



EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

2026 EDUCATION CLASSES

BEFORE THE TRACTOR

Offered: Monday-Friday

Grades: K-8th

Location: Coolidge Hall Stage

By exploring traditional farming methods and the historically important role of the county fair, students compare and contrast life today with that of the past. As part of this hands-on program, students will examine 19th century tools from the collections of the Topsfield Fair and Historic New England's Spencer-Pierce-Little Farm in Newbury, as well as historic photographs of the fair.

COLONIAL TRADES

Offered: Monday-Friday

Grades: 3rd-6th

Location: New Meadows Stage

Students learn what life was like for area farmers during the years leading up to the Revolution. Information based on Dorchester farmer Colonel Samuel Pierce's account book allows students to take on the roles of real people. Including farmers, weavers and blacksmiths. Hands-on activities allow students to further explore the production of goods using colonial resources & technology.

HOLD A CHICK

Offered: Monday-Friday

Grades: K-5th

Location: Poultry Building

Come to the Poultry Building to have an opportunity to hold a baby chick and watch them hatch in the egg hatchery with some of our Poultry experts. **This is not a full class, but rather a time slot at the hatchery.

SHEEP TO SHAWL

Offered: Monday-Friday

Grades: 2nd-8th

Location: Coolidge Hall Stage

Using the wool from a flock of sheep, students learn each step in the process of creating cloth. While they pick, clean, card and spin wool by hand, they learn how technology provides improved tools to make each step faster and more efficient.

FARM HANDS

Offered: Monday-Friday

Grades: Pre-K-4th

Location: Education Center

Students will engage in this hands-on experience where they will be able to plant, grow, pick and sell their own agricultural products in this unique display. Once they travel through all of the different farm 'chores' they will be able to use their 'farm dollar' and purchase something within the Market. **This is not a class, but rather a time slot in our Farm Hands Program. You are welcome to stay for as long as you would like with the exhibit.

MIX, MEASURE, & MAKE

Offered: Monday–Friday

Grades: K–5th

Location: Coolidge Hall Kitchen

Students step into the Coolidge Hall Kitchen for a hands-on exploration of how bread is made. Beginning with the question “Where does bread really come from?”, students discover the connection between farming and the food we eat. Students will practice measuring ingredients, mix and knead dough, and learn the basic science behind yeast and rising bread. The activity connects agriculture, math, science, and food preparation while giving students the opportunity to make something from scratch. ****Please alert us of any food allergies ahead of time - food samples will be given!***

SAVE THE HONEY BEES!

Offered: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Grades: K–5th

Location: Bee Building

Students will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of the wonderful world of the Honey Bee. Students will work with our Bee Building Volunteer Teachers and observe the various products that we use everyday that have honey in them or need bees to be made. They will also have the chance to examine a live bee colony at work and see how honey is made by the bees!

THE GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN

Offered: Wednesday–Friday

Grades: 3rd–9th

Location: Show Tent

How do pumpkins grow to be as large as the ones we have on display? Students will meet our giant pumpkin experts to discuss the generics behind a giant pumpkin seed. Topics include crosspollination, what a pumpkin needs to survive and what math the growers use to predict the weight of a pumpkin.

Fair Dates:

October 2 – October 12, 2026

Field Trip Dates:

Monday, October 5 – Friday, October 9, 2026

Contact Information:

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Sign Up: www.topsfair.org/education

