

**Community Involvement** – We value our partnership with the [Essex Junction Recreation Program](#) that provides after school childcare right at our school. Partnership with [Essex High](#) and the Big Little Program brings high school students to our campus to serve as special friends to our children. It does take a Village to raise a child and this community school is valued and supported by parents and community.