

## Social Studies

In grade four, students study the geography and people of the United States today. Students learn geography by addressing standards that emphasize political and physical geography and embed five major concepts: location, place, human interaction with the environment, movement, and regions. In addition, they learn about the geography and people of contemporary Mexico and Canada.



## 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 folk music and traditional children’s songs, fourth grade students will continue to develop their singing technique and explore increasingly complex melodic and rhythmic concepts. Interested students may elect to continue violin lessons, or may choose to learn to play a band instrument. The instrumental music curriculum is based on small group, pull-out lessons during the school day and includes a 45 minute band or orchestra rehearsal once per week.

## Art

In the elementary art class, students will explore drawing, painting, 3D, design, and printmaking. Specific concepts include creating visual texture through the use of scratch art and pen & ink techniques, bamboo paint brush techniques, using monochromatic color, watercolors, foam and relief printing, and the design elements of 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’s 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 Four

Norwood Public Schools welcomes you to fourth 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 fourth 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. Fourth grade Reading Units of Study include: Making Connections, Traditional Literature, Poetry, Dramatic Literature, Non-Fiction, Biography, Test-taking Strategies, Historical Fiction, Mysteries, 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 fourth 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 fourth grade, students will concentrate on the conventions of English including the demonstration of command of Standard English including capitalization, punctuation, and grade appropriate spelling. Fourth grade curriculum also covers the use of adjectives and adverbs, paragraph construction and organization, the determination or clarification of meaning for unknown or multi-meaning words, figurative language, and word relationships.

## Mathematics



Mathematics is an active time in the third 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 fourth grade focuses on these critical focus areas: Fourth grade students extend their learning of the basic multiplication and division facts to solve multi-digit problems. They use strategies based on their understanding of properties of numbers and operations, as well as concrete models to solve multi-digit multiplication and division problems. Students deepen their understanding of equivalence of fractions and learn how to add and subtract like fractions. They learn to multiply fractions, and to solve related story problems. Students study decimals numbers learning to model, read, write, and compare numbers to hundredths place. They work with unit conversions for measurement, and solve real-world measurement problems. Students study angles and angle measurement, identify lines and angles, and classify shapes according to these attributes.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> week lessons in classrooms. The following week s the classroom teachers offer the follow-up lessons (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Four Focus Areas:

- Continue study of astronomy and cyclical patterns: day and night, moon phases, daily shadows, and seasons.
- Examine states of matter and how transfer of heat affects water.
- Build and analyze series circuits, electromagnets and their uses.
- Explore the rock cycle, mineral hardness, porosity, erosion and weathering, and fossils.
- Expound upon experiment design and perform more complex plant experiments.
- Study organism life cycles and place in food web.
- Build project-based engineering prototypes.
- Understand the properties of light, potential and kinetic energy.