

## Social Studies

Third grade students spend a significant amount of time drawing information from local historic sites, historical societies and museums.



Third graders learn about the history of Massachusetts from the time of the arrival of the Pilgrims. Our curriculum materials include a Massachusetts text book, library and the classroom trade books, and additional resources and materials for these studies.

Third graders also complete a unit on the history of Norwood and about famous people and events.

## 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

Music instruction increases from one to two, 30-minute classes per week. Through singing American folk music and traditional children’s songs, third grade students will continue to develop their singing technique and will explore increasingly complex melodic and rhythmic concepts. Reading music notation is introduced and all students are taught to play the recorder. Interested students may elect to take violin lessons which are taught by a string specialist during the school day.

## Art

In the elementary art class, students will explore drawing, painting, 3D, design, and printmaking. Specific concepts include large scale and figure drawing, advanced brush techniques for mixing colors and washes, lettering and spacing, creating 3D

## 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 Three

Norwood Public Schools welcomes you to third 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 third grade. Parents are their children’s 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 the third grade include: Building a Reading Community, Talking, Thinking and Writing, Elements of Fiction, Traditional Literature, Exploring Non-Fiction, Biographies, Poetry, Summarizing, and Reading Celebrations.

**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 third grade, Norwood Public Schools' **phonics programs turn the attention to word study**. The Rebecca Sitton Spelling Program increases student spelling and word skill achievement.

During the third grade, students will concentrate on the conventions of English including the functions of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Conversations and practice will address grade appropriate use of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling patterns and generalizations.

## 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 third grade focuses on these critical focus areas: Third grade students spend a significant amount of time learning concepts of multiplication and division. They learn basic multiplication and division facts and solve related story problems. They expand their understanding of place value concepts to include numbers into the thousands. They study addition and subtraction of multi-digit numbers using strategies based on place value and properties of operations. Students also study fractions. They learn to draw, identify, compare fractions, and to create equivalent fractions. They solve story problems involving time and money, interpret graphs, and learn about measuring volume and mass.

## 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 weeks 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 Three Focus Areas:**

- Learn how the three different types of rocks form.
- Introduce series circuits and explore properties of electricity.
- Introduce astronomy: scale models, motions of the earth and moon phases.
- Compare/contrast different species of organism and populations.
- Design and perform plant behavior experiments.
- Experiment with simple machines and analyze their work.