

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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<u>McDevitt Middle School</u> 75 Church Street, 02452 781-314-5590		
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PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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History & Social Science	Stephen Goodwin	781-314-5517
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Special Education	TBA	781-314-5428
Student Support Services	TBA	781-314-5510
Technology/Engineering	Linda Radzvilla	781-314-5519

COMPLEMENTARY SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Waltham's elementary schools offer a variety of support services to students in reading, special education, and English language learning (ELL). Instructional technology and library media services are also available in each school to support student learning. Additionally, Title I services are available in our district's Title I schools.

MCAS 2011 – 2012 TEST ADMINISTRATION

All students in the grade levels identified below are required to take state tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science and Technology/Engineering. We must work together to prepare our children so they can do their very best on these tests.

- **Grade 3: ELA Reading Comprehension Test (March-April)**
Mathematics Test (May)
- **Grade 4: ELA Composition Test (March 20)**
ELA Reading Comprehension Test (March-April)
Mathematics Test (May)
- **Grade 5: ELA Reading Comprehension Test (March-April)**
Mathematics Test (May)
Science and Technology/Engineering (May)

In addition, all Limited English Proficient (LEP) students must take the following tests at the following grade levels:

- ❖ **Grades K-5: MELA-O (Oral) Test**
(October and again in February-March)
- ❖ **Grades K-5: MEPA Test in Reading and Writing**
(October and again in March)

Dear Elementary School Parent/Guardian:

This curriculum brochure has been designed to provide you with a user-friendly overview of what your child will be learning this coming year in all academic areas. Under each discipline is a list of learning outcomes called benchmarks that identify what we want all students to know and be able to do by the end of the grade in each subject area. By looking at the upcoming grades, you will be able to see what will be expected of your child as he/she works his/her way along the academic continuum.

The learning outcomes identified here have been established after careful review of the latest Department of Education (DOE) curriculum frameworks, the most up to date recommendations of national organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Council of Teachers of English and our own analysis of the MCAS tests results. Teachers and administrators will continue to review and modify the curricula where needed to meet both the state's and our own standards for student learning.

We have also included contact information for program directors, principals and school offices, along with the MCAS testing schedule for the current year.

We hope that this information will encourage you to develop a strong family-school partnership, if you have not already done so. Research has shown that strong, consistent parental involvement is vital to student achievement and success in school. This brochure is one step toward keeping parents well informed so we may continue to work together to produce effective schools and quality educational practices.

We welcome and encourage your feedback and questions about this information and how you can support your child's learning at home. Working together, we can make a positive difference in your child's overall learning, growth, and health.

Sincerely yours,

Susan M. Nicholson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Paul Maiorano
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction

Waltham Public Schools

Susan M. Nicholson, Ed.D.,
Superintendent



(2011-2012)

An Outline of Curriculum Benchmarks

Grade One

Please call the Parent Information Center (PIC) at 781-314-5672 for a translation of this information.

Por favor de llamar al Centro de Información de Padres (PIC) al número 781-314-5672 para la traducción e información de este documento

S'il vous plaît appelez au téléphone le Centre d'Information des Parents (PIC) au numéro 781-314-5672 pour la traduction de ce document



READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

The English Language Arts strands include Reading, Writing, Language, Listening and Speaking. They reflect students' increasing ability to read and understand text and write in a variety of genres.

Reading

- Chooses a book and reads independently in a sustained way.
- Reads with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension on a first grade level.
- Uses knowledge of letters and sounds and spelling patterns to read new words.
- Recognizes high frequency words.
- Monitors reading using a variety of strategies to understand text (predicting, making connections, generating questions, summarizing, visualizing, inferring, drawing conclusions).
- Retells a story in sequential order with details.
- Determines or clarifies the meaning of words based on first grade reading or content.
- Responds to or discusses higher level questions related to text.

Writing

- Writes a narrative, explanatory/informational or opinion piece of writing.
- Understands and incorporates the writing process.
- Participates in shared research and writing projects.

Language

- Spells words using phonetic and spelling rules.
- Incorporates punctuation, capitalization and Standard English Conventions in writing.

MATHEMATICS

Standards for Mathematical Practice

The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe varieties of expertise that mathematics students need to develop in order to become mathematically proficient.

1. **Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**
2. **Reason abstractly and quantitatively.**
3. **Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.**
4. **Model with mathematics.**
5. **Use appropriate tools strategically.**
6. **Attend to precision.**
7. **Look for and make use of structure.**
8. **Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.**

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with addition and subtraction equations.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Extend the counting sequence.
- Understand place value.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

Measurement and Data

- Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
- Tell and write time.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Work with money.

Geometry

- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

In first grade, children listen to and read folk tales 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 Americans. 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.

Geography

- Demonstrate cardinal directions (N,E,S,W) and define geographic terms such as continent, mountain, river, lake, and ocean.
- Understand the basic concepts of time and chronology, including placing events in their own lives in chronological order.
- Read dates on a calendar and associate them with the days of a week.
- Recognize the changing seasons and the inherent characteristics of each.

Civics and Government

- Understand the need for rules in families and society.

- Recognize basic safety concerns, and the role of fire fighters and police in our community.

Economics

- Be introduced to the field of economics by analyzing people's basic needs, the difference between goods and services, and the use of money.

History

- Study benchmark historical events and the holidays that commemorate them - Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, and Flag Day.
- Learn the importance that individuals have made in United States history through the study of selected biographies of influential Americans.
- Identify the current President of the United States, other prominent Presidents such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and what the job of President entails.
- Identify national symbols such as the American Flag, the bald eagle, the Liberty Bell, the Washington Monument, the White House, and the Statue of Liberty.
- Read and listen to stories of famous folklore figures of America and around the world, such as John Henry, Paul Bunyon, Anansi, and/or others.
- Study the needs and composition of families, learning their importance and uniqueness in our country and around the world.

SCIENCE/HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

Life Science

- Explains the differences between living and non-living things and describes how they interact in a habitat.
- Explains the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates.
- Explains how Earth has changed since the time of the dinosaurs.
- Explains extinction using fossils.
- Explains plant needs, plant parts, and the plant cycle.

Health

- Recognizes situations that can threaten personal safety.

ART

Methods, Materials and Techniques

- Draws and paints using a variety of materials.
- Uses art materials properly.

Elements and Principles of Design

- Produces designs using pattern.
- Creates artwork using primary colors.

Observation, Abstraction and Invention

- Creates narrative art.
- Draws self and family.

Drafting, Revising and Exhibiting

- Uses appropriate vocabulary to discuss artwork.
- Studies artists that enrich the understanding of an art project.

DRAMA

Dramatic Concepts

- Identifies and creates characters and setting from a variety of appropriate literature.
- Understands dramatic terms.

Performance Skills

- Demonstrates the ability to work effectively alone.
- Demonstrates the ability to work cooperatively with a partner or in a group.
- Uses presentation and public speaking skills such as volume, posture, and enunciation.

Audience Skills

- Demonstrates audience skills appropriately in classroom presentations.

MUSIC

Singing

- Demonstrates development of pitch awareness while singing alone or with others.

Playing Instruments

- Explores beginning activities using beat and listening.
- Explores techniques of playing classroom instruments.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Motor Skill Development

- Uses a variety of locomotor skills to move safely through space.
- Catches and manipulates objects at and to different levels.
- Performs a variety of stationary and moving activities with balance.
- Identifies body parts used in fundamental motor skills, e.g., arm for throwing and leg for kicking.
- Identifies, performs and combines different pathways of movement.

Fitness

- Identifies activities that contribute to a healthy heart.
- Identifies foods within the food pyramid and their contribution to a healthy body.
- Demonstrates understanding that the heart is a muscle that gets stronger with exercise.

Personal and Social Competency

- Applies rules, procedures and safe practices with teacher reinforcement.
- Works cooperatively and stays on task in small group station activities.

SEI

The Sheltered English Immersion Strands include Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. They reflect students' increasing proficiency in English as they move along a continuum from little or no proficiency in English to proficiency sufficient to participate in classrooms not specifically designed for students acquiring a second language. Acquiring an additional language is a complex undertaking; thus, the strands take into account a student's understanding and use of English at each level of language proficiency (from the beginning through transitioning level) for this tremendously heterogeneous and diverse group of students. The variability by which a student progresses through the strands can be attributed to varying ages, linguistic and cultural backgrounds, diagnoses (such as learning disabilities), and/or differences in life and educational experiences.

Reading

- Process, understand, interpret, and evaluate written language, symbols and text with understanding and fluency.

Writing

- Engage in written communication in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Listening

- Process, understand, interpret, and evaluate spoken language in a variety of situations.

Speaking

- Engage in oral communication in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes and audiences.