

Social Studies

In first grade, students listen to and read folktales and true stories from America and from around the world. They learn about major historical events, figures, and symbols related to the United States of America and its national holidays and why they are important to America. As students study concepts in geography, civics, economics, and history, they also learn about each other's families and about the achievements of different people in different times and places. The curriculum is delivered through trade book, visuals, songs, poems, and computer software and websites.



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, first grade students will expand their singing range by adding new and larger intervals. The concept of steady beat is reinforced, and rhythmic patterns are added so that students will learn to differentiate between short and long sounds, and repetition and contrast. Students will continue to play non-pitched percussion instruments and echo-clap.

Art

In the elementary art class, students will explore drawing, painting, 3D, design, and printmaking. Specific concepts include the use of line, texture, and shape as it relates to portraiture, long and short paint brush techniques, primary and secondary colors, creating simple 3D forms from various media, and the design elements of symmetry and pattern.

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 One

Norwood Public Schools welcomes you to first 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 first 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.

English Language Arts (cont.)

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.

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 first grade include: The Launch, Readers Use Strategies to Figure Out Words, Making Connections, Readers Talk About Books to Grow Ideas, Wondering About Fiction, Wondering About Non-Fiction, Fluency/ Dramatic Literature, Genre Features– Poetry Study/Visualizing, and Traditional Literature

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. At the start of the first grade, student writing will change dramatically during the year. At first their sentences may be hard to read, but as the year progresses, the sentences will become easier to read as they learn to leave spaces between words, learn familiar words, and become more skilled with using phonemic awareness and phonics.

Norwood Public Schools phonics programs are presented through systematic, explicit instruction. They are taught that sound/spelling forms words, that words form sentences, and sentences form paragraphs. They are also taught that specific sounds require specific spellings.

Mathematics

Mathematics is an active time in the first 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 first grade focuses on these critical focus areas. Students learn their basic addition and subtraction facts to 10, and solve story problems with amounts to 20. They break numbers into tens and ones as they learn about our place value number system, and they begin to add 2-digit numbers using concrete models and other tools. Children learn to measure length using everyday objects. They learn to tell time to the hour and half hour and to identify coins and their values. Students also work with shapes and, learn to describe and define shapes by their 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.

Our curriculum is fully aligned with the Massachusetts Science and Technology/ Engineering Curriculum Frameworks.

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 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 One Focus Areas:

- Learn how to observe the particulars of nature around us: weather, soil, water, day and night.
- Learn to sort materials by their physical properties: shape, size, color, mass.
- Observe living things such as animals and plants. Understand the basics of a life cycle.
- Learn that fossils provide us with information about organisms that lived on Earth long ago.