

The Fowler School

Maynard Public Schools



PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2021-2022

The Fowler School

Maynard Public Schools

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***The Maynard Public Schools are committed to a superior academic experience
for Maynard's students that prepare them to be productive citizens in an
interconnected technological world.***

***The Fowler School community believes in our Core Values:
Respect, Responsibility and Results.***

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IN YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE
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The Fowler Mission Statement

Quality Elementary and Early Adolescent Education

VISION: We are dedicated to developing successive generations of citizens prepared to constructively participate in their society.

MISSION: We will create an environment of high expectations and expand our efforts and skills to see that all children in each subject perform at proficiency levels or higher.

GOAL: To help build a school environment of high academic and social expectations through effective communication with school administration, parents and the community at large.

It is the responsibility of adults to mobilize the effective effort of children towards learning standards and performance at proficiency levels or higher. Effort and attitude are the most important factors in learning and child development. All adults in the student's life share in the responsibility for managing their child's growth and development towards high standards.

We will mobilize the effort of educators, parents, and students towards development. The success of our school can be measured by its success in developing all its children.

Development requires:

- Providing a safe and nurturing community where diversity is appreciated, mutual respect among adults and children is practiced, and parents and caregivers are seen as valued partners in the promotion of lifelong learning.
- Being committed to helping each child achieve proficiency or higher through intellectual, creative, and physical challenges in a risk-free environment.
- Instructing all students in a challenging grade level curriculum based on high standards. ● Communicating genuine belief in the capacity of all students to meet high standards; effective effort is the basis of increasing one's ability.
- Using criterion-referenced test results to align grade level curriculum and assess students' progress.
- Collaborating, researching, and developing effective instructional practices. ● Using effective instructional strategies to accelerate those that fall behind and providing appropriate accommodations for those that require them.
- Applying services and referrals that match the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students.
- Ensuring an orderly and safe learning environment for continuous development of children. ● Organizing the school and scheduling of special programs and activities that meet the unique developmental needs of the age group we service.
- Encouraging students to adopt the attitude that learning is a lifelong process. ● Exposing all students to a variety of enriching experiences that increase their cultural, environmental, physical and social awareness.
- Developing our students' sense of responsibility as self-directed learners with confidence in their ideas, opinions and talents.

It is understood that virtually all students have unique abilities and are capable of reaching their potential. Proficiency is developed through the actions of effective effort, a positive attitude and good

Reporting Student Progress

Report cards are one way for teachers to communicate how students are progressing in their learning. They indicate achievement in all major subject areas and special subjects. The report card also informs students and parents of behavior and citizenship. If you have concerns about your child's academic progress, please contact the teacher.

Progress reports can be checked on a regular basis in TylerSIS. Report cards are issued three times a year and will be posted online on TylerSIS. Report cards are not sent home unless the office is notified to do so. The number of days absent and tardy will be recorded.

Grading Scale

A+ = 100 - 97 C+ = 79 - 77

A = 96 - 93 C = 76 - 73

A- = 92 - 90 C- = 72 - 70

B+ = 89 - 87 D = 69 - 65

B = 86 - 83 F = 64 or lower

B- = 82 - 80

Honor Roll

Students in the middle school (grades 6, 7, and 8) qualify for honor roll by earning 80% or higher in all subject areas and cannot receive an *Unsatisfactory* for behavior and citizenship in any class.

In keeping with the spirit of developing an age appropriate elementary program, teachers will recognize student performance within the classroom in grade four and five.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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Grade 4

- **ELA:** The 4th grade curriculum focuses on the following ELA standards: reading comprehension, reading fluency, writing, speaking and listening. Standards are addressed using a variety of fictional and expository texts across all core content areas. Students engage in context literature and text. Students practice reading accuracy and reading fluency, and engage in higher order reasoning and questioning. Students work collaboratively to discuss literature, and engage in extended writing time using grammar and conventions for a range of tasks, purposes and audiences.
- **Math:** The 4th grade *Go Math* curriculum focuses on multiplication and division of whole numbers and fractions. Geometry and measurement concepts, skills and problem solving are implemented using a multisensory approach to instruction.
- **Spanish Immersion (aka SLA or Spanish Language Arts):** Students are exposed to the

same curriculum as their peers while also having the opportunity to learn a second language. Cultures are explored while students work and learn together, getting ready for a successful future in the multicultural world in which we live.

- **Spanish (aka FLES or Foreign Language in Elementary School):** All students in 4th grade will be introduced to Spanish once each week, focusing on basic pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.
- **Social Studies:** The 4th grade social studies curriculum focuses on map skills and North American geography, including the regions of the United States.
- **Science:** The 4th grade science curriculum focuses on seven core ideas; Earth's place in the universe; Earth's systems; Earth and human activity; organisms and molecules; structures and processes in life science; physical science; energy and waves; and engineering design.

Grade 5

- **ELA:** The 5th grade ELA course uses interactive read alouds designed to enrich students' reading and writing skills. Students will write in a variety of genres including personal journals, poetry, narrative, informational and opinion pieces.
- **Math:** The 5th grade Math curriculum uses the *Go Math* text. The text is aligned with the Common Core standards. The main focus areas are: Place Value to Billions; Decimal Operations; Algebraic Expressions; Order of Operations; All operations with Fractions, Geometry, Measurement and Data.
- **Spanish Immersion (SLA or Spanish Language Arts):** Students are exposed to the same curriculum as their ELA peers while also having the opportunity to continue developing their second language skills. Cultures are explored while students work and learn together, getting ready for a successful future in the multicultural world in which

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we live. The focus is to develop high levels of proficiency in Spanish and English, help students achieve grade level academic performance in Spanish and English, develop bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism, and positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.

- **Social Studies:** The 5th grade Social Studies course is designed to enrich the understanding of the following: US Geography, Colonization, The Revolutionary War, the US Government, and the Legacy of the Civil War.
- **Science:** The 5th grade Science course studies physical, Earth and life sciences through inquiry based, hands on investigations that promote understanding, collaboration, and critical thinking development.

Grade 6

- **ELA:** 6th grade ELA explores multiple genres, themes, ideas, and authors' styles/purposes, through reading various texts including novels, short stories, articles, and poetry. We develop narrative, persuasive, and informational writing skills through different activities and learning formats including reading/writing workshops, evidence-based writing, and revising using specific rubrics. The ultimate goal of this class is to engage students in meaningful literature and to empower them as writers.
 - **Math:** The year starts with a review of multiplying and dividing decimals, then moves into the same operations with fractions. Major new topics for the grade are the introduction of ratios, rates, and percents, writing and evaluating variable expressions, and solving one-step equations. Finally, the year ends with an exploration of the area of polygons, the surface area of polyhedrons, and working with data displays for the measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode).
 - **Spanish/French Languages:** These courses introduce students to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking or French-speaking world. Using their speaking, reading, writing and listening skills, they will learn to communicate about many topics including: describing themselves and others, things they like and don't like, families, animals and pets.
 - **Spanish Immersion (SLA or Spanish Language Arts):** In 6th and 7th grade Spanish Immersion, students can expect to read short narrative and informational texts and novels in Spanish. Class activities will include discussions, journal responses, vocabulary journals, creative writing, text summaries and grammar games to help further develop writing skills. Students will practice all language skills, including reading, writing, speaking and listening in Spanish.
 - **Social Studies:** This 6th grade Social Studies course is designed to enrich students' understanding of the following: the First Cultures, the Fertile Crescent, the Nile River Valley, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome and a comprehensive review of basic geography concepts. Additionally, students will be required to complete bi-weekly Current Events.
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Valley, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome and a comprehensive review of basic geography concepts. Additionally, students will be required to complete bi-weekly Current Events. ● **Science:** 6th grade Science focuses on three main areas: Earth and Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. The Earth and Space Science unit focuses on Earth's place in the Universe and Earth's Systems. Cells and interactions between human body systems are the topics covered in the Life Science unit. The Physical Science unit focuses on matter and its interactions.

Grade 7

- **ELA:** In 7th Grade ELA, students actively read and discuss a variety of texts (novels, short stories, poems, plays, articles) and analyze connections between texts across genres and topics. Students write narratives, essays, and poetry to explore how literary elements

interact.

- **Math:** The 7th grade math course focuses on five key concepts: (1) Rates, Ratios, and Proportionality, (2) Integer and Rational Number Operations, (3) Expressions and Equations, (4) Geometry, Area, and Volume of Solids, and (5) Statistics and Proportionality. Students increase critical thinking skills and focus on learning real world applications.
- **Spanish/French Languages:** This course is designed as a full year language class where the students are exposed to French or Spanish language from day one. Combining a wide range of strategies and paying very close attention to their communication skills, they have the chance to actively use the content that they are learning through conversations, oral presentations, games, songs, etc. so that they can talk about a variety of topics such as their families, themselves, their hobbies, the classroom, going shopping, telling time, etc.
- **Spanish Immersion (SLA or Spanish Language Arts):** In 6th and 7th grade Spanish Immersion, students can expect to read short narrative and informational texts and novels in Spanish. Class activities will include discussions, journal responses, vocabulary journals, creative writing, text summaries and grammar games to help further develop writing skills. Students will practice all language skills, including reading, writing, speaking and listening in Spanish.
- **Social Studies:** In 7th grade, students examine how the perspectives of political science, economics, geography and history apply to the study of the regions and countries. They study the development of ancient civilizations of Asia, Oceania and Europe. The course concludes with a study of a government in classical Greece and Rome, which serves as a prelude to the study of Civics in grade 8.
- **Science:** 7th grade students will be introduced to inquiry-based science units that combine lecture, discussion, use of technology, and lab activities. Students will learn

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about motion and thermal energy and how these forms of energy interact in Earth's spheres including the hydrosphere, geosphere and biosphere. Students will also be challenged to incorporate 21st Century Skills including creativity and innovation; critical thinking; problem solving; communication and collaboration when executing the 7th grade science curriculum.

Grade 8

- **ELA:** In 8th grade ELA, students use fiction, nonfiction, plays, and poetry to launch into writing in a variety of formats, including persuasive, informational, and creative writing, in both formal and informal settings. Vocabulary words are dissected into their prefixes, suffixes, and roots to build reading proficiency. Students also take a "deep dive" into

grammar, parts of speech, and sentence structure, sharpening the tools needed for strong writing.

- **Math:** This course focuses on five components: (1) The number system, (2) Expressions and Equations, (3) Functions, (4) Geometry, and (5) Statistics and probability.
- **Accelerated Algebra:** This course focuses on the 8th grade mathematics components as well as (1) writing, graphing, and interpreting linear equations, functions, and inequalities, (2) operations with polynomials, and (3) exponential and quadratic equations and functions.
- **Spanish/French Languages:** Spanish II is aimed at getting the students communication skills beyond an A1 level (basic level) in the four different activities performed in a language: reading, listening, writing and speaking. Students will be able to use the language both in written and spoken form in relation with very familiar topics to them. The topics covered are the following: (1) talking about themselves, (2) describing their family, (3) the classroom and school, (4) the house and the neighborhood and (5) shopping for clothes and ordering at a restaurant.
- **Social Studies:** The 8th grade Social Studies curriculum is designed to deepen students' understanding of the following: the United States political system (including its development and institutions), the rights and responsibilities of a United States citizen, the structure of the Massachusetts State and local governments, the Constitution (including the Amendments), Supreme Court decisions, freedom of the press and news/media literacy.
- **Science:** In 8th grade Science students begin the year in Physical Science with a focus on matter and its interactions, followed by forces and motion. Mid-year brings students to Earth's place in the universe and Earth Systems, including the geology of Earth's interior. Students will finish the year with Life Science, digging deep into Mendelian Genetics, inherited variation of traits and biological evolution.

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Specials

- **Information Literacy Skills (Grades 4 and 5):** Students taking this course will learn how to use library resources effectively, efficiently, and responsibly in order to develop information literacy skills and become 21st century independent researchers. Course content will align with American Association of School Librarians and Massachusetts School Library Association Standards, as well as the MA Curriculum Frameworks. When possible, content will be integrated into the student's core curriculum. Students will learn how to independently locate print and electronic resources in the Media Center, develop a firm understanding of effective information retrieval, evaluation, and synthesis, learn to be responsible users of information by understanding the meaning of copyright, plagiarism, and fair use, become digital citizens and use technology responsibly and appropriately, promote reading to others through their demonstrated knowledge of Web 2.0 tools, and read and appreciate an array of literary genres.

- **Art:** This course is designed to cover the elements and principles of design as they relate to art media, materials and techniques. Through a series of sequential lessons, students have the opportunity to demonstrate their powers of observation, abstraction, invention and expression as they explore a wide variety of media in both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art. The lessons will stimulate and strengthen the development of visual perception through hands on experiences, and through the cultural and historical context of the arts. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening students' esteem through the development of art related skills and vocabulary, and the understanding of the creative process.
- **Physical Education:** The aim of Physical Education is to gain three unique outcomes. The first is the achievement of a personalized level of fitness. The Second is the development of competency in a variety of physical skills to ensure the student can function effectively in lifetime physical activities. The third outcome requires the student to obtain a sense of enjoyment with physical activity and physical fitness.
 - **Health and Wellness:** Health is designed to enable students to thrive, preserve, and maintain a positive attitude and healthy body. Health problems can have a disruptive impact on all living beings. The goal is to educate students in such a way that they may alleviate some of these problems during their adolescence and beyond. The curriculum

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is continually changing as students' needs and society's issues change. Topics include wellness, nutrition, tobacco/vaping, body systems, alcohol, body image, and first aid/CPR.

- **Band/Music:** The Fowler Band Program is designed to offer students an enriching and diverse music education. Instrumental classes and large ensemble rehearsals provide opportunities for musical growth through group practice and performance of numerous genres and styles using wind and percussion instruments. Band students complete each music curricula in a culminating concert series.
- **Computer Science:**
 - In Grade 4 Computer Science, students learn more about coding at *code.org* through an art project and story design. They also practice coding with the Microbit, how to work with VEX IQ Robots, and how to collect and represent data with Vernier's Temperature Sensors. Additionally, they are introduced to how computers work.
 - In Grade 5 Computer Science, students continue their practice with coding at *code.org* with an art project involving polygons and designing a simple Flappy Bird computer game. They also code with the Microbit using button and sensors, learn how to program the VEX IQ Robots to move, and how to collect and represent data with Vernier's Light Sensors. They complete their lessons about how computers work.

- In Grade 6 Computer Science, students continue their practice with coding at *code.org* with an advanced art project involving loops and polygons and creating a simple Star Wars computer game. They also make games involving skill and probability with the Microbit, learn how to program the VEX IQ Robots to move and react to the environment with sensors, and how to collect and represent data with Vernier's Magnetic Field Sensors. They begin learning about how the Internet works.
- In Grade 7 Computer Science, students continue their practice with coding at *code.org* with an advanced art project involving a spirals and creating a complex computer game using control structures. They also learn about circuits and more advanced input and output with the Microbit, work towards completing challenges with the VEX IQ Robot, and collect and represent data with Vernier's Sound Sensors. They continue to learn more about how the Internet works.
- In Grade 8 Computer Science, students are introduced to text based programming using Python and create an ASCII design as well as a Python-based game. They complete problem solving applications using the Microbit, work towards completing challenges with the VEX IQ Robot, and collect and represent data with Vernier's Motion Detectors. They complete their lessons about how the Internet works.

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- **Be Internet Awesome!** This Google-developed course, taken by all students in 4th grade (and 5th grade in 2019-2020) prepares students for Fowler's 1:1 device program by teaching students to make smart decisions when online. *Be Internet Awesome!* teaches students the fundamentals of digital citizenship and safety so they can explore the online world with confidence. Lessons are reinforced by games. There are five fundamental topics of digital citizenship and safety that form the "Internet Code of Awesome":

1. Share with Care (Be Internet Smart)
2. Don't Fall for Fake (Be Internet Alert)
3. Secure Your Secrets (Be Internet Strong)
4. It's Cool to Be Kind (Be Internet Kind)
5. When in Doubt, Talk It Out (Be Internet Brave)

Other Programs

- **The CASE Collaborative:** The Concord Area Special Education (CASE) Collaborative serves students and teachers in our eleven member districts as well as many from outside the CASE region. CASE Collaborative brings together our school district partners, schools, faculty specialists, staff and families to create exceptional and individualized learning for all. Our focus is on creating and providing educational programs and services that help

students to grow, develop, and achieve their potential as individuals.

We offer students and their families tailored approaches that foster the excellence, expertise, and creativity of a talented team of professionals in order to meet each student's unique needs. We know that responding to the evolving needs of our school districts, students, and families means taking the time to care; to know them; to identify their needs; and to be resourceful, expert, innovative, and coordinated in our response. Caring, collaboration and excellence are the foundation of all we do.

CASE programs epitomize the meaning of inclusion. Our highly individualized programs serve students from the ages of 3-22 in 18 separate classrooms that are each housed in public schools within our member districts. Thus, we provide the opportunity for students who need highly specialized programs to receive their education in mainstream academic settings with access to both small self-contained classes and inclusion opportunities with grade level peers. Colebrook School, our alternative high school, provides an intimate personalized setting while affording students the opportunity to take courses at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School.

Our educational program strands serve students with a variety of learning challenges including: developmental disabilities; multiple disabilities; medically fragile;

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social-communication; autism; social/emotional; and language based disabilities. We're staffed with an exceptional group of highly trained teachers, therapists (OT, PT, Speech/Language), Autism Specialists, Nurses, Counselors, BCBA's, ABA tutors, and Teaching Assistants.

- **Homework Club:** Homework Club is a great place to develop students' homework study habits and improve grades. It meets every day after school from 2:25 – 3:15 PM, Monday through Thursday. There is no Homework Club on early release days or on days that there are staff meetings. Transportation home is not available after Homework Club. For more information, contact your child's teacher.