

# The Turtle Lake Experience

A history of high achievement, supported by a positive and respectful school environment.



## Turtle Lake

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Mounds View Public Schools*



Darin Johnson, Principal  
651-621-7703

[darin.johnson@moundsviewschools.org](mailto:darin.johnson@moundsviewschools.org)



1141 Lepak Court  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
651-621-7700

[www.moundsviewschools.org/turtlelake](http://www.moundsviewschools.org/turtlelake)

School hours are 9:20 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Grades 1-5**

Enrollment: 1,012

**Kindergarten (Snail Lake Education Center)**

Enrollment: 201

# We're personal

Students meet with their teacher individually and in small groups of **2 - 6 students** multiple times throughout the week for personalized instruction.

**A**t Turtle Lake, students enjoy one-on-one and small-group learning opportunities with teachers who know their students' needs.

## Personalized instruction

Through flexible skill grouping, Turtle Lake students receive personalized instruction every day based on their current academic level. Small-group instruction is aligned to the same set of high standards offered in the traditional classroom setting, yet allows for more personal connections and multiple instructional approaches to accommodate the varying learning needs of students.

## Individualized attention

Every student has different academic and social needs. Turtle Lake realizes this and provides a variety of programs, courses and services tailored to each student's needs.

- Flexible skill groupings allow for students to be met at their instructional level.
- A full complement of mandated special education and related services are available for students with educational disabilities.

All students receive individualized attention at Turtle Lake, not simply the high performance groups and the at-risk students. Turtle Lake ensures that students who fit into the "majority in the middle" receive the attention and guidance they need to succeed. Each student has individualized growth goals customized to his or her unique achievements.

## A personal program

The Turtle Lake program is based on a comprehensive set of grade level expectations for student achievement in grades K-5. The program includes language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts and technology.



Turtle Lake's curriculum is standards-based and incorporates District learner outcomes as well as state and national academic standards. Teachers concentrate on skills-based lessons at all levels of learning and differentiate their instruction to meet the learning needs of each student.

## Instructional technology

Turtle Lake is committed to implementing technologies that best align with instructional needs.

- Wireless access points are available throughout the building, making the Internet accessible in classrooms and all areas of the school.
- All instructional spaces at Turtle Lake are equipped with LCD projectors and SMART Boards. In many classrooms, iPads, iPods, Nexus tablets and Chromebooks are being used to support high quality instruction. For example, teachers are using flipped instruction, Google classroom, Google forms and other tools to support learning.
- As part of the District's technology vision, access to technology tools will continue to increase in classrooms. Increased access to technology provides students with opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom walls and allows teachers to personalize instruction to meet the needs of all students. Other technology being used at Turtle Lake includes mobile laptop labs and literacy technology tools.

## Kindergarten

The District offers a no-fee, all-day, every day kindergarten program. The program reflects the District's comprehensive Pre-K - 14 initiative that includes The Equity Promise, which states that all students will be prepared for post-secondary success regardless of race, gender, class or disability. Kindergarten students from Turtle Lake Elementary School attend Snail Lake Education Center at 350 Highway 96 West in Shoreview, along with kindergarten students from Island Lake Elementary School.



# Safe & supportive

The state has recognized Turtle Lake as a **leader in positive behavior support**.

A variety of programs and services create a welcoming, positive environment throughout Turtle Lake.

## Positive behavior

Turtle Lake follows the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) continuum to promote positive behavior for all students in classroom and non-classroom settings. PBIS is an application of systems that sets clear behavior expectations and offers recognition and praise for students who model the positive behaviors that have been clearly defined and reinforced in all areas of the school. Turtle Lake has been recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education as a Sustaining Exemplar School for successfully implementing PBIS. At Turtle Lake, students focus on being respectful, responsible and safe.

## Before- & after-school care

Turtle Lake offers a variety of academic, social and recreational activities designed for students in all grades. These before- and after-school programs offer some free, fun and constructive opportunities for students to spend their time productively. In addition, some students participate in Elementary Targeted Services programs that offer a variety of after-school academic support offerings.

## Transportation

Mounds View Public Schools provides free bus service for Turtle Lake students living two miles or more from their school. In addition, the District offers fee-based bus service within two miles to accommodate parents' requests for transportation assistance.

## Nutrition services

Turtle Lake teaches healthy eating habits by introducing students to a wide variety of food choices. Students can enjoy breakfast and lunch daily. All menus meet nutrition requirements established by the USDA. Families may apply to receive free or reduced-price meals based on need.



## Notifications

Ongoing communications about District and school news and events are delivered to parents and subscribers regularly via paperless e-newsletters. Emergency notifications can be delivered to all families in a matter of minutes in the event of a school closing or critical situation. The Mounds View Messaging system sends personalized voicemail and text messages to parents' phones and email addresses simultaneously.

## Download the free app for customizable, mobile-friendly access to...



## Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch

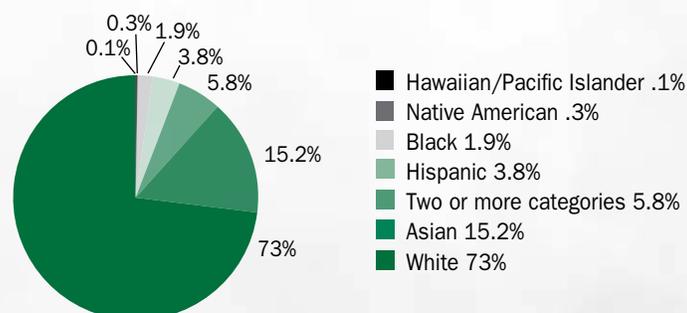
9.6%

## Students receiving special services

Special Education 8.8%

English as a second language 3.2%

## Diversity of student population



Demographics and enrollment data were compiled in November 2018.

# Connectedness

Feeling connected to school is a **key to academic success.**

Students who feel connected to their school do better in school and in life beyond our walls. That's why Turtle Lake emphasizes student connectedness through a variety of efforts.

## Activities

- Turtle Lake boasts an orchestra and choir with instruction available to students in fourth and fifth grades.
- Band instruction begins the summer before fifth grade. Each student receives one instrumental lesson during school and one group practice session each week before school.
- Group music practices and access to other specialized programs gives students a variety of opportunities to get involved in activities and feel connected to their school.
- The African Music Ensemble is a unique performance group that features 3rd – 5th-grade students.
- The Turtle Lake Chess Club has more than 150 participants in grades 1 – 5 and meets weekly before school.
- Filled with approximately 30,000 patron titles, the Turtle Lake library fuels our school's love of reading.
- Each fall, fourth-grade students participate in the Kindness Retreat, a grade-level community building and bullying prevention workshop.
- The PTA hosts grade-level social events each fall.

## Online parent portal

Turtle Lake parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's school experience. Parents can stay connected to their student's attendance records, test history, schedules, report cards and personal information using the Mounds View Public Schools online parent portal known as ParentVUE.



## Communication hours

Turtle Lake offers proactive communication time during which teachers reach out and connect with families regarding student progress.

## PTA

Parent/school partnerships are available through the Turtle Lake PTA.

## The Laurentian experience

Turtle Lake fifth-graders have the opportunity to attend a multi-day environmental team-building and leadership development experience at the District's Laurentian Environmental Center in the Superior National Forest in Northeastern Minnesota. Students participate in hands-on exercises like navigation and mapping to learn science, math and environmental lessons. More importantly, students learn leadership and problem-solving skills by participating in team-building missions and rock-climbing exercises amid acres of wilderness and diverse wildlife habitat.



In 2018, for the sixth consecutive year, Mounds View Public Schools was one of only eight school districts in Minnesota to earn the Best Communities for Music Education designation.

# High achievement

Turtle Lake students perform **one half to four years ahead of their national peers** in math and reading.

– Median performance of students on the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress



Turtle Lake Elementary School is a member of Mounds View Public Schools, a school district of more than 11,000 students whose test scores routinely rank in the Top 10 of metro districts. Mounds View Public Schools matches the performance and opportunities of area private schools, yet offers the value of public schools.

Find additional MCA, District and school assessment results on the Minnesota Department of Education Data Center website: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Data>

## Assessments Results 2017-2018

### District Northwest Evaluation Association: Measures of Academic Progress Reading RIT

	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
<b>School Median</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>226</b>
National Norm	158	178	189	199	206	212
District Median	166	188	200	208	212	206

### District Northwest Evaluation Association: Measures of Academic Progress Math RIT

	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
<b>School Median</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>237</b>
National Norm	159	181	192	203	214	221
District Median	170	195	203	214	225.5	234

### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment: MCA Scale Score

	Grade 3 Reading	Grade 3 Math	Grade 4 Reading	Grade 4 Math	Grade 5 Reading	Grade 5 Math	Grade 5 Science
<b>School Average</b>	<b>366.29</b>	<b>368.82</b>	<b>460.73</b>	<b>469.84</b>	<b>563.94</b>	<b>559.20</b>	<b>559.01</b>
State Average	351.25	355.86	450.08	456.18	554.63	550.54	552.37
District Average	356.25	360.35	455.09	462.9	557.96	554.27	554.09

### The Equity Promise:

- Programs and services will be in place at all schools to ensure that race, gender, class and disability will not predict students' success.
- Students' academic performance will not fall into patterns identifiable by factors such as race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, socio-economic status and disability.
- The school that a student attends will not be the predictor of his or her success in school.



### Habits of Mind

As early as in elementary school, students are receiving preparation for post-secondary success. The District's "12 Habits of Mind" are skills Turtle Lake students practice to increase their likelihood of success in college or a career.

1. Persisting
2. Managing impulsivity
3. Listening with understanding
4. Thinking flexibly
5. Striving for accuracy
6. Questioning and problem posing
7. Applying past knowledge to new situations
8. Thinking and communicating with clarity
9. Creating, imagining and innovating
10. Engagement
11. Teamwork
12. Continuous learning

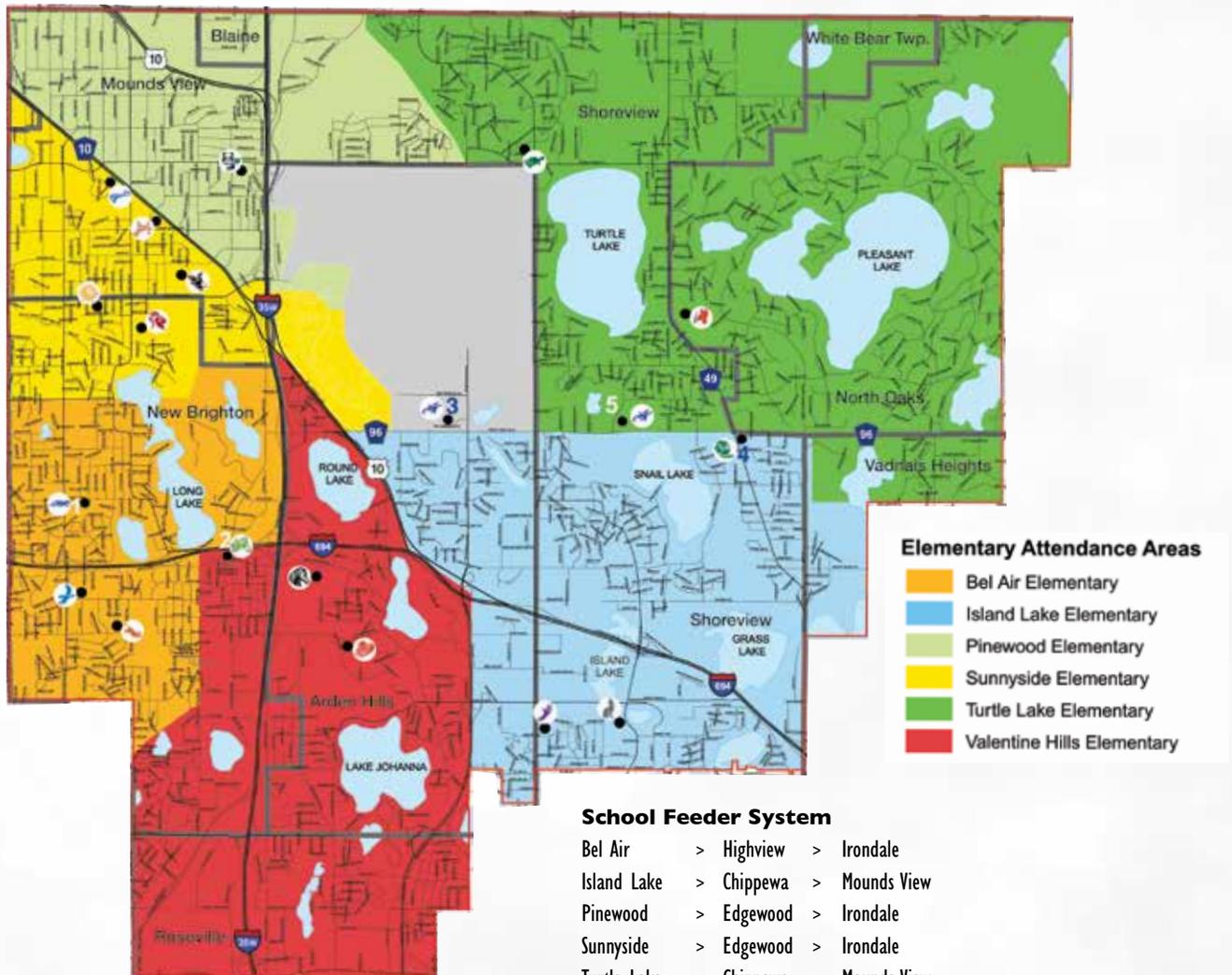
# A popular choice

Year after year, we consistently enroll more than 80 percent of the students in our attendance area.

## Enroll

Turtle Lake welcomes students in its attendance area, which includes parts of North Oaks, Shoreview and Vadnais Heights.

To enroll, residents can call 651-621-7700.



## School Feeder System

- Bel Air > Highview > Irondale
- Island Lake > Chippewa > Mounds View
- Pinewood > Edgewood > Irondale
- Sunnyside > Edgewood > Irondale
- Turtle Lake > Chippewa > Mounds View
- Valentine Hills > Highview > Irondale/Mounds View

