

NORWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FACT SHEET

2008 – 2009

The information below has been prepared to give you an overview of Norwell and its schools. To learn more, please visit us at our web site: www.norwellschools.org. Also, we welcome you to visit our schools, meet with our talented faculty and staff, and observe our outstanding students in action. See for yourself how Norwell Public Schools' core values of *Children First*, *Centrality of the Classroom*, *Customer Focus*, and *Continuous Improvement* are guiding us in the creation of *21st Century Schools for Our 21st Century Students*.

Norwell, Massachusetts

Ideally situated 25 miles southeast of downtown Boston, Norwell is a semi-rural, suburban community of approximately 10,000 residents. The farms and factories of a century ago have given way to private country homes, modern schools, shopping centers, health, recreation and cultural facilities, a wildlife reservation, a natural science center, and a thriving industrial zone. With the scenic North River forming the town's southern boundary, Norwell is an ideal recreational site for boating, fishing, and swimming. Ocean beaches and picturesque New England harbors are only a few miles away.

Norwell is proud and supportive of its school system, which reflects the intellectual strength and character of the community. The two pre-K-5 elementary schools, the grade 6-8 middle school, and high school are all committed to academic excellence in a caring environment for Norwell's 2275 students. Through the \$54 million NORWELL 2001 construction program, all four Norwell schools have been transformed into 21st century learning centers. Each school has an active school council, and parents are very involved with the education of their children. Over 95% of Norwell High School graduates continue their education at two and four year colleges.

Mission Statement

Norwell Public Schools has just begun implementing a new, five-year Strategic Plan called NORWELL 20/20. Developed by a twenty-five member Strategic Planning Team, the plan's Mission Statement is as follows:

The mission of Norwell Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, is to provide excellence in education in a challenging and supportive environment resulting in well-rounded, self-reliant, responsible citizens who are prepared to engage in a global society.

Grace Farrar Cole School: John Shea, Principal (781-659-8823; e-mail: shea@norwellschools.org)
www.norwellschools.org/cole

William Gould Vinal School: Annette Bailey, Principal (781-659-8820; e-mail: bailey@norwellschools.org)
www.norwellschools.org/vinal

Serving students in prekindergarten through grade five, the Cole and Vinal schools each have enrollments of approximately 580 students. Students are taught in heterogeneously grouped classes where an interdisciplinary approach to learning is encouraged and supported by a traditional curriculum with a heavy emphasis on reading and writing. Utilizing a combination of structured word study and literacy closets, a balanced reading model is employed. In mathematics, students work with a wide variety of models, procedures, and inventions to successfully solve problems in a manner that makes sense to them. The skills and content taught in science are geared toward our goal of promoting curiosity and open-mindedness, balanced with skepticism and a sense of stewardship of our environment. The social studies program is supported by an extensive collection of reference materials. There are also weekly classes in art, music, and physical education, which are taught by specialists. Small group and ensemble instrumental music instruction is available in grades four and five. Specialized instruction is provided for students in need of support services in reading, and various services are available for students found eligible for special education and for English language learners. Both schools enjoy highly supportive parent groups, and all faculty and staff are committed to providing a challenging, safe, and supportive environment for each and every student.

(Over, please)

Norwell Middle School: Derek Sulc, Principal (781-659-8814; e-mail: dsulc@norwellschools.org)
Emily Baird, Assistant Principal (781-659-8815; e-mail: baird@norwellschools.org)
www.norwellschools.org

Norwell Middle School services approximately 500 students in grades six, seven, and eight. In each grade, students are assigned to teams of two, three, or four teachers. English, mathematics, science, and social studies are the core subjects offered on each team. In all classes, critical thinking, cooperative learning, and individual responsibility are emphasized. French, Latin, and Spanish make up our foreign language offerings for grades seven and eight. These foreign language offerings are presented in the form of a two-year formal program and in the form of a one-year exploratory program. During students' three years at the middle school, the following exploratory courses are offered: art, band, chorus, family and consumer science, guidance, health education, music, physical education, reading, and technology /engineering education. By utilizing a wide variety of middle school practices, our educational community makes a concerted effort to maintain a delivery system that is student-centered and focused on the unique needs of young adolescents.

Norwell High School: Matthew Keegan, Principal (781-659-8810): keegan@norwellschools.org
Andrea Keating, Assistant Principal (781-659-8808): keating@norwellschools.org
Michael Devine, Assistant Principal (781-659-8808): devine@norwellschools.org
www.norwellschools.org/hs

Providing a college preparatory curriculum for all students, Norwell High School is an academically rigorous secondary school accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The high school's 650 students take at least five major subjects and are required to carry a minimum of six courses per semester. Graduation requirements include the successful completion of four years of English, mathematics, science, and social studies, as well as courses in the unified arts and computer technology, and a minimum of three years of foreign language. Fifteen Advanced Placement courses are offered in art, biology, calculus, chemistry, English composition, English literature, European history, French, Latin, physics, psychology, Spanish, U.S. government, and U.S. history. Over 90% of Norwell High School students participate in its co-curricular programs (athletics, drama, music, publications and clubs). Norwell High School students consistently score above the state and national averages on the SAT and other standardized tests, and 98% of the class of 2008 are pursuing post secondary education, with 96% of the class going on to four year colleges. Norwell students are also eligible to attend South Shore Vocational Technical High School in Hanover, which offers a wide variety of career-oriented programs.

Additional Information

For a personalized tour of any one of our schools, please call the above principals. For information on special education and other support programs, please call Director of Student Services James LaBillois at 781-659-8800; e-mail: labillois@norwellschools.org. Information on our facilities, finances, transportation, and general operations may be obtained from Director of Finance and Operations John Ferris at 781-659-8800; e-mail: jferris@norwellschools.org. For information on curriculum, instruction, or technology, please call Director of Teaching, Learning and Technology Ellen Peterson at 781-659-8800; e-mail: peterston@norwellschools.org. Also, please feel free to contact me directly at the address below if I can be of any assistance. Thank you for your interest in Norwell Public Schools.

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NORWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Pathways to Success.