



# WANAMASSA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

James Stefankiewicz, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Victor R. Milano, Principal

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Welcome to Wanamassa School!

Our neighborhood school is known for its community spirit, pride in education and its exceptional staff. We are also rich in history, as we have opened our doors to our students since 1930. We are fortunate to have a strong PTA and dedicated parents who volunteer to chair and assist with school-wide programs such as Project Care, Read-a-Thons, Science Fair, Book Fair and School Spirit Week. The annual Runamassa Fun Run, Talent Show, Family Fun Night and Bingo Night are just some of our exciting events that happen throughout the year.

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade receive instruction in reading, spelling, writing, mathematics, science and social studies in heterogeneously grouped classes through a sequentially organized curriculum. Lessons are developmentally appropriate and aligned with our State Standards. Students enrolled in our preschool program are taught content in ways that meet the needs of young children. The success of our students is what we strive for every day.

Our reading program, Wonders, is research-based and uses a phonetic learning approach. Our language arts curriculum is grounded in systematic, explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, and word knowledge, and comprehension skills, inquiry, writing and language arts skills and strategies. Our mathematics curriculum and program, EnVision, reflects the goals and ideals of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Standards. It is based on the belief that mathematics is best learned in real-world contexts that make sense to children; that all students deserve a richer and more challenging curriculum; and that a balanced and practical approach to mathematics learning is best for understanding concepts. All science instruction in grades K-4 utilizes thematic units and hands-on activities that make learning exciting.

Our Basic Skills classes and special education classes utilize our Wonders & WonderWorks Program as well as EnVision to ensure continuity. Special education classes for resource center and self-contained learning and language disabilities classes utilize additional reading methods with an alternative approach for teaching skills. English language learners receive supplemental instruction as needed.

Students in Grades K through 4 attend 40 minute weekly classes taught by comprehensively certified teachers in the following disciplines: Art, Music, Library Science, and Physical Education. Physical Education classes meet twice weekly. Health topics are taught during the Physical Ed classes and Science classes as well. Students enjoy these classes as they work creatively, physically, and artistically to experience a well-rounded education.

Wanamassa offers a wide array of activities for students to participate in outside of school, as well. Third and fourth graders get the chance to perform in chorus throughout the year. Jump Rope Club and intramural activities give our students outlets for some fun physical activities. Art Club and Book Club are available for students who enjoy these particular interests. Makerspace Club allows students to think forward and create. We also have a garden that students look forward to working in throughout the year, as well as enjoying the fruits of their labor when it is harvest time.

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*Our mission is to instill a true passion for lifelong learning and discovery within each child. We emphasize the importance of strong character traits, such as accountability, honesty, respect and kindness. These traits create a positive environment that is safe, nurturing and educational for each member of our school family.*



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Classroom technology is an essential learning tool. Technology usage provides students with opportunities to develop 21st-century skills, a set of abilities that empower students to succeed in the information age. In addition to the scheduled special area classes, classroom teachers are also district trained to facilitate instructional technology throughout their lessons. Students in all grades use technology daily. Teachers are supplied with laptop computers to use as tools for planning and implementing lessons. Each student has access to a Chromebook daily, making us a 1:1 school with ease of access to technology.

Our school environment lends itself to offering many opportunities for children to learn and demonstrate tolerance, compassion, and understanding of other people's needs and ideas. We work very hard to create a climate of respect and kindness. It is expected that students show great effort in their work and be a good citizen. We are committed to excellence and look forward to the joys and challenges of the future.

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