

# Turner Times Newsletter

February 2026

## 5Essentials Parent Survey

Between February and March 2026, families across Illinois are invited to participate in the **Illinois 5Essentials Parent Survey**, an annual survey that helps schools understand what's working well and where improvements are needed. This survey gives parents the opportunity to share feedback about their child's school across five key indicators of school success.

Currently, **Turner has a 3% parent response rate**. At least **20% parent participation is required** for our school to receive a parent survey report. All responses are completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

Your voice matters. By taking a few minutes to complete the survey, you help ensure Turner receives valuable feedback to guide future school improvement efforts.

[5Essentials Parent Survey Link](#)

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## 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

**School Nurse:** 630-293-6050 ext. 7202

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## 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

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## Upcoming Dates to Remember!

2/27: NO SCHOOL - County-Wide Institute Day

3/3: Spring Pictures

3/4: 26-27 Kindergarten Registration at Turner (9AM until 6 PM)

3/5: Turner PTO Meeting (3:45-4:30, Turner Library)

3/11: Faculty Meeting (**No After School Programs, ONLY CAPE is in session**)

3/17: NO SCHOOL - Spring Parent Teacher Conferences (1-8 PM)

*\*Communication on scheduling a conference will come from your student's teacher\**

3/25: 1st & 4th Grade Music Program

3/30-4/3: NO SCHOOL- Spring Break

## Turner PTO Meeting Dates

Location: Turner Elementary School Library

Time: 3:45-4:30

March 5

April 9

May 7

June 4

## 25-26 District 33 School Calendar

## 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](http://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 Bus™ 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 continue to review our classroom rules, including keeping our hands to ourselves, keeping a quiet voice, following directions, and using a respectful voice. We have been starting to talk about how to act within the community and using a map.

In phonics, the students continue to work on recognizing and identifying all letters and sounds, blending sounds, and correctly writing each letter. We have been working on learning trick words (high-frequency words). We have been working on using our trick words in writing simple sentences.

In ELA, we work on listening and reading stories to answer simple wh-questions. This current unit explores natural and human-made features found on a map, as well as jobs related to those features in a community. Students will also learn about the differences between land and water on Earth's surface.

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. We did focus on shapes and their attributes.

We look forward to attending our first CBI (Community-Based Outing) later this month.



## Kindergarten

Math:

Kindergarten is continuing to practice counting to 100 and adding numbers 0 to 10 (with pictures, memorizing, ect.) as well as subtracting numbers 0 to 5. We are starting to use number bonds to complete addition and subtraction problems.

Reading:

Kindergarten is continuing UFLI lessons for phonics and reading

- Students read and spell CVC words such as: cat, run, bed, hit, top
- Students should be able to read 40 high-frequency words by the end of February. (see Fry Word List)
- Students can read simple sentences.
- Current Sample UFLI Reading Passage:

*Hen and Hog*

The hen sits in the big hut.

The hog sees the hut.

The hog asks the hen if he can sit in the hut.

Writing:

Students are working on writing simple sentences

- Sample Writing:

It is hot in the hut.

Did he hit his hand?

Social Studies:

Kindergarten is finishing up their Amplify Social Studies unit on Native Americans. Students start to learn all about Kings and Queens.

Spanish:

Kindergarten students are working on reading 2 to 3-syllable words, like “camisa” or “elote” with the previously taught open syllables (ma, me, mi, mo, mu, pa, pe, pi, po, pu, etc).



## 1st Grade

Literacy:

We completed our unit on Astronomy. Students learned about our solar system, stars, the planets, astronauts, and our moon. Our next unit is about The History of the Earth.

We continue working on our sounds with UFLI and will complete our study of various ending sounds. Students should be experts on both short and long vowels. The more they practice reading their UFLI passages at home, the more fluently they will read.

Math:

We are continuing to work on our 4th Module in Eureka, focused on adding and subtracting within 40 and comparing quantities. A major first-grade focus is knowledge of the place values of tens and ones. We will continue working on these key concepts.

We've recently noticed a dip in homework completion. Homework is an important practice that reinforces what was learned during the school day. It's also an opportunity to see what students are working on, and provide extra help at home if needed. Thank you for continuing to encourage homework completion and reading at home.



## 2nd Grade

Literacy:

We completed our unit on the Cycles of Nature. The students learned all the life cycles of butterflies, frogs, and chickens. We also learned why we have seasons and how day and night occur. Our next unit is about insects. We will learn about their bodies, their life cycles, and how they live and grow.

Math:

We are working through module 5 and learning different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems with regrouping. In module 6, we will learn about arrays, repeated addition, and the foundations of multiplication.

Homework:

Please continue reading for 15 minutes every night and complete the homework pages. The more students read, the more vocabulary they develop and the more knowledge they attain.



### 3rd Grade

Literacy:

In language arts, students are reading *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say*, a novel centered on third-grader Stella Diaz. Students are strengthening their reading comprehension skills, learning to summarize, analyze internal and external traits, and identify themes in the text. Our next unit is Astronomy, where students will explore our solar system through a variety of informational texts and read-alouds.

Math: We are working on Module 5: Fractions as Numbers on the Number Line. The students have been working on partitioning a whole into equal parts, identifying the unit form and fractional parts. We will also compare fractions to determine which is greater, which is less, or whether they are the same.

Social Studies: We began our unit on the Economy. The students identified the 7 continents, 5 oceans, and landforms. We also identified the goods, services, and forms of transportation, and gave some examples of each.



### 4th Grade

Literacy: Students have begun Unit 7: The Revolutionary War. This unit covers the causes, key figures, and major events that led to American independence from Britain. Students will examine the French and Indian War, taxation without representation, the Boston Massacre, and early battles such as Lexington and Concord.

Coming soon: Unit 8 Treasure Island.

Math: We are currently working on Module 5: Fractions, which focuses on fraction equivalence, ordering, and operations. Students are extending their understanding of unit fractions as they explore, compare, add, subtract, and multiply fractions and mixed numbers.

Lectoescritura / English Language Development (ELD): Students are strengthening their 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.

# HELLO FIFTH GRADE

## 5th Grade

In literacy, students are continuing to work on fifth-grade skills through a mix of informational and literary texts from Amplify. Additionally, students are working on refining their writing and understanding the parts of a more complex sentence, as well as how to improve sentences by adding details.

In 5th-grade math, we are in the middle of our major fractions unit, covering all fraction operations and establishing a sense of cardinality on a number line with fractions. We are also working towards having students practice with IAR Practice and to have them justify their strategies or answers.

Finally, students will begin reviewing key scientific concepts in preparation for the ISA (Illinois Science Assessment). This is for 5th Grade only.



## Art

Kindergarten- is learning about different shapes  
1st Grade- is learning about primary and secondary colors  
2nd Grade- is learning about the Lunar New Year  
3rd Grade- is finishing up clay pinch pots  
4th Grade- is finishing up clay slab faces  
5th Grade- is finishing up clay coil pots

# HEALTH

## SEL/Health

Kindergarten: We are in our unit on Healthy Eating and Nutrition, where students are learning to identify healthy vs. unhealthy foods.  
1st Grade: We are in our unit on Healthy Eating and Nutrition, where students are learning that different food groups provide different essential nutrients. In particular, students are learning the importance of eating a variety of fruits and vegetables to get essential vitamins that support different parts of the body.  
2nd Grade: We are in our unit on Healthy Eating and Nutrition, where students are learning about the 5 food groups and the important nutrients each provides for the body. In particular, students are learning how different vitamins and minerals support various body functions.  
3rd Grade: We are in our unit on Healthy Eating and Nutrition, where students are reviewing the 5 food groups while being introduced to the inverted food pyramid, which helps guide serving sizes of each food group. Students are learning that their diet and lifestyle can have positive or negative effects on their body systems.  
4th Grade: We are in our unit on Disease and Illness Prevention, where students are learning how to adopt healthy habits to prevent disease. Students have investigated the incredible power of the immune system to fight disease. In addition, students are learning to recognize the connections between the environment and personal health.



(Grades 3-5) This month we started our basketball unit. Students learned the basics of how to dribble, pass, and shoot the basketball. They learned about the acronym B.E.E.F. (balance, eyes, elbow, follow through) which helps with the form of shooting a basketball. Students were able to test their shooting skills in a game of hot spots and champion ball (similar to knockout). They also learned how to play a full court game of basketball.



## Library

Way to go, Turner!

We have checked out a total of 8,917 books so far this year!

Please continue to remind your child(ren) of the importance of taking good care of borrowed library materials.

What We're Reading in the Library:

Kindergarten:

We've been enjoying classic and contemporary books about the moon. Ask your child which story was their favorite!

First Grade:

We've been reading silly books that make us laugh. Ask your child which one was their favorite!

Second Grade:

We are exploring the entire library and learning how to choose "just-right" books based on our reading level and interests.

Third Grade:

We are immersed in our author/illustrator study of Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen. Ask your child which book was their favorite!

Fourth Grade:

We have been enjoying humorous stories with surprise endings. Ask your child which one they liked best!

Fifth Grade:

We are wrapping up our Jon Klassen author study. Ask your child which book was their favorite and what makes Jon Klassen's books so unique!



**MLL Instructional Coach, Instructional Coach, & Instructional Technology Coach**

[After school routines](#)



## Math - Ms. Thompson

**Place value is the foundation** of all future math learning. When students deeply understand how our number system works, they can compute efficiently, reason flexibly, and solve complex problems with confidence.

### **Kindergarten Critical Skill: Composing and Decomposing Numbers to 10 (K.NBT.A.1)**

Students learn that teen numbers are made of “ten and some more.” Understanding that 14 is one ten and four ones is the beginning of our entire base-ten system.

#### **Why It Matters**

This builds the idea that numbers are built in structured groups, not just counted one by one.

#### **Easy At-Home Support**

Use small objects such as cereal pieces, buttons or beads. Build a group of ten and then add extra ones. Ask your child:

“How many tens? How many ones?”

“Can you say the number as ten and \_\_\_ more?”

Keep the language consistent: one ten and four ones.

### **First Grade Critical Skill: Understanding Tens and Ones (1.NBT.B.2)**

Students learn that 23 means 2 tens and 3 ones. They begin thinking in units instead of individual counts.

#### **Why It Matters**

This understanding allows students to add and subtract within 100 with reasoning instead of memorization.

#### **Easy At-Home Support**

During daily life, look at two-digit numbers (house numbers, prices, scores). Ask:

“How many tens? How many ones?”

“Which digit shows the tens?”

Have your child build the number using bundles of ten straws or grouped objects.

### **Second Grade Critical Skill: Regrouping as Unitizing (2.NBT.B.5)**

Students understand that ten ones can become one ten, and ten tens can become one hundred.

#### **Why It Matters**

Regrouping is not “borrowing” or “carrying.” It is exchanging units within the base-ten system.

#### **Easy At-Home Support**

Play a simple exchange game. Give your child 17 pennies. Every time they collect 10 pennies, trade them for a dime. Ask:

“How many tens? How many ones?”

This builds a concrete understanding of regrouping.

### **Third Grade Critical Skill: Place Value Through the Thousands (3.NBT.A.1)**

Students round numbers and understand the value of digits up to 1,000.

#### **Why It Matters**

Students begin using place value to estimate and check the reasonableness of answers.

#### **Easy At-Home Support**

When you see three-digit numbers (receipts, mileage, sports scores), ask:

“What is the value of the 5 in 542?”

“Would this round to 500 or 600?” “Why?”

Encourage explanation, not just the answer.

#### **Fourth Grade Critical Skill: Multiplicative Comparison of Place Value (4.NBT.A.1)**

Students learn that a digit in one place represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right.

#### **Why It Matters**

This understanding is essential for multi-digit multiplication and division.

#### **Easy At-Home Support**

Write a number such as 3,882. Ask:

“How much greater is one 8 than the other 8? Describe using specific place locations.”

Focus on the idea of “ten times as much.”

#### **Fifth Grade Critical Skill: Place Value with Decimals (5.NBT.A.1)**

Students extend place value understanding to tenths, hundredths, and thousandths.

#### **Why It Matters**

Decimals are built on the same base-ten structure students have been learning since Kindergarten.

#### **Easy At-Home Support**

Use money. Ask:

“How many tenths are in \$0.70?”

“Is 0.4 greater or less than 0.35? How do you know?”

Encourage students to compare decimals by reasoning about place value, not just lining up digits.

When families reinforce place value language at home – tens, hundreds, regroup, ten times as much – students develop deep mathematical confidence. Strong place value understanding is not just a skill for one grade level. It is the foundation of lifelong numeracy.

**-Miss Thompson**



#### **Reading - Ms. Lyons**

Students in reading class have been practicing new skills through reading words, phrases, sentences, and short stories each day. Consistent nightly reading continues to play an essential role in building word recognition, accuracy, confidence, and fluency. New bags and reading logs will be sent home this week and should remain in your student's backpack throughout the week. Thank you for your continued support.

**-Mrs. Lyons**



## Technology

Stay tuned for next month's technology newsletter!

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# 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**

**February Wellness Newsletter - English**

**February Wellness Newsletter - Spanish**

**March Wellness Newsletter - English**

**March Wellness Newsletter - Spanish**

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