

## Social Studies

Second graders learn world and United States history, geography, economics, and government by studying more about who Americans are and where we came from. The chief purpose of the second grade curriculum is to help students understand that American citizenship embraces all kind of people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and national origin.



## 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 problem solving, and help enable students to develop self-control and take responsibility for their actions.

## Music

Through singing American folk music and traditional children’s songs, second grade students will continue to expand their singing range by adding new and larger intervals. Musical concepts introduced include melodic direction and phrasing. Students will learn to recognize rhythmic pulse in duple and triple meters. Students will play both non-pitched and pitched percussion instruments in class.

## Art

In the elementary art class, students will explore drawing, painting, 3D, design, and printmaking. Specific concepts include observational drawing as compared to imaginative drawing, how to blend colors and create texture through the use of brush strokes, creating 3D using clay, and the design elements of silhouette and collage.

## 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  
782-5942  
Cleveland Elementary School  
781-440-5952  
Oldham Elementary School  
781-440-5962  
Prescott Elementary School  
781-44-5972

## Norwood Public Schools

# Curriculum Overview

## Grade Two

Norwood Public Schools welcomes you to second 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 second 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 the second grade include: Launching Readers' Workshop, Story Elements, Character Study, Wondering About Fiction, Author Study, Using Sensory Images, Visualization/ Poetry, Non-Fiction, Reading Stamina and Fluency, and Revisiting The Reading Life.

**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.

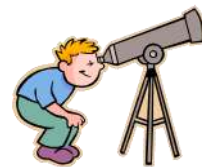
## Mathematics

Mathematics is an active time in the second 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 second grade focuses on these critical focus areas: Students learn the concept of place value, learning that about numbers into the hundreds. They read, write, compare, add and subtract 2-digit numbers using place value understanding. They extend their knowledge of basic facts learning all basic addition and subtraction facts through 20 with fluency. They solve various types of addition and subtraction story problems. Students are introduced to standard units of measure, using inches and centimeters to measure objects. They learn to tell time to five minute intervals and to solve problems involving money. They create and interpret bar graphs. Finally, second grader students draw shapes based on named attributes, such as the number of sides or angles.



## 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 Two Focus Areas:

- Learn the basics of experiments, including data collection and analysis.
- Explore the five senses of the human body.
- Study weather patterns and local climate
- Expound upon observations of living things.
- Introduce simple machines and how to make work easier.