Turner Times Newsletter

January 2026

School Hours

🏫 **School Hours:** 8:40 AM – 3:25 PM
1/2 Day Dismissal Time: 11:45 am

Office Contact Information

Turner Main Office: 630-293-6050
Attendance Line: 630-293-6050 ext. 7207
Morgan Efrom, Principal: 630-293-6050 ext. 7201
Kelly Reinmann, Assistant Principal: 630-293-6050 ext. 7205
Connie Michiels, Secretary: 630-293-6050 ext. 7200
Sabrina Williams, School Nurse: 630-293-6050 ext. 7202

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

🚸 **Student Drop-Off/Arrival**

- Students may be dropped off starting at **8:15 AM.**
- ***With safety as our number one priority. Please do not drop off your student before 8:15, as supervision of students begins at 8:10.***
- Students arriving **after 8:40 AM** are considered tardy. **A parent/guardian must walk them into the front office to sign them in.**

💡**Important Safety Reminders**

- Stay in your car during drop-off and pick-up.
- A staff member will assist your child in getting in or out of the car if needed.
- Always watch for staff walking through the parking lot to and from their cars.
- Maintain a safe speed and stay off your cell phone at all times while on school grounds.
- Staying in your vehicle and being alert helps keep everyone safe and keeps the car line moving efficiently.

Dismissal Changes

If Your Child Has a Bus Route

- If your student has an assigned bus route but will be a **car rider** this year, please notify our **Secretary, Mrs. Michiels, at 630-293-6050 ext. 7200** as soon as possible so we can update our records.
- **Important:** Any student with a bus route will be placed on the bus at dismissal unless we have received different instructions from you.

Changing Dismissal Plans

- If you need to change your child's dismissal for a particular day, please call the **front office no later than 1:30 PM**.
- This ensures we have enough time to notify teachers and get your child to the correct location at dismissal.

Arrival & Dismissal Information/Procedures

Upcoming Dates to Remember!

1/26-2/26: ACCESS Testing
2/2: 3rd & 5th Grade Music Program *Rescheduled Date due to Emergency Learning*
2/6: Valentine's Day Glow Dance (6:00-8:00 pm)
2/12: NO SCHOOL - Lincoln's Birthday
2/13: NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development Day
2/16: NO SCHOOL - President's Day
2/27: NO SCHOOL - County-Wide Institute Day
3/30-4/3: NO SCHOOL- Spring Break

25-26 District 33 School Calendar

NEW DATE: 3rd & 5th Grade Music Program

Due to our Emergency Learning Day on 1/23.

We have rescheduled our parent program to Monday, February 2 at 2:00 pm.

If you would like to come, you need to either come between 1:30-1:45 pm and get your ID scanned into our Raptor Security program or if you had already registered for the music program, you can come and bring your ticket, show your ID and you will be able to come right in! Thank you for your flexibility in our need to reschedule. We hope you will be able to join us for the music program. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Wright via parentsquare or you can call the office.

3rd & 5th Grade Music Program

Upcoming PTO Meeting Dates

Location: Turner Elementary School Library
Time: 3:45-4:30
February 5
March 5
April 9
May 7
June 4

Upcoming PTO Events

SAVE THE DATE! Valentines's Day Glow Dance!

Join us on Friday, February 6, from 6:00-8:00 pm at Turner for our Valentine's Day Glow Dance! Snacks and glow items will be for sale (CASH ONLY).

All students must be supervised for the entire duration of the event.

Here Comes the Bus Tracking App

In partnership with our transportation provider, Illinois Central, District 33 has launched Here Comes the Bus™, a bus tracking and transportation communications app for your smartphone or desktop! The app provides:

Tracking Features

- Shows the real-time location of your child's bus on a map
- Gives scheduled and actual arrival times at home and school for bus routes
- Provides push and email notifications when the bus is near

Sign Up Instructions For Parents

- Download Here Comes the Bus app or visit herecomesthebus.com
- Click the “Sign Up” button
- Enter school code 30061 and click “Next” followed by “Confirm”
- Complete the “User Profile” box
- Under “My Students,” click “Add.” Enter your child’s last name and student ID number
- Once you confirm your information, you’re ready to begin

Parents can download Here Comes the Bur™ in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. For more information, and links to download the app visit https://www.wego33.org/Page/1228.

Monthly Team Updates

Here is a space where Turner staff will offer families a glimpse into classroom activities, special projects, and important milestones, fostering collaboration and communication between home and school. This dedicated space allows parents to stay informed about their child's learning environment and the exciting developments taking place throughout the school.

Mrs. Goolish's Class

In life skills, we revisited our core values throughout the school day. We have also been really working on keeping our hands to ourselves, keeping a quiet voice tone, following directions, and using a respectful voice.

In phonics, the students continue to work on knowing and identifying all letters and sounds, blending sounds together, and how to correctly write each letter. We have been working on learning trick words (high-frequency words).

In ELA, we work on listening and reading stories to answer simple wh-questions. Some of the stories our unit has covered are looking at My Country: Yesterday and Today. They are looking at the past compared to the present.

In math, we work on patterns, one-to-one correspondence, simple addition and subtraction, place value, telling time to the hour, and identifying basic coins. Some students have moved into double-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping.

Kindergarten

Math

In math, kindergarten students have been working on addition and subtraction while using number bonds. We have also worked on measurement and weight. Students should be able to count to 60 or above by now.

Reading/Writing

Students are continuing to write new CVC words (example: cat, pig, web, sun, hot). Students are working on writing a simple sentence with new “heart words” (sight words) and CVC words. In Spanish, we are working on reading short 2-syllable words and short sentences.

Amplify

Kindergarten students are continuing within their Farms unit in Amplify, learning all about different animal groups.

1st Grade

Literacy:

In Amplify, we completed our study of Early American Civilizations. Our next unit will be Astronomy. In UFLI, we finished our study of CVCe words, and will be moving on to reading and writing longer words with word endings.

Math:

In math, we completed our unit on measurement. In Module 4, we will be studying place value, comparison, and addition and subtraction to 40.

Thank you for continuing to support students in completing their math homework and for encouraging reading at home!

2nd Grade

Literacy:

We completed our unit about the War of 1812. The students learned all about our first four presidents, how “The Star Spangled Banner” was written, and how The White House was burned by the British. Our next unit is called Cycles in Nature. We will learn about the cycle of the seasons, the cycle of day and night, plant life cycles, and animal life cycles.

Math:

We have finished module 4 and are beginning module 5. Module 5 continues to teach students different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with mental math. We also learn addition and subtraction with regrouping with larger numbers.

Homework:

We have seen many students in recent weeks forgetting to do their homework. Reading every night helps students to develop new vocabulary and knowledge. Plus, it’s a great way to relieve stress and get away from screen time. If you need book recommendations, let us know!

3rd Grade

Literacy:

Students are completing their unit studying the Viking Age. They embarked on a Viking Quest, collecting resources, journeying through Scandinavia, and learning more about Viking life. They also read several Norse myths, which strengthened their ability to answer questions, cite textual evidence, and analyze characters. In the next unit, students will read a novel called *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say.* This novel highlights the life of Stella, a third grader, as she navigates speaking two languages, living in two cultures, and finding her own voice.

Math:
Students are working on Module 4, which focuses on measurement and finding the area of various shapes. Students began by relating arrays to the area model and are learning to apply these skills to a real-world context.

Science:
The students are working on the science unit: Life Cycles for Survival. The students learned about the characteristics of living things, the stages of the life cycles of plants and animals, traits that are passed down and help living things survive, and how animals work together in groups to survive.

4th Grade

Literacy:
Students have begun Unit 5: Geology, which focuses on Earth science topics such as Earth's layers, plate tectonics, weathering, and erosion. Students learn how landforms such as mountains and volcanoes are formed through processes like continental drift and seafloor spreading. This unit also integrates critical ELA skills, including the writing process, vocabulary development (suffix -ly and root rupt), and reading comprehension. Students will create informational texts, such as pamphlets and wiki-style entries, about geological phenomena while practicing grammar and spelling.
Coming soon: Unit 7: The American Revolution
Math: We are finishing Module 4: Measurement and Plane Figures. Students are learning about geometric concepts, including points, lines, rays, angles, and degrees. They are practicing measuring angles with protractors, applying angle addition and subtraction, and classifying triangles and quadrilaterals based on their properties, such as parallel and perpendicular lines.
Coming soon: Module 5 – Fractions
Lectoescritura / English Language Development (ELD)
Students are strengthening reading and writing skills through Lotta Lara lessons and dictados, focusing on spelling, fluency, and comprehension. Dual language students complete these activities in Spanish, while monolingual English students complete them in English.
Social Studies:
Students are working on our Illinois Unit, where students will learn about the establishment and development of the state of Illinois through discussions and research.

5th Grade

As students near the midterm and finish up the first round of state testing, we as a fifth grade team want to celebrate how much progress they have made and demonstrated from the beginning of the year to now. We look forward to continuing to foster that growth and see them really bloom in the spring.

In 5th-grade math, we are working through our fraction units and getting a deeper understanding of what a fraction represents. Furthermore, we are dissecting word problems, getting students to interpret what is being asked, identify key concepts, and then outline the exact steps for solving.

In language arts, students are learning about the Renaissance and how it has changed the world we know today. We have been exploring informational text features and in dual language, using them to bridge between both languages and bridge skills.

We are also preparing them for middle school. They are learning to transition themselves and what other skills they need to be successful. Procedures may change and be more independent and student-led.

Finally, we will be going to Feed My Starving Children in February. In lieu of Valentine's Day and a party, we will be doing a service project. Instead of any Valentine's Day-related items, if you are able, please consider donating to the foundation.

Art

Kindergarten- is learning about shapes in art
1st grade- is learning how to mix primary colors to create secondary colors
2nd grade- is learning about art from different cultures (Lunar New Year)
3rd grade- is learning about clay and creating pinch pots
4th grade- is learning about clay and creating slab animal faces
5th grade- is learning about clay and creating coil pots
Connect to Artsonia and engage in the art room!
Artsonia is an online platform for student art portfolios- a digital museum where students, teachers, and families can celebrate creativity!
Families can view and comment on artwork, join fan clubs, and even order custom keepsakes featuring their child's masterpieces.

Go to www.artsonia.com/parents and enter this Parent Code:

STJ65SC5

SEL/Health

Kinder-3rd grades are starting their units on nutrition and making healthy food choices.
4th grade is beginning their unit on disease prevention. Students will learn how to implement healthy habits to prevent diseases while recognizing the connections between the environment and our personal health.

5th grade is beginning an 8-week program called “Botvin: Life Skills,” which is led by our district police officer, Officer O’Neil. He is leading students through a series of lessons on making healthy life choices (decision making, avoiding peer pressure, etc.).

Music

Kinder-Kinder students are exploring different classroom percussion instruments. We are learning to play different instruments and using body percussion to perform and show a steady beat to songs of different tempos (speed level).
Please Save the date-May 8th, 2026 Kinder and 2nd Grade Music Program at 2:00pm

1st-grade students have now been introduced to Paired Eighth notes. We have been exploring how to identify and practice them in the song Ta Titi Tango.
Please Save the date-March 25th, 2026 1st and 4th Grade Music Program at 2:00pm

2nd Grade students have been introduced to whole notes and rests in rhythm! We have been exploring how to identify these and how to show them in movement through ball bouncing.
Please Save the date-May 8th, 2026 Kinder and 2nd Grade Music Program at 2:00pm

3rd Grade students are learning about the time signature 3/4. We are learning to count to 3 and practice different rhythms in this time signature like dotted half notes.

4th Grade has been identifying and practicing different melodic solfege notes of Do-Re-Mi-Sol and La. We have been singing and using our hand signs in the song Whacky Do-Re-Mi. We also have been listening to “The Skater’s Waltz” by Emile Waldteufel and creating a picture based on the song elements of long and short sounds.
*** Please Save the date-March 25th, 2026 will be the 1st and 4th grade Music Program at 2:00pm***

5th Grade has been practicing and performing melodic patterns of Solfege like Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La-Ti-Do’. We have been playing instruments and singing to different solfege patterns.

Physical Education

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Library

We are excited to share that our students have checked out 7,625 books so far this year!
Please help us keep that number growing by making sure your student returns or renews their library books each week.

Here's what our readers have been enjoying in the library:

Kindergarten: Exploring beloved classic stories
First Grade: Laughing along with humorous and interactive books
Second Grade: Reading award-winning books and exploring the entire library
Third Grade: Enjoying books written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen
Fourth Grade: Reading picture book adaptations of chapter books
Fifth Grade: Just finished Jon Klassen's Hat Trilogy

Award Watch:
Students in 2nd–5th grade have been reading award-winning books in anticipation of the Caldecott Medal announcement next week!

Thank you for your continued support and participation in your child's reading journey. We love seeing our students grow as readers!

MLL Instructional Coach, Instructional Coach, & Instructional Technology Coach

After school routines

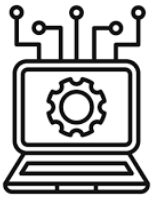
Math - Ms. Thompson

Dear Math Families,
I am pleased to share the outstanding results from our recent NWEA MAP Math assessment. **Miss Thompson's Math Masters demonstrated exceptional focus, perseverance, and academic growth**. Students who met or exceeded their individualized percentile goal, as established by NWEA, will be formally recognized and celebrated during my math class.
The majority of my math students not only met their goal, but **surpassed it by a significant margin**. This level of achievement reflects sustained effort, strong mathematical reasoning, and a clear commitment to learning. I am extremely proud of the dedication your children have shown to developing their mathematical skills.
I encourage you to review your child's MAP Math data together and engage in conversation about their progress, strengths, and areas

for continued growth. Partnering at home to reinforce study habits and a growth mindset will help ensure continued success.
I will be reaching out to each family individually to review results in greater detail and to discuss next steps for ongoing math growth.
Thank you for your continued support and partnership.
Learning is the adventure our brains were made for!
-Miss Thompson

Reading - Ms. Lyons

Students in reading class have been working hard! We've been practicing reading words, phrases, and short stories each day. Consistent nightly reading continues to play an essential role in building word recognition, accuracy, confidence, and fluency. Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs. Lyons



Technology

We kicked off January on such a fun note by sharing pictures of what students did over winter break. Thank you so much to all the families who sent in photos! It has been wonderful highlighting what our students are doing not only at school but also at home.
As testing season approaches, students have been spending time in tech class making sure their devices are ready and learning strategies to help them feel more comfortable and confident during testing.
We are also continuing our monthly Osmo sign-ups, where classes visit the STEM lab to participate in a variety of hands-on Osmo activities that encourage problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration.
Lastly, our school news show is expanding! Third-grade students are now able to sign up to be on the show, so be on the lookout for some new faces in upcoming episodes.

West Chicago School District 33 Wellness Policy: Supporting Healthy Students

D33 Wellness Policy

Our district is committed to creating a positive and healthy learning environment where every student can succeed. The Wellness Policy guides our efforts to promote healthy nutrition and regular physical activity before, during, and after the school day. This includes offering nutritious meals that follow federal guidelines, providing free access to safe drinking water, and integrating nutrition education into our curriculum.

To support student health, we will no longer allow food to be brought into school for birthdays or classroom celebrations. This means items like cupcakes, pizza, cookies, juice boxes, and other treats sent for birthdays will be sent back home with the student. Instead, we encourage non-food alternatives such as stickers, bookmarks, small toys, or craft and activity-based celebrations.

November Wellness Newsletter - English

November Wellness Newsletter - Spanish

December Wellness Newsletter - English

December Wellness Newsletter - Spanish

January Wellness Newsletter - English

January Wellness Newsletter - Spanish

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