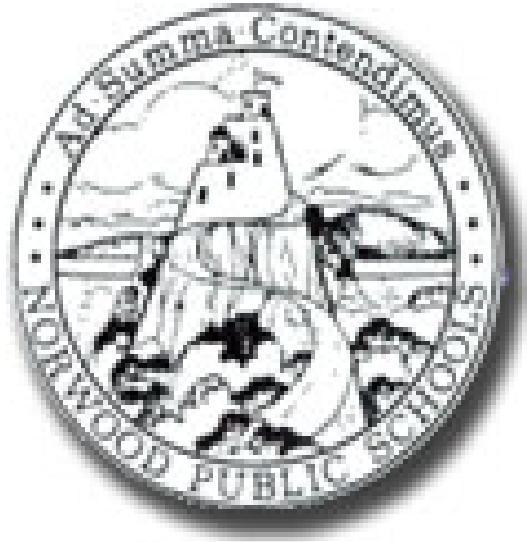


NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



STRATEGIC GOALS 2012-2015



Norwood is a community that is committed to its children and values and respects its educational system. We currently have one early education center, five elementary schools, one middle school, one new high school, and an administrative office building. Enrollment in our Pre-K to Grade 12 school population is over 3,500.

A six member School Committee, which values input and participation from parents and community members, sets policy and oversees the school budget.

Because the Norwood Schools are committed to providing every student the opportunity to be successful, there is a rich tradition of academic excellence, outstanding achievement in the Arts and Athletics, and a strong extra-curricular program.

Our Mission

The mission of the Norwood Public Schools is to seek academic excellence for all children in an environment which is safe, nurturing, and supportive, to inspire in them an enduring love for learning, and prepare them to contribute as citizens of a diverse community.

Beliefs

- Every child can learn.
- Academics is the primary focus of education. In addition to Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Activities are essential for a complete education.
- Each child is unique and has special abilities and interests that must be recognized, encouraged, and developed.
- The home, school, and community are responsible for the education of all children
- Teachers must engage every student in learning..
- Students are responsible for their own learning and for their personal conduct.
- Parents are responsible for setting values and expectations that support the learning process.
- Lifelong learning is essential for productive and responsible participation in a diverse and changing world.
- Teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn in a safe and nurturing environment.
- A community thrives when individuals contribute to the well being of others.
- Integrity, respect, and cooperation are essential in building trusting relationships.
- Our community is strengthened and enriched through diversity.

Strategic Goals 2012-2015

Instructional planning is an ongoing process that involves matching our students' educational needs with the demands of an evolving curriculum driven by ever changing federal and state standards. The administrative leadership team composed of building principals and program directors examined student data for the past school year to determine the progress our students have made toward academic proficiency in their major subjects. As a result of these discussions the following improvement initiatives will be focused on during the 2012-2013 school year.

I. Prepare all students to be college or career ready

Literacy – Improve reading, writing, comprehension, and global competency skills for all students.

- Increase rigorous reading & writing across all grade levels.
- Focus on strategies for effective reading of nonfiction and informational texts.
- Implement new federal and state professional development requirements for teaching English Language Learners (ELL).
- Provide students with the opportunity to converse proficiently in at least one foreign language.
- Reinforce key comprehension routines training in grades 6-12 by having our trained Literacy Coaches provide ongoing support to teachers.
- Develop and use common assessments (DDM's), MCAS, PSAT & SAT, and AP results to monitor curriculum rigor & make modifications as needed.
- Examine student work to guide & modify instructional practices.
- Find ways to create time for professional learning teams to meet weekly

S.T.E.A.M. – Strengthen science, technology, engineering, art & math instruction at all levels.

- Align and review science and technology engineering curriculum and materials based on newly released state standards.
- Provide science and math professional development to all elementary teachers.
- Provide math practices professional development for grade 6-12 math teachers.
- Implement elementary math program review process with program adoption in 2015-16,
- Monitor special education inclusion strategies in grades 6-8.
- Develop and use common assessments (DDM's), MCAS, PSAT & SAT, and AP results to monitor curriculum rigor & make modifications as needed.
- Examine student work to guide & modify instructional practices.
- Find ways to create time for professional learning teams to meet weekly.

Differentiated Instruction – strengthen ways to meet all students academic needs.

- Refine the use of RtI in each school utilizing progress monitoring tools.
- Expand and support Special Education Inclusion practices.

- Extend learning for students who have mastered the grade level curriculum.

II. Technology Integration

- Implement new three year technology plan with an emphasis on teacher training.
- Initiate system-wide technology curriculum committee.
- Prepare for PARCC.
- Secure a variety of funding mechanisms for executing the Technology Plan.

III. Social/Emotional Needs of Students

- Update elementary health and wellness curriculum; develop K-3 health curriculum for classroom teachers.
- Enhance and maintain program initiatives fostering healthy choices around drugs, bullying, sports, exercise and extracurricular activities.
- Support the elementary Open Circle programming.

IV. Maximize parent and community relationships to support student learning.

- Strengthen and expand methods for informing and communicating with parents about student schedules, attendance and grades.
- Develop programming to welcome new students and their families to Norwood schools and neighborhoods.
- Publicize school events to a variety of media outlets.
- Update community groups on NPS strategic plan.
- Initiate business partnerships, community internships and service opportunities.

V. Facility Improvements & Upgrades

- Repair & maintain buildings as outlined in the 10 year capital improvement plan.
- Examine school facilities in relation to future needs.