

Social Studies

In grade five, students will focus on American History covering the period of the Pre-Columbian Civilizations through the events that led to the Civil War. Student will study the early development of democratic institutions and ideas, including the ideas and events that lead to the independence of the original 13 colonies and the formation of a national government under the U.S. Constitution. The purpose of the grade 5 curriculum is to give students their first concentrated study of the formative years of U.S. history. In addition to history, geography topics such as landforms, longitude and latitude, and orientation are reviewed.



Social Competency

Your child will participate in the social competency program called “Open Circle.” This program will be implemented 30 minutes a week in the classroom. The goals of this program are to foster a positive school environment for all students, enhance communication skills, engage in program solving, and help enable students to development self-control and take responsibility for their actions.

Music

Through singing American and World folk music, as well as traditional children’s songs, fifth grade students will continue to develop their singing technique and explore more complex musical concepts. Students may continue their instrumental music lessons and participate in the school band or orchestra. A highlight of the fifth grade is the annual school musical, in which all fifth graders participate.

Art

In the elementary art class, students will explore drawing, painting, 3D, design, and printmaking. Specific concepts include sketching, contour drawing and facial proportions, observational drawing, one-point perspective, tempera paint, the color wheel, creating 3D with clay, and the design elements of combining symmetry with positive and negative shape and space.

Physical Education

The Elementary Physical Education program, grade levels K-5, consists of six performance strands. As students progress through elementary school, each strand is adjusted to meet grade level expectations. The strands are made up of movement, dance, gymnastics, fitness, ball skills, and social competency concepts and skills. Movement, dance’ gymnastics and fitness are designed to enhance balance, body coordination, spatial awareness, muscle tone and strength development. Ball skills and striking activity are more manipulative based, working towards improving motor planning using objects. Finally, social competency is a behavior concept that is taught to enhance self esteem and sportsmanship.

Assessment

Norwood Public Schools follows all testing requirements from the Department of Education. Throughout the year, classroom teachers will assess each student’s growth and progress toward achievement of the learning goals in the state curriculum and that of Norwood Public Schools. These classroom assessments will be used to guide instruction in order to provide every child with the opportunity to learn and succeed.

Report cards are issued three times a year at the beginning of December, end of March, and the end of school. Conferences are scheduled to correspond to report card times and may also be scheduled anytime upon request.

Norwood Public Schools

James R. Savage Center
275 Prospect Street
Norwood, MA 02062

Willett Early Childhood Center
781-440-5902
Balch Elementary School
781-440-5932
Callahan Elementary School
782-440-5942
Cleveland Elementary School
781-440-5952
Oldham Elementary School
781-440-5962
Prescott Elementary School
781-440-5972

Norwood Public Schools Curriculum Overview Grade Five

Norwood Public Schools welcomes you to fifth grade. This overview of grade-level skills and concepts is designed to provide you with information about what your child should know and be able to do by the end of fifth grade. Parents are their children’s first teachers and we know that parents play a vital role in supporting learning. We are looking forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

English Language Arts



To become good readers and writers, students need a balanced literacy approach. **Balanced Literacy** has three elements:

1. Readers’ Workshop
2. Writers’ Workshop
3. Phonics/ word study

During **Readers’ Workshop**, students learn, practice, and apply reading strategies that will help them become strong, life-long readers. The Workshop gives students time and opportunity to read a variety of books. The teacher demonstrates a strategy to the whole class and explains and models the lesson through either Interactive Read Aloud or a Shared Reading. After the Read Aloud the students are allowed to read on their own, practice strategies, and become aware of their own thinking. Each student has a book bag or bin containing books, text and poetry. The majority of books in the bag should be on your child’s “Just Right” level. While the students are reading, the teacher will be either meeting with a small group for guided reading instruction or holding a conference with a student.

English Language Arts (cont.)

At the end of independent reading, all students gather as a whole community to share with each other to explain how they used the strategy or learned something that will help them as readers.

Units of study for fifth grade include: Reading is Thinking, Fiction—Character study, Non—Fiction, Biography, Test-taking Strategies, Poetry, Traditional Literature, Historical Fiction, and an Author Study.

Writers' Workshop begins with a focus lesson which teaches a specific skill or technique related to writing. The teacher models the skill and has the student practice independently or in small groups. Students are encouraged to think about what good writers do. Students will be able to engage in the steps of the writing process and bring several pieces to the publication stage.

In fifth grade, Norwood Public Schools' **phonics program continues to focus on word study**. The Rebecca Sitton Spelling Program increases student spelling and word skill achievement.

During the fifth grade, students will concentrate on the conventions of Standard English including the demonstration of command of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, form and use of the perfect verb tense, determine or clarify the meaning of unknown or multi-meaning words, demonstrate an understanding of figurative language.

The fifth grade curriculum includes the **Big 6 Project**. In collaboration with the building based librarian, students will learn how to write a research paper. This project will include the use of technology for research and word processing.

Mathematics



Mathematics is an active time in the fifth grade classroom. The students engage in various hands on activities through the use of various manipulatives, visual aides, and mathematical tools. Instruction is provided as a whole class, as well as small group, partner work and independent work. Ample time will be provided each class for students to share their thoughts, ideas, and strategies during large and small group discussions. Students are encouraged to listen to their classmates in order to see and understand how to solve problems in different ways.

As prescribed by the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics and Norwood Public Schools Mathematics Curriculum, the fifth grade focuses on these critical focus areas: Fifth grade students work with story problems involving all four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They solve multi-digit computation, and learn to divide larger numbers. Students study fractions learning to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators, multiply fractions, and divide with fractions. They solve story problems that relate to these computations. They learn to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimal numbers to the hundredths place using strategies based on place value and properties of operations. They work with data displayed on line plots, and study concepts of volume. Finally, they study points on the coordinate plane, graphing points as they relate to mathematical situations.

Science

The Norwood Science Center's goals are to make Science "come alive" for both elementary students and teachers, offering and supporting an hands-on elementary science curriculum for grades 1 - 5.



During a six-week science unit, Mr. Haffey or Mrs. Lockwood provides the 1st, 3rd, and 5th week lessons in classrooms. The following weeks the classroom teachers offer the follow-up lessons (2nd, 4th, and 6th week) as extensions and reinforcement. All materials and lesson plans are generated and delivered to classrooms by the Norwood Science Center staff.

For more information go to our **Website**:

<http://www.sites.norwood.k12.ma.us/sci>

This site has the yearlong science curriculum guide, all lesson plans, and additional recommended resources.

Grade Five Focus Areas:

- Year long MCAS review: revisit science topics from all previous years.
- Astronomy: scale models, motions of the earth and moon phases.
- Building series circuits, understanding materials that conduct or insulate.
- Transfer of energy from one type to another.
- Weather: amp and track hurricanes, the Jet Stream, climate patterns, and relative humidity.
- Review simple machines, forces, and work.
- Build project-based engineering prototypes.
- Introduce the basics of genetics.