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January 15, 2021

Dear Norwood Parents and Guardians,

We have exciting news and want our Norwood family to be the first to know! Next week, BISD will announce details for its annual BISD Showcase, highlighting **Norwood as its newest school of choice: the Norwood Environmental Science Academy (NESA)**. Our campus will incorporate the sciences and environmental influences through applications to real world settings.

Beginning fall 2021, weekly classes at Norwood will focus on the environment with increased hands-on and outdoor learning. Gardens will be established for each grade level, outdoor learning facilities expanded, and we will utilize the nearby Bailey Lake for extracurricular activities. In addition to our daily curriculum, Norwood will focus on “exploring ways to keep our world and ourselves healthy.” Through the integration of Project Learning Tree® (PLT), a program that focuses on outdoor learning experiences, students will develop their awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the environment. PLT builds upon students’ abilities to make informed decisions and encourages them to take personal responsibility for sustaining the environment. The program is aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and is correlated to National Curriculum Standards for Science and Social Studies. Through engaging activities, students will learn important concepts, critical thinking and decision-making skills as they apply TEKS objectives to what they learn.

**Please know, if your child is zoned for our campus, he or she will continue to be Norwood Vikings and will automatically be part of NESA.** As a choice school, other BISD parents may apply for their children to attend through the lottery application system.

We look forward to the opportunities your children will experience as we spotlight ways we interact with the environment and are grateful for continuing to grow our campus. In just a few years we have established a strong sense of community from your support and commitment to work alongside us. “We Value Family” is not just a slogan: it’s our mission. We continue to celebrate academic growth as we “Strive for Excellence.” Look for more information to come your way as we prepare for the transition to Norwood Environmental Science Academy.

Respectfully,  
Christy Strayhorn, Principal  
Candice Cook, Assistant Principal