



# Sonnesyn Elementary

3421 Boone Avenue North, New Hope, MN 55427

763-504-7600



This is Leia Ward's fifth year as the principal of Sonnesyn Elementary School. Ms. Ward has been in education since 2002.

**Grades: K-5**  
**Opened: 2000**  
**Enrollment: 523**  
**School Hours:**  
**9:25 a.m.-3:45 p.m.**

**Adventure Club**  
offers before and after school care for children in kindergarten through fifth grade.  
Hours: 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Phone: 763-504-5320  
[www.ced.rdale.org](http://www.ced.rdale.org)



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Area Schools

Individual focus. Infinite potential.

The mission of Robbinsdale Area Schools is to inspire and educate all learners to develop their unique potential and positively contribute to their community.

## The Sonnesyn Experience

Sonnesyn Elementary is a K-5 elementary school with a rich tradition of community and parent involvement. Members of the Sonnesyn community strive to create an environment that meets the needs of all our students and families. Sonnesyn's motto is "Believe It, Achieve It" and every member of the Sonnesyn community is committed to supporting all students in achieving their goals.

Sonnesyn has a strong academic program that focuses on ensuring all students receive instruction that matches their needs and helps them to achieve at high levels. Sonnesyn staff work in collaborative teams that utilize the Minnesota State standards to drive our core instruction. Our staff uses data to pinpoint areas of growth for each student and modify instructional groups to either provide extra assistance or enrichment opportunities for students. Sonnesyn's comprehensive elementary curriculum is in line with Robbinsdale Area Schools core instruction.

In 2013, Sonnesyn staff developed "Sonnesyn's Vision for Literacy." Our reading and language arts instruction is built upon the foundation of the following vision: We believe all students can be confident and successful readers, writers and critical thinkers. We believe that as teachers, we have the responsibility to equip students to become motivated, independent learners who experience the joy of reading and writing for pleasure, the power of reading to find information and the competence to express ideas clearly through writing. We believe high levels of learning occur when students are in a nurturing environment where literacy is modeled, supported, and celebrated.

## PBIS Exemplar School 2015 and 2016

The Minnesota Department of Education has recognized Sonnesyn for their successful work using Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), a data-driven framework that promotes a positive and safe learning environment in schools. Sonnesyn was one of 36 schools in the state to receive recognition as an "Sustaining Exemplar School." Exemplar schools are leaders in supporting positive behavior, improving school climate and increasing student achievement.

In order to achieve this honor, the Sonnesyn community has been intentional in promoting positive student behavior through clear expectations, celebrating successes, and the use of data to inform school climate changes. It is something special to be a Sonnesyn Bee!



## Outstanding Curriculum

Sonnesyn Elementary School, like all Robbinsdale Area Schools, has implemented the framework of PBIS is a whole school approach that includes all students and staff in all school settings. Through implementation of PBIS, Sonnesyn has a learning environment that is more engaging, responsive and preventive, addressing classroom management and disciplinary issues intentionally and timely, and promotes and celebrates a positive school climate.

We embrace the fact that no two students are identical. Sonnesyn has integrated a Response to Intervention (RtI) block of time every day. During this time, students receive small group instruction to address their specific learning needs, based on careful and ongoing formative assessments, whether it is extra time to master concepts or enrichment time to go deeper with concepts already mastered.

## Sonnesyn Elementary offers:

- Whole-class literacy block includes fluency, phonics, phonemic awareness, comprehension, vocabulary, spelling and writing, supplemented with small group reading instruction at a child's instructional level.
- Math instruction, which teaches students to use physical objects to show how to solve equations. They're seeing concepts come to life through hands-on activities that helps with retention.
- Hands-on science activities that teach the history and nature of science, earth and space science, physical science, and life science.
- Social studies curriculum that focuses on history, humanities and the social sciences to develop social understanding and to prepare students to become responsible citizens.
- Art instruction K-5, based on state and national standards. Our arts education continues to be a model for school systems across the country.
- Music education at each grade level; string orchestra begins in grade four, and band is introduced in grade five.

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